

TESTIMONY
SCR 95 & SR 55

March 20, 2008

Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

I write in support of SCR95 and SR55 requesting a study on establishing a Hawaii State Geological Survey. Given the strong relation between our state's economy and our state's environment, it is incredible that we are the only state in the nation without a geological survey. The State of Hawaii would benefit from a centralized scientific office to provide expertise, conduct research, and map the states resources and natural hazards. Presently these functions are spread among many agencies causing low efficiency and effectiveness.

A Geological Survey is a state government agency whose mission is to protect life and property from natural hazards, to promote responsible development of mineral, water, and energy resources, and to provide geologic advice and information for decision-making by the state's government agencies. By providing sound information and knowledge, a Geological Survey contributes to economic growth and improvement in the quality of life for the state's citizens.

One of the principle tasks of a Geological Survey is to simply provide a wide variety of geological maps of the state. Beyond that, a Geological Survey can be fashioned into whatever form necessary to suit the needs of the state. Hawaii's natural setting presents unique and difficult issues, including earthquake hazards, landslides and rock falls, tsunami hazards, coastal erosion, floods, and a limited water supply.

The founding of the Hawaii State Geological Survey is long overdue; lets create one that suits our needs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Dunn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Robert A. Dunn
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COMMENTS ON SCR95 / SR55

REQUESTING A STUDY ON ESTABLISHING A HAWAII STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Ken H. Takayama, Acting Director
or Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Assistant Director for Research

Presented to the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Monday, March 24, 2008, 2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 414

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on S.C.R. No. 95 and S.R. No. 55. The Bureau takes no position for or against this measure but offers the following comments.

The resolution directs the Bureau to study the establishment of a Hawaii State Geological Survey.

As presently drafted, the scope of the study requested in this measure appears to be manageable.

Accordingly, if this measure is to pass, we request that it not be modified in any way, as attempts to "clarify" a measure may have the unintended effect of broadening the scope of a requested study in a way that makes it unmanageable.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.

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