



**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  
&  
WATER AND LAND**  
Wednesday, March 14, 2018  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of  
**HB 2106, HD3**  
**RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.**

Chairs Gabbard and Rhodes, Vice Chairs Riviere and Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture & Environment and Water & Land.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent of HB 2106, HD3 which requires the Environmental Council to adopt and maintain rules pursuant to Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), for all environmental assessments and environmental impact statements prepared pursuant to HRS Chapter 343, to include consideration of sea level rise based on the best available scientific data regarding sea level rise.

It is our understanding that the Environmental Council is in the process of drafting recommendations on rule changes on sea level rise and climate change consideration in Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 11-200. OP defers to the Office of Environmental Quality Control for comment on these matters.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

ROBERT K. MASUDA  
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  
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2106, HOUSE DRAFT 3  
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

House Bill 2106, House Draft 3 proposes to require the Environmental Council to adopt and maintain rules requiring all environmental assessments and environmental impact statements prepared pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include consideration of sea level rise based on the best available scientific data regarding sea level rise. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT/  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Joint Hearing Wednesday, March 14, 2018 3 PM Conference Room 224

**IN SUPPORT OF HB 2106 HD3** Relating to Environmental Protection

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Riviere, and Committees Members:

The **HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC**– was formed last year by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean. We are currently asking the Legislature to pass a handful of very important bills to save our coral reefs – they are bills relating to sunscreens, plus bills on cesspools; Styrofoam; plastic marine debris; and sea level rise.

HB 2106 HD3 is one of several bills we support for addressing the challenges sea level rise pose now and into the future.

In December, 2017 the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission released the Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report, as initially mandated by Act 83 in 2014 and expanded by Act 32 in 2017. The report includes recommendations for sea level rise adaptation measures, many of which require implementing legislation.

HB 2106 HD3 would respond to Recommendation 2.9 of the report, ***“Develop guidance on integrating sea level rise and climate change in the environmental review process and incorporating environmental justice considerations.”*** by requiring the Environmental Council to adopt and maintain rules requiring all environmental assessments and environmental impact statements prepared pursuant to chapter 343, HRS, to include consideration of sea level rise based on the best available scientific data regarding sea level rise.

We urge passage of this important measures.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Submitted by Dave Raney on behalf of the Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition.



To: The Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment, and Water and Land  
From: Brodie Lockard, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Wednesday, 3/14/18

**In support of HB 2106 HD3**

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Rhoads, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members,

I am the founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org supports HB 2106.

Consideration of sea level rise in every environmental assessment and environmental impact statement will keep awareness of climate change in the front of state and county officials' minds.

Sea level rise is a crucial factor to consider when approving the use of state or county lands or funds in conservation districts, shoreline areas, historic sites, and Waikiki.

Factoring sea level rise into these decisions will save time, money and effort in the long run, as climate change continues to exacerbate environmental disruption in our communities.

Please support HB 2106 HD3. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Brodie Lockard  
350Hawaii.org

**HB-2106-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 7:05:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stuart Coleman	Testifying for Surfrider Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Rhoads, Vice-Chair Riviere, and Committees Members,

As the Hawaii Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, I am writing in support of HB2106 HD3. We are also part of the HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION (HIROC), which was formed last year by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean. We are currently asking the Legislature to pass a handful of very important bills to save our coral reefs – they are bills relating to sunscreens, plus bills on cesspools; Styrofoam; plastic marine debris; and sea level rise.

HB 2106 HD3 is one of several bills we support for addressing the challenges sea level rise pose now and into the future. In December, 2017 the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission released the Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report, as initially mandated by Act 83 in 2014 and expanded by Act 32 in 2017. The report includes recommendations for sea level rise adaptation measures. We urge passage of this important measure to deal with sea level rise. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Aloha, Stuart Coleman

**HB-2106-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 4:38:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Bishop	Testifying for Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	No

Comments:



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I  
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 3:00PM Conference Room 224

**In SUPPORT of HB 2107 HD3** Relating to environmental protection

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Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Riviere and Gabbard and members of the Committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **strongly urges these Committees to adopt HB 2106 HD3**, to require the environmental review process for all projects to consider the effects of sea level rise.

The preservation of Hawai'i's shorelines is not only critical to protect the countless flora and fauna living there, but also to protect our island way of life. Most people rely on coastal resources for food subsistence, homes and businesses, traditional practices, rejuvenation, and recreation. In part because of their importance in our lives, coastal areas are also built up. Considerable investment continues to be made in structures and infrastructure near the shoreline. This is a problem because the science is clear that one of the impacts of warming global temperatures is sea level rise.

The negative impacts to low-lying coastal areas include loss of sand on beaches, degraded critical habitat, economic harm, and displacement of residents. Based on the magnitude and rate of sea level rise, we as a community must act now to not only mitigate the long-term effects of climate change, but also to adapt to the impacts we will continue to see through the rest of this century and beyond.

The new Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission just released the "Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report"<sup>1</sup> to the public. This comprehensive report assesses Hawai'i's vulnerability to sea level rise and offers several critical recommendations for helping our islands prepare and adapt to our warmer future.

The Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report said:

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<sup>1</sup> [https://climateadaptation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/SLR-Report\\_-\\_January-2018.pdf](https://climateadaptation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/SLR-Report_-_January-2018.pdf)

- If greenhouse gas emissions stopped today, the sea level would still rise, so preparations must be made now, even as we mitigate climate change.
- At a minimum, failure to plan for a 3-foot sea level rise will:
  - Cost the people of Hawai'i \$19 billion dollars
  - Displace 20,000 residents,
  - Impact 35 miles of road,
  - Inundate 2,000 sewage disposal systems,
  - Affect 550 cultural sites, and
  - Compromise 6,500 structures - like hotels, shopping malls, and small businesses
- Recommendation 2.9 "Develop guidance on integrating sea level rise and climate change in the environmental review process and incorporating environmental justice considerations"

This bill implements recommendation 2.9. The purpose of Chapter 343 is to engage a public discussion on the effects human activities have on the quality of our environment. In establishing this statute, the legislature wrote:

The legislature finds that the quality of humanity's environment is critical to humanity's well being, that **humanity's activities have broad and profound effects upon the interrelations of all components of the environment**, and that an environmental review process will **integrate the review of environmental concerns with existing planning processes** of the State and counties and **alert decision makers to significant environmental effects** which may result from the implementation of certain actions. The legislature further finds that the process of reviewing environmental effects is desirable because **environmental consciousness is enhanced**, cooperation and coordination are encouraged, and public participation during the review process benefits all parties involved and society as a whole.

It is the purpose of this chapter to establish a system of environmental review which will **ensure that environmental concerns are given appropriate consideration in decision making along with economic and technical considerations.**

This bill takes an important step forward in the overall effort to fulfill the purpose of Chapter 343 and help the people of Hawai'i adapt to the reality of higher seas. Requiring projects to consider the effects of sea level rise means we reduce the risk of damage to these proposals once built, and we better protect our beloved beaches so that our future generations can rely on them in the same way we do.

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



**HB-2106-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 2:58:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2106-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2018 3:19:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2106-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/9/2018 10:21:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2106-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 4:37:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2106-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 9:15:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2106-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 3:05:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**HB-2106-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 3:06:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
magdalena bajon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2106-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 3:09:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
alex skopis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

This is a great bill, sea level rise is as important today as saving the whales was 30 years ago.

Sea level rise is a critical issue for the state of Hawai'i,

This bill recognizes the importance of the connection of the 'aina with the sea.

Please continue to consider the level of the sea in future bills.

Sincerely,

Alex Skopis



**HB-2106-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 3:10:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/14/2018 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stacey Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I enthusiastically support HB 2106 because requiring the state to adopt sea level rise based on the most recent scientific data will allow decision makers to make well informed decisions. Planning for sea level rise moving forward is sustainable and a responsible step in the right direction as a State.