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Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Director, Office of Planning
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND
WATER AND LAND**

Tuesday, March 20, 2018
9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of

HCR 234

**REQUESTING THE STATE AND THE COUNTIES TO IMPLEMENT THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HAWAII SEA LEVEL RISE VULNERABILITY AND
ADAPTATION REPORT.**

Chairs Lee and Yamane, Vice Chairs Lowen and Todd, and Members of the House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water and Land.

The Office of Planning (OP) respectfully offers comments on HCR 234, which primarily requests (1) the State, the counties, and each of their agencies to implement the recommendations of the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report (SLR Report) adopted December 2017 by the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Climate Commission); (2) OP, Land Use Commission, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Department of Health, and the Climate Commission to each effectuate the specific actions set forth in the SLR Report; and (3) the Office of the Governor to submit a report on the progress of executive agencies in implementing the recommendations of the SLR Report, including any proposed legislation to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior the convening of the Regular Session of 2019.

OP commends HCR 234 for recognizing the magnitude of the problem that is sea level rise (SLR) in the State of Hawaii, the immediate need to address the issue and the many different State agencies and departments and county partners needed to tackle the various concerns surrounding SLR.

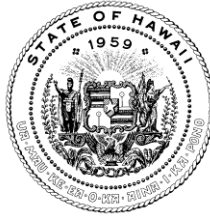
However, given the nine major recommendations and associated activities in the SLR Report¹, State and county departments and agencies, including OP, will have to devote significant resources, including manpower and funds, to implementing the policy changes stated therein. Without the Legislature and county councils providing additional and necessary resources, it will be difficult to impossible for State and county departments and agencies to fulfill its normally tasked duties and take on the recommendations set forth in the SLR Report.

Consequently, while OP supports the intent of HCR 234, it is premature and will unduly burden State and county department and agency resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ The nine (9) overarching recommendations in the SLR Report, at pg. xii – xiv, are as follows: (1) support sustainable and resilient land use and community development, including recognizing the SLR exposure area (SLR-XA) with 3.2 feet of SLR as a state-wide vulnerability zone for planning at state, county, and community levels; (2) prioritize smart urban redevelopment outside the SLR-XA with 3.2 feet of SLR and limit exposure within the SLR-XA with 3.2 feet of SLR; (3) incentivize improved flood risk management; (4) enable legacy beaches to persist; (5) preserve Native Hawaiian culture and communities; (6) protect nearshore water quality; (7) develop innovative and sustainable financing and incentives; (8) support research, assessment, and monitoring; and (9) promote collaboration and accountability for adaptation.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committees on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
and
WATER & LAND

Tuesday, March 20, 2018
9:30 am
Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 234
REQUESTING THE STATE AND THE COUNTIES TO IMPLEMENT THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HAWAII SEA LEVEL RISE VULNERABILITY AND
ADAPTATION REPORT

House Concurrent Resolution 234 requests that the State and the Counties implement the recommendations of the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report (Report). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department has stated in testimony on other measures that it intends to utilize the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Climate Commission) to facilitate implementation of the recommendations of the Report. The Climate Commission accepted the Report in December 2017. The Climate Commission intends to set an aggressive climate mitigation and adaptation agenda over the next 10 months in which we will progress towards our goals of reducing carbon emissions and adapting to sea level rise. The Department envisions accomplishing this through the formation of small informal working group comprised of state and county agencies, the business community, organizations and the public on efforts that must be undertaken to improve our resiliency in the face of sea level rise. Results of these interactions – e.g., 2019 legislative initiatives – will be presented to the Climate Commission for approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HCR-234

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:03:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC on Legislative Priorities, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-234

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 7:37:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henry Curtis	Life of the Land	Support	No

Comments:

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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March 20, 2018

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Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

and

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water and Land
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Yamane and Members:

Subject: House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 234, Requesting the State and the Counties to Implement the Recommendations of the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports HCR 234, requesting the State and the Counties to implement the recommendations of the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report. The BWS is actively working with the City's Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency Office and participates in the City Resilience Team to plan for sea level rise.

The BWS recognizes that sea level rise and coastal erosion will impact the water distribution system in low lying and coastal areas and adaptation measures need to be prioritized and implemented. The BWS has already experienced difficulty in repairing main breaks along Ala Wai Boulevard, Ala Moana Boulevard and Nimitz Highway having to wait for low tide to complete pipe repairs. We anticipate sea level rise exacerbating water system maintenance and repair in the decades to come.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of HCR 234.

Very truly yours,



ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

HCR-234

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:49:22 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HCR-234

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 7:05:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To EEP/WAL Committees meeting on 3/20/18 at 9:30am in room 325

Re: HCR234. Please pass HCR234. This bill will help hold office holders and State and County workers to follow the recommendations of the Hawaii sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report. Thank you for your consideration.

Joan Gannon resident, voter and snorkeler

LATE

HCR-234

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 3:59:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/20/2018 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments: