

testimony

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Michael Garcia [mike_garcia96822@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2008 3:14 PM
To: testimony
Subject: Senate Concurrent Resolution 95 and Senate Resolution 55

This note is in support of Senate Resolution 55 on "Requesting a study on establishing a Hawaii State Geological Survey".

The State of Hawaii is long overdue for and is the only state without its own Geological Survey.

Such an organization is desperately needed to draw together under one jurisdiction and director, the many tasks that are now spread out among many state agencies or left to federal or private experts. Currently, Hawaii no longer has a state geologist who can provide the technical expertise needed to advise the legislature and governor about the many geologic hazard and resource issues that confront citizens of Hawaii including landslides, earthquakes, rock falls, water, and geothermal energy. Also, this agency would archive information that would be needed in the future to react to new situations.

Please support this resolution to study this situation and to make prudent recommendations that will benefit the state and plan for its future.

Michael O. Garcia
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testimony

From: Craig R. Glenn [glenn@soest.hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2008 4:03 PM
To: testimony
Cc: Craig R. Glenn
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 95 and SR 55
Attachments: Glenn_SCR95_SR55.doc; ATT232454250.htm

The following is also attached.

24 March 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

The Senate

The Twenty-Fourth Legislature

Committee on Water and Land

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 95 and SR 55: REQUESTING A STUDY ON ESTABLISHING A HAWAII GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

My name is Dr. Craig R. Glenn and I am a full tenured Professor of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I support the establishment of State Geological Survey in Hawaii. It may seem unfathomable, but Hawaii remains the only state in the nation without a State Geological Survey. Hawaii needs and deserves an unbiased state Geological Survey whose mission should logically be provide expertise, conduct research, and assess and continually monitor our state's geological processes and phenomena, including risks, hazards and resources both on land, and where the land joins the sea within our coastal waters. Hawaii needs this state entity to map, study and develop an understanding of our state's various geological phenomena and how they interact, including rock falls, landslides, flash flooding, rock and mineral resources, reefs, soil and shoreline erosion, geothermal resources, wetlands, geo-hydrology, groundwater and land-based coastal pollution. Hawaii needs a State Geological Survey to conduct objective, impartial scientific studies with which to develop and maintain a comprehensive understanding of these ever changing processes, and to provide its findings and expertise back to its people and representatives at all levels.

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U N I V E R S I T Y O F H A W A I I A T M Ā N O A

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
Department of Geology and Geophysics

24 March 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

**The Senate
The Twenty-fourth Legislature
Committee on Water and Land
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 95 and SR 55: REQUESTING A
STUDY ON ESTABLISHING A HAWAII GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

My name is Dr. Craig R. Glenn and I am a full tenured Professor of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I support the establishment of State Geological Survey in Hawaii. In may seem unfathomable, but Hawaii remains the only state in the nation without a State Geological Survey. Hawaii needs and deserves an unbiased state Geological Survey whose mission should logically be provide expertise, conduct research, and assess and continually monitor our state's geological processes and phenomena, including risks, hazards and resources both on land, and where the land joins the sea within our coastal waters. Hawaii needs this state entity to map, study and develop an understanding of our state's various geological phenomena and how they interact, including rock falls, landslides, flash flooding, rock and mineral resources, reefs, soil and shoreline erosion, geothermal resources, wetlands, geo-hydrology, groundwater and land-based coastal pollution. Hawaii needs a State Geological Survey to conduct objective, impartial scientific studies with which to develop and maintain a comprehensive understanding of these ever changing processes, and to provide its findings and expertise back to its people and representatives at all levels.

Good afternoon members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land. My name is Chip Fletcher, I am Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Geology and Geophysics at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The University of Hawaii School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) supports SCR95 and SR55 requesting a study on establishing a Hawaii State Geological Survey and offers its support to the working group to be convened by the State auditor.

The role of a State Geologist, backed by a scientific office (a "survey"), is to be an autonomous voice for science, speaking on behalf of the citizens, that is free of political pressure. Hawaii has had a State Geologist in the past but it has been continuously downgraded over time and is now going to disappear.

We are the only state in the nation without a geological survey. This means that we have been unable to participate in the \$6M USGS Statemap grants program (one of only 2 states to not participate). Because of this we have no comprehensive mapping program in critical areas of public safety and resource management, including: rock falls, landslides, flash flooding, rock and mineral resources, reefs, soil and shoreline erosion, geothermal resources, wetlands, ocean hazards, and others.

Hawaii would benefit from a centralized scientific office to provide expertise, conduct research, and map the states resources and hazard zones. Presently these functions are spread among many agencies causing low efficiency and even lower effectiveness. A geological survey would provide citizens and officials with regular reports, maps, and research into issues that are presently spread among numerous agencies, the UH, and consultants.

The current approach is disorganized, inefficient, and does not adequately serve the public. There is no official designee for many of these important issues. For example, a typical hearing for a legislative committee may bring out a random assortment of experts and quasi-experts to provide guidance on an issue. Important decisions are being made on *ad hoc* advice. Last year a committee was dealing with the tsunami threat to Hawaii. The chair became so exasperated with lack of answers that he finally called out, "Isn't there a geologist on the audience?" This is a perfect setting for the State Geologist to be present.

A State Geologist could attend hearings, sit on boards and commissions, and provide scientific guidance that is currently lacking.

State surveys are responsible for making maps of natural processes, assessing hazards and resources, compiling and centralizing data and coordinating with other agencies, and adding a scientific dimension to planning.

With the ever present threat of natural hazards, residents and visitors want to know if we are safe and what can be done to improve our safety. The truth is, we can do much more than is presently being done. Organizing our scientific house with a Hawaii Geological Survey is an important step in the right direction.

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LATE TESTIMONY

I strongly support SCR95 and SR55 requesting a study on establishing a Hawaii State Geological Survey and offers its support to the working group to be convened by the State auditor. The survey will be an independent voice for science, speaking on behalf of the citizens, that is free of political pressure. The lack of such a survey made it impossible for the State to participate in the \$6M USGS Statemap grants program. In addition, the State lacks a comprehensive mapping program in critical areas of public safety and resource management. These include rock falls, landslides, flash floods, rock and mineral resources, reefs, soil and shoreline erosion, geothermal resources, wetlands, ocean hazards. The creation of the survey will be a critical step in guarding the threat of natural hazards. Currently issues related to people's safety are spread among many agencies causing low efficiency and effectiveness. The survey would provide citizens and officials with regular reports, maps, and research into issues that are presently spread among numerous agencies.

Sincerely,

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