

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

H.B. 1714 H.D. 1 S.D. 1, RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

**Testimony of Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

**March 28, 2014
9:30 a.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** COMMENTS.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** The measure requests two \$58,874 appropriations out of the General Fund for
3 fiscal year 2014-2015 to provide the Office of Planning and the Department of Land and Natural
4 Resources with staff and resources to carry out the purposes of Act. It also requests \$400,000 in General
5 Funds to enable the Department of Land and Natural Resources to research and develop a coordinated,
6 multidisciplinary sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report, and \$50,000 for the Office of
7 Planning to carry out its duties under the Act.

8 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department strongly supports this measure, which sets forth a
9 coordinated strategy to address the effects of climate change in Hawaii, including sea level rise, and
10 recognizes the unprecedented challenges that climate change presents to the State's sustainability,
11 security, and economy, and the need for planning to adapt to and address these challenges. There is a
12 clear need for the climate adaptation plans and the well-defined path to address the effects of climate
13 change laid out in this measure.

14 The Department of Health looks forward to participating on the Interagency Sea Level Rise
15 Vulnerability and Adaptation Committee and in ongoing climate change adaptation efforts throughout

1 the State, particularly in light of the Department’s responsibilities to ensure safe drinking water (rising
2 sea levels can increase the salinity of Hawaii’s drinking water sources), the quality of nearshore waters,
3 and to regulate greenhouse gases in the State. The Department also appreciates the importance of
4 maintaining a comprehensive statewide planning and geographic information system that can be used to
5 help guide decision-making.

6 Given the magnitude of the climate change issue, and its widespread effects on people and the
7 environment in all areas of the State, this measure’s emphasis on coordination between county, state,
8 and federal agencies, and the public is crucial to a successful climate change adaptation strategy. Its
9 recognition of the importance of ongoing monitoring of social, economic, and physical conditions and
10 trends, as well as determining the best way to allocate resources to meet identified needs, is an important
11 step towards bolstering the State’s resilience and preparedness, as is its recognition of formulating
12 mechanisms to simplify, streamline, and/or coordinate interagency development and regulatory
13 processes.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, March 28, 2014
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1714, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

House Bill 1714, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to establish a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Committee in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), in partnership with the Office of Planning. **The Department strongly supports this measure.**

Act 286, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, established climate change adaptation priority guidelines. The Governor's plan, A New Day in Hawaii also recognizes the importance of planning for adapting to climate change and sea level rise (SLR). The 2013 Ocean Resources Management Plan also identifies climate change and SLR as major priority areas. The Department feels that these efforts have established a strong foundation and impetus for developing an over-arching climate change adaptation plan, but we also feel that it is not too soon to begin focusing our limited resources on actionable projects for adaptation to climate-related hazards within appropriate authorities and in areas that are most relevant and potentially devastating for Hawaii, such as SLR.

Hawaii sea level has risen 6 inches over the past century. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Assessment Report 5, at the current rate of greenhouse gas production, global mean sea level is likely to rise a mean of 1 foot by mid-century and over 2 feet by the end of the century. The National Science Foundation, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predict the possibility of even higher levels by the end of the century.

The impacts of accelerated SLR include an increase in an already dominant trend of coastal erosion, increased severity and frequency of flooding events by heavy rains and large waves, and increased vulnerability to tsunami and hurricane damage. The potential consequences of SLR for Hawaii are severe compared to many other coastal states, as the majority of our population

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

JESSE K. SOUKI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

base and public infrastructure exist on low-lying coastal plains which are highly susceptible to coastal hazards. The State should put particular effort in SLR adaption, as there is consensus within the scientific community that rates of SLR will continue to accelerate in the coming decades.

By initially focusing on SLR, we can effectively address the best understood and most urgent climate-related vulnerabilities in the state while building a solid institutional framework for research, planning and interagency coordination to address the other major areas of climate change affecting the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII

Testimony of
JACQUELINE KOZAK THIEL
State Sustainability Coordinator

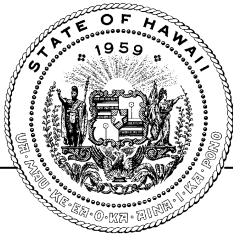
Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Friday March 28, 2014
9:30 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1714, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

House Bill 1714, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to address climate change impacts in Hawaii through an integrated approach to support research, long-range planning, and coordination. House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes an initial focus on sea level rise to develop a framework for addressing other impacts for a statewide adaptation plan. **The State Sustainability Coordinator is in strong support of this measure.**

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges to the sustainability of our islands. Thank you for the majority support of this measure and including the resources needed to work towards a more resilient Hawaii. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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LEO R. ASUNCION
ACTING DIRECTOR
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Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Acting Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, March 28, 2014
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
HB 1714, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

The Office of Planning (OP) has long been a strong proponent for climate change adaptation. In 1985, OP compiled a report to the State Legislature entitled, *Effects on Hawaii of a Worldwide Rise in Sea Level Induced by the "Greenhouse Effect,"* which assessed the significance of the range of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) predictions for sea level rise by 2100 (see <http://planning.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Sea-Level-Rise-Effects-on-Hawaii-1985.pdf>). In 2009, OP and its partners prepared *A Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in Hawaii*, which outlines step-by-step process for the State of Hawaii to conduct studies, develop plans, and make informed decisions on climate change adaptation (see http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/ormp/reports/climate_change_adaptation_framework_final.pdf). In 2012, OP was instrumental in developing Hawaii's Climate Change Adaptation Priority Guidelines (Act 286) that were adopted into law by the Twenty-Sixth State Legislature. Today,

we continue to work with state and county agencies to implement Act 286 and integrate climate change adaptation into existing planning and regulatory frameworks.

Given our long-standing involvement and experience referenced above, OP supports HB 1714, HD1, SD1, which would establish the Hawaii Climate Adaptation Initiative Act, so long as its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget. In particular, OP supports the provision to amend Section 225M-2(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which would task OP with establishing and implementing strategic climate adaptation plans and policy recommendations for addressing climate change impacts, excluding sea level rise, as identified in Act 286. Furthermore, OP supports the appropriated funds for staffing and resources to carry out its additional responsibilities under the Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth

In Support of HB1719 HD1 SD1 – Hawai'i Climate Adaptation Initiative Senate Committee on Ways and Means

28 March 2014, 9:30am in Conference Room 211

Audrey Newman
Hawai'i Green Growth
P.O. Box 535 Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 50 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) supports HB 1714 HD1 SD1, which will help plan for and address climate change impacts through 2050 by

- establishing an interagency climate adaptation committee within the Department of Land and Natural Resources and
- allocating funding and positions to the Office of Planning to coordinate and develop a statewide adaptation plan.

HGG members agreed on the top legislative actions for 2014 that will significantly advance sustainability in Hawai'i and already have widespread support across sectors. Support for climate change action through adding key staff to the Office of Planning and statewide adaptation planning are HGG top priorities.

As an island state, Hawai'i's economy, health, people, and way of life are especially vulnerable to the many impacts of climate change. This Act identifies sea level rise as the initial focus to begin planning for climate change adaptation. The Act also excellently describes the wide range of climate change threats facing Hawai'i, including decreased rainfall resulting in drought and fresh water loss, more frequent and severe storms, higher temperatures affecting watershed and agricultural health, and ocean acidification harming protective coral reefs. The committee's work on sea level rise will serve as a solid framework for addressing other climate change threats.

We recommend clarifying the bill to specifically charge the interagency climate adaptation committee and Office of Planning to 1) identify the critical climate change threats that require state or local planning and 2) recommend priorities, resources and a timeframe for more comprehensive climate change adaptation planning.

As a partnership representing Hawai'i's leaders in environment, food, energy and other sectors. HGG asks for your support of **HB 1714 HD1 SD1**, which is a critical step to a more resilient future for our islands and people.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Newman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Audrey Newman

Senior Advisor, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG)

Bringing leaders together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i & be a model for a green economy.