**Hawaii’s Next 50**

 What makes Hawai’i special are the people that exude the aloha spirit and the beauty of the place; the white sandy beaches, the crystal blue waters, lush green forests, mountains, and valleys, the golden sunsets, glowing red lava flows, and snow-capped mountain tops. In the next fifty years, Hawai’i must focus on sustainability to continue to be the best place to work and live.

 According to *LandLearn*, the definition of sustainability is defined as “the ability or capacity of something to be maintained or to sustain itself”. It’s about taking what we need to live now, without jeopardizing the potential for people in the future to meet their needs. If an activity is sustainable, it should be able to continue forever. Sustainable energy needs to be based upon decreasing our dependability on imported oils. The development of solar powered energy systems including solar water heating and photovoltaic will be the future of energy options. In addition to solar power, we need to promote other alternative forms of clean energy such as wind and hydro power. Sustainability in food means dedicating more land to farmers, allowing them to raise crops to nourish the people of Hawai’i. This lessens our dependence on imported products. It also means allocating resources to support research in crop development and regulations that help farmers to produce viable crops. Environmental sustainability means protecting our natural resources; land, water, air, animals through conservation. We must learn to take only what we need and no more. We must replant, replace, and regrow what we take.

 Sustainability is what, I believe, will allow Hawai’i to continue to be a unique, special, and sought after place to work and live now, and in the future.