



Legislative Testimony
HCR263, HD 1, REQUESTING THE RESEARCH CORPORATION
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
AND THE INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEWING
CHAPTERS 341, 343, AND 344, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES,
TO REVIEW THE FEASIBILITY AND IMPACT
OF REQUIRING AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
TO INCLUDE EFFECTS OF A PROPOSED ACTION
AS A CONTRIBUTOR TO CLIMATE CHANGE
House Committee on Higher Education

April 3, 2008
Room: 309

2:00 p.m.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** H.C.R. 263, H.D. 1, which requests a review of whether to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to include effects of a proposed action as a contributor to climate change.

OHA recognizes that the effects of climate change are more than just theoretical and that we are already seeing the first of what will likely be a series of impacts from this phenomenon. We believe that our best approach in dealing with these adverse impacts is to be proactive rather than reactive. Hawai'i will feel the effects of climate change before, and more than, most states. Therefore, we need to be creative, forward-looking and ready to make difficult choices to ensure a better future for ourselves and our mo'opuna. Requiring an EIS to include effects of a proposed action as a contributor to climate change is a great step toward arming Hawai'i with the proper knowledge that will help us prepare for the future we face.

OHA notes that this resolution works in concert with H.B. 2510, H.D. 2, which we also supported. We have noted, however, that the interdisciplinary environmental research planning and legal team which would have been funded by this bill, has now been removed from H.B. 2510, H.D. 2 by Senate Draft 1, and we take this opportunity to request that the original language be reinserted into this important and timely bill during Conference. While the interdisciplinary review team may have been previously

mandated, no funding has been supplied for it to assure its activities, which we all know are of utmost importance, and which should indeed include the review requested in this Concurrent Resolution.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to PASS H.C.R. 263, H.D. 1, and also respectfully urges the Committee to assure that H.B. 2510, H.D. 2 is reinstated. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.