

TESTIMONY OF RANDY IWASE
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

March 28, 2018
4:00 p.m.

MEASURE: S.B. No. 2334 SD1 HD1
TITLE: RELATING TO PLANNING.

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

DESCRIPTION:

Requires the State and counties to incorporate predictions of sea level rise and other climate change hazards and mitigation opportunities into applicable plans, strategies, and mapping. Requires PUC to consider the findings in the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report. (SB2334 HD1).

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) offers the following comments for consideration.

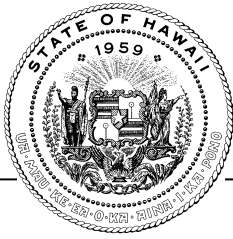
COMMENTS:

The Commission continues to carefully consider the impacts of climate change in its decision-making and is supportive further considering climate change in developing future infrastructure projects. However, the Commission respectfully requests that the Legislature require regulated utilities to consider the “Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report” in their own planning and investments, prior to submitting any applications or other filings with the Commission.

Given the wide variety and complexity of matters that come before the Commission, the language in this measure that the Commission “shall consider in all of its actions, the findings in the ‘Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report’...” may cause

confusion among regulated companies and other stakeholders, and result in delay in completing the Commission's activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

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Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 28, 2018
4:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
SB 2334, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO PLANNING.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

SB 2334, SD2, HD1 requires the State and counties to incorporate predictions of sea level rise and other climate change hazards and mitigation opportunities into applicable plans, strategies and mapping, and requires the Public Utilities Commission to consider the findings in the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports SB 2334, SD2, HD1, and respectfully offers the following comments on this measure:

Given the findings of the "Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report 2017" only requiring the state and counties to integrate the findings into respective multi-hazard mitigation plans under the Hawaii State Planning Act, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 226 does not address the purpose of this Chapter to its full extent.

The Hawaii State Planning Act's purpose is broader than simply multi-hazard mitigation plans, therefore the requirement to address Sea Level Rise should also be incorporated into the State plan and functional plans, county general plans and county development or community plans, to increase Hawaii's resiliency and ability to respond to natural disasters.

Therefore, OP recommends amending Page 2, Lines 13-20 to read as follows:

"§ 226- Climate change hazards and mitigation planning; required.
The State and each county shall incorporate evaluations, predictions, and
recommendations pertaining to climate change hazards and mitigation into their
respective multi-hazard mitigation plans, the State plan and State functional plans, county

general plans and county development or community plans. Those plans, at a minimum, shall incorporate the findings of the “Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report” prepared by the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission.

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

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 28, 2018
4:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
SEANTE BILL 2334, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO PLANNING

Senate Bill 2334, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 proposes to: (1) require the State and counties to incorporate evaluations, predictions, and recommendations pertaining to climate change hazards and mitigation into their respective multi-hazard mitigation plans and (2) require the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to consider the findings in the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report (SLR Report) in all of its actions. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and provides the following comment.**

In December 2017, the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission accepted the SLR Report. Recommendation 3 of the SLR Report includes a number of potential actions that are consistent with this measure such as, "Adopt Higher Flood Standards to Account for Sea Level Rise," "Consider Adopting V Zone Standards in the Coastal A Zone," "Provide Technical and Financial Support to a Statewide Community Rating System Program," "Encourage Property Owners at Risk to Coastal Flooding to Purchase Flood Insurance," "Incorporate Sea Level Rise into State and County Hazard Mitigation Plans," and "Develop Pre-disaster Recovery Frameworks at State and County Levels that Incorporate Opportunities to Adapt to Sea Level Rise Through Disaster Recovery." The Department encourages the PUC to consider the findings of the SLR Report, when it may be appropriate

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



SB2334 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO PLANNING
House Committee on Finance

March 28, 2018

4:00 p.m.

Room 308

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB2334 SD2 HD1, which would require the state and the counties to address climate change hazards and mitigation in their hazard mitigation plans, and to include sea level rise adaptation strategies in other state and county plans and maps.

OHA has long sought to promote the resiliency and health of our islands' lands and natural and cultural resources. OHA's strategic priorities include 'Āina (Land & Water), which represents our commitment to maintain Native Hawaiians' connection to the past and a viable land base; by Native Hawaiian participation in and benefit from the responsible stewardship of Ka Pae 'Āina O Hawai'i. In line with this priority, OHA's strategic results specifically seek to preserve cultural and natural resources and historic properties.

As a member of the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission established by Act 32 (Reg. Sess. 2016), OHA currently assists with direction, facilitation, coordination and planning among state and county agencies, federal agencies, and other partners on climate change mitigation (reduction of greenhouse gases) and climate change resiliency strategies, including, but not limited to, sea level rise adaptation, water and agricultural security, and natural resource conservation. OHA understands that the impacts of climate change – such as coastal flooding and erosion and impacts to terrestrial and marine ecosystems – will affect the built and natural environment, as well as the livelihoods and food security of Native Hawaiians. Understanding the extent of these changes and their impacts and planning early adaptation and mitigation actions is essential to protecting the communities and natural resources of Ka Pae 'Āina O Hawai'i.

OHA accordingly appreciates and supports the intent of this measure, and believes that the contemplated climate change hazard and mitigation planning will reaffirm and reinforce our efforts to ensure the resiliency and sustainable stewardship of our islands

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2334 SD2 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2334-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/27/2018 3:38:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SB2334 SD2 HD1** relating to Disasters; Planning; Recovery; Climate Change; Sea Level Rise; and Infrastructure Sites.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SB2334 SD2 HD1** and strongly supports its passage as it requires the State and counties to incorporate predictions of sea level rise and other climate change hazards and mitigation opportunities into applicable plans, strategies, and mapping; and requires PUC to consider the findings in the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report.

SB2334 SD2 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") which provides that "[w]e know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions." (Platform of the DPH, P. 8, 435-439 (2016)).

Given that **SB2334 SD2 HD1** requires the State and counties to incorporate predictions of sea level rise and other climate change hazards and mitigation opportunities into applicable plans, strategies, and mapping; and requires PUC to consider the findings in the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to strongly support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 28, 2018 4PM Conference Room 308

In **SUPPORT** of **SB 2334 SD2 HD1** Relating to planning

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair ullen , and members of the FIN Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **supports SB 2334 SD2 HD1**, which provides the legislative mandate needed to implement recommendations from the "Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report¹" (the Report) prepared by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Committee, especially those recommendations dealing with climate change hazards and mitigation in an era of sea level rise, increased frequency and intensity of storm events, and other climate change impacts.

This bill provides the legislative mandate needed to implement recommendation 3.7 of the Report, **Develop pre-disaster recovery frameworks at state and county levels that incorporate opportunities to adapt to sea level rise through disaster recovery.**

As stated in the Report,

"Disasters can provide opportunities to adapt to sea level rise. Pre-disaster recovery strategies can support managed retreat and other adaptation strategies by engaging community stakeholders in making decisions about land use in the event that a major hazard event, such as a hurricane or tsunami, occurs. Using pre- disaster planning and post-disaster recovery as opportunities for implementation of sea level rise adaptation is as advantageous as it is cost effective and reduces repetitive losses."

Such engagement of communities in pre-disaster recovery planning also serves to promote a visioning process to guide future managed retreat actions which sea level rise may trigger even in the absence of major disasters.

¹ [Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report \(2017\)](#)

Federal floodplain maps are based on historic data and do not incorporate sea level rise projections. SECTION 4 of this bill would require that floodplain mapping supported by state or county funding include modeling which takes sea level rise into account. This will promote more realistic identification of flood hazards than provided by federal floodplain maps.

We fully support amendments to this bill, including adding the Public Utilities Commission to the list of agencies that need to consider the Report in the course of decision-making.

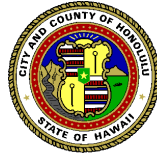
In summary, we **strongly support SB 2334 SD2 HD1** and encourage its passage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

JOSHUA W. STANBRO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018 4:00PM

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2334 SD2 HD1
A BILL RELATING TO PLANNING**

BY,

JOSHUA STANBRO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

The City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency **supports the intent** of Senate Bill 2334 SD2 HD1, which mandates the integration of climate change considerations in state and county planning efforts, including the Multi-Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan.

The City has already begun to include sea level rise and other climate change considerations into its long range policy plans. We have also been requesting that climate change impacts be defined for major land use proposals. The City also established via City Charter our permanent Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency which has quickly built capacity to coordinate policies and departmental action to plan for and address climate change impacts.

While we support the concept of proactive actions such as modeling for mapping purposes and participation in the community rating system called for in this bill, we are concerned that this Bill mandates city actions without funding to carry them out. These are not one-time costs, but reflect an ongoing commitment. These activities are not currently in the City's budget and we request that Senate Bill No. 2334 SD2 HD1 include permanent funding to assist the City and other counties in this work.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.