

**OFFICE OF PLANNING
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Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, February 20, 2014
9:05 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
SB 2344 SD1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

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

The Office of Planning supports the joint majority caucus bill SB 2344, SD1, so long as its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

SD1 includes recommended amendments developed in consultation with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Governor's Sustainability Coordinator, and key legislators. Among other things, SD1 focuses investment of public monies on one of Hawaii's most pressing climate related issues, sea-level rise. It also wisely invests public monies on existing climate change adaptation policies and authorities. Specifically, SD1 invests in implementation of the Hawaii State Plan component related to climate adaptation, which this legislature passed in 2012 as Act 286 (codified as HRS § 226-109).

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

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

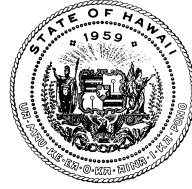


**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday February 20, 2014
9:05 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2344, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

Senate Bill 2344, 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 Senate Draft 2344, Senate Draft 1.**



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

LATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

S.B. 2344 S.D. 1, RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Testimony of Gary Gill
Deputy Director, Environmental Health Administration

February 20, 2014
9:05 a.m.

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

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

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

13 The Department of Health looks forward to participating on the Interagency Sea Level Rise
14 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 measure.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 9:05 A.M.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

LATE

RE: SENATE BILL 2344, SD1 RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber **supports** the intent of SB 2344, SD1 which is intended to address climate change adaptation by creating a new government entity, the interagency climate council, and tasking the head of this new entity, the sustainability coordinator, with creating initial reports identifying expected climate impacts. The bill also tasks the Office of Planning with establishing and implementing strategic climate adaptation plans and policy recommendations based on reports from sustainability coordinator. The bill establishes a goal of having the interagency climate council of implementing a general state policy to address climate change through 2050.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

While we understand the need to address concerns regarding climate change, we believe that the approach should be structured around two narrow goals.

The first would be to establish the facts of what impacts climate change may have on our state. There would be a need to differentiate between normal coastal erosion and sea level rise caused by climate change. Once the “science” is understood, the next question would be to project the rate or rates at which both processes are expected to occur over time. This approach and methodology should provide a range of different outcomes depending on certain established scientific variables.

The second goal would be to take the “science” and develop public policies based on mitigating impacts identified from the science. These policies should establish certain milestones which would trigger policy implementation.

The sheer scope and magnitude of this effort should involve more than government officials as there are significant sections of Hawaii’s coastline that are privately owned. Furthermore, much of the State’s valuable visitor industry infrastructure and amenities are located along a narrow band along the State’s coastline.



Rather than create another layer of government, it may be prudent to engage in a discussion on the “Science” with educators and researchers from the University of Hawaii and other institutions that may have research conducted or in process on the science of climate change. The policy discussions should occur after the science has been obtained.

We would encourage the legislature to consider using existing resources supplemented with private consultants and/or research grants to address the first two phases discussed earlier as an alternative to immediately creating another government entity. Once the science and policies have been identified and developed, the legislature will be in a better position to identify the focus, staffing and funding levels for a new entity to implement or oversee the implementations of the policy recommendations, as necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 20, 2014, 9:05 AM.
(*Testimony is 1 page long*)



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2344 SD1

Aloha Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, with over 12,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, **supports** SB 2344 SD1. This measure establishes a resiliency plan for the State of Hawai'i and creates an interagency committee focus on sea level rise.



Climate change threatens Hawai'i with stronger hurricanes, prolonged drought, shifting weather patterns, warmer

temperatures, shifting micro-climates, increased spread of invasive species, and saltwater intrusion into Hawai'i's aquifers. University of Hawai'i experts have demonstrated that a one meter rise in sea level—a change that is possible within the next 50 years—would inundate much of Hawai'i's coastline, including its beaches, the world renown Waikiki resort area, the Honolulu International Airport's reef runway, the majority of Hawai'i's wastewater treatment facilities, many historic sites, and many populated areas, including lands up to a mile away from the existing shoreline in parts of Honolulu. The image above demonstrates the extent of flooding through the Waikiki-Moiliili-McCully areas that would likely be caused by a one-meter rise in sea level.

Plainly, as we move forward, it will be necessary to examine and understand how Hawai'i will be impacted by climate change. Hawai'i is already several years behind many other states in this type of planning.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2344 on Feb 20, 2014 09:05AM*
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 10:40:53 AM

SB2344

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2014 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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