



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

LATE

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 8:40 AM

HB 1714 HD1 - RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

By
Tom Apple, Chancellor
and
Charles H. Fletcher, Associate Dean, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Chairs Gabbard and Solomon, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Galuteria, and Members of the Senate Committees assembled; the University of Hawaii is in favor of HB 1714 HD1, which establishes the Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee under the Department of Land and Natural Resources with the task of creating a sea-level rise vulnerability and adaptation report and tasks the Office of Planning with establishing and implementing strategic climate adaptation plans and policy recommendations based on the report.

Climate change has become a dangerous, socially disruptive reality that threatens the future sustainability of life in the Hawaiian Islands. By developing an interagency climate committee to report on the issue of sea level rise, you will be taking a strong step toward achieving maximum protection of public health and safety as well as protection of natural resources for future generations.

In 2012 the National Academy of Sciences projected that global sea level will rise 3 to 9 inches by 2030, 7 to 19 inches by 2050, and 20 to 55 inches by 2100. In 2013 they published a report indicating that greenhouse gases emitted today will cause sea level to rise for centuries to come. Each degree of global warming is likely to raise sea level by more than 6 feet in the future. Note, that global temperatures have already risen 0.9 degrees.

By developing a strategic plan for guiding statewide growth in the context of rising sea levels, you will be taking a strong step in protecting the public from one of the most dangerous aspects of climate change as manifested in the Hawaiian Islands.

Researchers at the University of Hawaii stand ready to assist the committee in their work.

I apologize that I cannot stay to the end of the hearing due to another meeting. I am happy to take any questions at this time.

LATE

HB1714

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for ENEAWTL on Mar 18, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stuart Coleman	Surfrider Foundation	Support	No

Comments: The Surfrider Foundation's Hawaii Chapters strongly support HB 1714. With over 5000 activists and supporters across the state, our members strongly believe that this bill is necessary to address climate change planning and issues like sea level rise and managed shoreline retreat. With the tragic loss of several houses on the North Shore this winter, we are reminded how urgent this issue is in being prepared for the future. Mahalo for your consideration and support of this bill.

HB 1714

Hi My name is Robert Hennessy, I am a Senior Finance major at the University of Hawaii. I deeply believe in taking preventative and measured steps in addressing climate change. By having the Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee work under the Department of Land and Natural Resources, a system can begin take shape that will effectively address future issues.

Thank you,

Robert Hennessy