

**SB 559**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA  
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.  
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

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
and  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
and  
TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

Wednesday, February 8, 2017  
3:00 P.M  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 559  
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Senate Bill 559 proposes to highlight Hawaii's legacy of environmental protection and climate change leadership and supports the goals of the December 2015 Paris Climate Agreement as a framework to undertake strategies and mechanisms to reduce and mitigate the greenhouse gas emissions of all Hawaii state departments and agencies. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of this measure for Hawai'i to take local leadership responsibility for implementation of the global Paris Climate Agreement, and offers the following comments.**

The Department has been actively engaged in climate change adaptation work in support of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The Sustainable Hawaii Initiative <http://governor.hawaii.gov/sustainable-hawaii-initiative/> has established goals to decrease or eliminate dependency on fossil fuels, protect our watersheds, improve biosecurity, increase food self-sufficiency, and effectively manage our marine areas.

In addition, the Department is in the process of establishing a new Carbon Credits Initiative <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/blog/2017/01/31/nr17-015/> to offset carbon emissions through reforestation of degraded lands. The Department is also interested in potential conversion to electric or hybrid vehicles, and/or biofuel use, for emissions reductions.

The State Planning Act was amended in 2012 with the addition of the Climate Change Adaptation Priority Guidelines (Act 286). These guidelines were created to encourage collaboration needed to address climate change recognizing that impacts will occur to multiple sectors including agriculture, conservation lands, coastal and nearshore marine areas, natural and cultural resources, education, energy, higher education, health, historic preservation, water resources, and the economy.

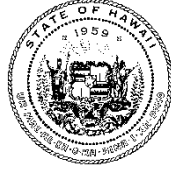
In addition, the Department and the Office of Planning (OP) are presently engaged in assessing potential impacts and planning for climate change and sea level rise for the State as directed by the Act 83, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014. Act 83 established an Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee (within the Department, co-chaired by the Department and OP), which is presently focused on developing a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report for the State. The Report, related data and maps, and recommendations will help in the assessment of and planning for potential impacts resulting from projected sea level rise for development, infrastructure, and coastal environments.

Finally, Act 83 “Authoriz[ed] the office of planning to coordinate the development of a statewide climate adaptation plan and use the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report as a framework for addressing other climate threats and climate adaptation priorities...”

The Department believes that this measure warrants further discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RODERICK K. BECKER  
Comptroller

AUDREY HIDANO  
Deputy Comptroller

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY OF  
RODERICK K. BECKER, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
SENTATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY  
ON  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2017  
3:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 225

S.B. 559

RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Chairs Gabbard, Kim, and Inouye, Vice Chairs Riviere, Ruderman, and Dela Cruz, and members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 559.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) appreciates the intent of the bill, but offers concerns for the committees' consideration.

1. DAGS does not currently possess the requisite subject matter expertise to develop and implement strategies and mechanisms to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. DAGS does not have the staff resources to prepare and develop successive state-determined goals, and to be the lead in communicating and maintaining those goals for all state departments and agencies. DAGS recognizes the importance of the bill's objectives, but it is not adequately resourced to meet the bill's objectives.

Although DAGS serves all of the State's departments and agencies, it may not be the best department in which to house such an expansive program. DAGS' mission has been to help State agencies by providing: superior public facilities, operational support, fiscal guidance, oversight

of administrative services, and preservation and promotion of cultural heritage; none of which reflects the requisite subject matter expertise to formulate and implement critical and highly technical programs to address climate change.

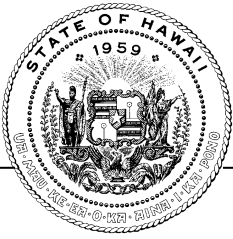
2. Some objectives of the bill appear to be established by Act 286, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2012, and Act 83, SLH 2014. Act 286 established the climate change adaptation guidelines, which were codified in §226-109, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). Act 83 established an interagency climate adaptation committee whose purpose is to address the effects of climate change to protect the State's economy, environment, health, and way of life.

Act 83 also authorizes the Office of Planning (Office) to coordinate the development of a statewide climate adaptation plan and to use the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report as a framework for addressing other climate threats and climate change adaptation priorities identified in Act 286. Act 83 provided funding for the Office (\$108,874) and DLNR (\$458,874), and established one full-time equivalent position in each agency to carry out the purposes of Act 83. Pursuant to §225M-2(b)(9)(C), HRS, the Office is required to publish its findings, recommendations, and progress reports on actions taken no later than December 31, 2017.

In light of the resources that have been committed under Act 83, and the similarity of the objectives in Act 83 with the measure, it may be useful to wait for the Office's publication of its findings, recommendations, and progress reports in December.

Additionally, since the Office is charged with addressing expected statewide climate change impacts identified under Act 286 through the year 2050, it may be appropriate and more cost effective to expand the Office's responsibilities to incorporate the objectives of this bill, since it has acquired the knowledge and expertise to develop a statewide adaptation plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.



**OFFICE OF PLANNING  
STATE OF HAWAII**

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**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT,  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY**  
Wednesday, February 8, 2017  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of  
**SB 559**  
**RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

Chairs Gabbard, Kim, and Inouye, Vice Chairs Riviere, Ruderman, and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment, Government Operations, and Transportation and Energy.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent of SB 559 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget, and provides the following comments.

SB 559 enacts relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement as Hawaii State Law and designates the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) as the lead agency to undertake strategies and mechanisms to reduce and mitigate the greenhouse gas emissions of all state departments and agencies.

OP finds that SB 559 supports potential implementation of Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 226-109, Climate Change Adaptation Priority Guidelines, specifically to: “Explore adaptation strategies that moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities in response to actual or expected climate change impacts to the natural and built environments” (HRS Section 226-109(6)).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 3:00PM

### IN SUPPORT OF SB 559, Relating to Climate Change

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee, my name is Marti Townsend and I represent the Sierra Club of Hawai'i.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly **supports** the intent SB 559. This measure seeks to enact relevant provisions of the Paris Climate Agreement into Hawai'i state law as well as make an appropriation in order to achieve these goals.

The Paris Climate Agreement is a groundbreaking, ambitious, and historic agreement between 192 countries that seeks to mitigate the effects of anthropogenic global climate change. By setting a series of progressively significant emissions mitigation benchmarks, it is one of the single most important agreements ever ratified by any collection of states. In both scale and scope, it seeks to address and combat many of the effects of global climate change, by allocating an emissions specific target to each participating country.

Unless action is taken to address global climate change, Hawai'i and its people will suffer catastrophic effects. A recent report conducted by the UH Manoa Sea Grant College Program found conclusively that global climate change will negatively impact sea temperature, rainfall, sea level rise, and coastal infrastructure and communities.<sup>1</sup> Hawai'i, more than any other state in the United States, is at risk and in need of the most protection.

SB 559 seeks to ratify parts of the Paris Climate Agreement into state law to safeguard and protect our state and its people. This bill isn't only recommended, it is absolutely necessary. Given the tenuous relationship the federal government now seems to have with enforcing their end of the agreement<sup>2</sup>, enacting this bill into law allows Hawai'i to control its own destiny and dictate its own terms.

Through this measure, Hawai'i demonstrates to the nation that addressing global climate change and mitigating its effects on the state, the environment, and its people is paramount. Protecting the environment supersedes national agendas and international politics. As the famous

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<sup>1</sup> <http://seagrantsoest.hawaii.edu/sites/default/files/publications/smfinal-hawaiiclimatechange.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/01/31/former-trump-aide-says-us-will-pull-out-paris-climate-deal-within-days.html>

astronomer Carl Sagan once said about protecting our planet, “it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.”

We urge the committee to pass SB 559.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Mahalo,  
Marti Townsend  
Director





**ADA**

**HAWAII**

**AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION**

**OFFICERS**

John Bickel, President  
Alan Burdick, Vice President  
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Karin Gill, Secretary

**DIRECTORS**

Guy Archer      Jan Lubin  
Dylan Armstrong      Jenny Nomura  
Gloria Borland      Stephen O'Harrow  
Chuck Huxel      Cameron Sato

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 23404  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96823  
  
[www.adaaction.org](http://www.adaaction.org)

February 3 , 2017

TO:            Honorable Chairs Gabbard, Klm, and Inouye and relevant Committee Members

RE:            SB 559 Relating to Climate Change  
Support for hearing on Feb. 8

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB 559 as it would, through the lead of the Department of Accounting and General Services, undertake strategies and mechanisms to reduce and mitigate the greenhouse gas emissions of all state departments and agencies. All state departments and agencies will have to pursue local mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the goals. The successive state-determined goals shall represent a progression beyond the State's current state-determined contribution of greenhouse gas emissions and shall reflect its highest possible ambition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change is coming. We must both prepare for this change and mitigate the change. Our economy demands this.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel  
President

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 4:27 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** wmanonsen@consultant.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB559 on Feb 8, 2017 15:00PM\*

**SB559**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for AEN/GVO/TRE on Feb 8, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Anonsen	The Maritime Group, LLC	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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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 5, 2017 2:30 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** cchaudron08@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB559 on Feb 8, 2017 15:00PM

**SB559**

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/GVO/TRE on Feb 8, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Camila Chaudron	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha. My name is Camila Chaudron, and I live in the Manoa/Makiki area. I support this measure because climate change is real, it's happening, and we need to take drastic steps to counteract the dangerous effects that fossil fuels have on our environment. Hawaii does not have a viable economic or environmental path forward unless it invests heavily in sustainable practices now. For the sake of the health and future of our community, thank you for supporting this measure. Mahalo.

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February 5, 2017

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Government Operations

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

**RE: SB559**

DATE: Wednesday, February 8, 2017

TIME: 3:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 225, State Capitol

My name is Teal Sargent. I am a long term resident on the island of Kaua'i, Hawai'i. I am currently pursuing a Masters degree in Social Work at the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work. It is great pleasure that I write today to **strongly support** SB559.

As a long term resident in Hawai'i I have invested interest in preserving and protecting the place I call home. There has been ample scientific evidence suggesting the threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources and environment in Hawai'i. This evidence also suggests that if we don't take a two pronged approach in preventative measures now the impacts will be detrimental to our well being as a whole. As a resident, mother and advocate for the community I am very concerned for the future of Hawai'i, my home. If we continue to ignore the threats of climate change our children will have no future here in the islands and thousands of people will lose their culture. Here in Hawai'i we are an advantage to the United States in the sense that we have ample natural resources that we can use for a sustainable future. With all the evidence pointing towards the detrimental effects of climate change it seems ridiculous not to take preventative measures toward preserving our islands. Again I strongly support SB559 to adopt the Paris Agreement and work towards a sustainable future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Teal Sargent  
P.O. Box 366  
Kilauea, Hi 96754

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB559 on Feb 8, 2017 15:00PM\*

**SB559**

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for AEN/GVO/TRE on Feb 8, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 5, 2017 10:09 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** lberthold@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB559 on Feb 8, 2017 15:00PM

**SB559**

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN/GVO/TRE on Feb 8, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Berthold	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill. The Paris agreements were a major step forward in reducing human impact on the environment. The goal is to decrease global greenhouse gas emissions to reduce risk and impacts of climate change. Here in Hawaii, we feel the effects of climate change with sea level rise, warming temperatures, and more frequency of storms. We should do all that we can to create more environmentally friendly policies that impact the environment positively. Environmental health directly impacts human health.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** anthony\_orozco@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB559 on Feb 8, 2017 15:00PM

**SB559**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for AEN/GVO/TRE on Feb 8, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anthony Orozco	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: PURE ARROGANCE! That's all this bill is. That some human's think they can control the weather. I don't want any of my tax dollars going into this climate change foolishness.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 6:41 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** crystalkpaul@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB559 on Feb 8, 2017 15:00PM\*



**SB559**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for AEN/GVO/TRE on Feb 8, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Crystal Kia Paul	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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