

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
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

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
and  
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
and  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS**

**Thursday, February 7, 2019  
8:30am  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1586  
RELATING TO THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT**

House Bill 1586 proposes to establish and transfer to a Department of the Environment certain agencies and programs administered by the Department of Health (the Office of Environmental Quality Control and the Environmental Council) and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (the Energy Office and programs relating to sustainability and climate adaption planning in the Office of Planning). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

Climate change mitigation and adaption are rapidly becoming critical missions that nations, states, and cities must take seriously. Hawaii's path to energy independence through renewable energy generation is one of the most important ways we can insulate ourselves from the threat of global warming by severing our dependence on foreign sources of energy. Moreover, we need to invest in sustainability practices, so we can grow our own food, protect our natural resources which provide invaluable benefits to our population, and reduce the environmental impact of our presence in these islands. There is no question that climate change mitigation, energy, and sustainability are inextricably linked, but for Hawaii, they do not provide the full picture.

Even if Hawaii achieves carbon neutrality today, tomorrow, or in 30 years, global carbon emissions from developing countries will steadily increase over this time resulting in additional global warming. And while we can wean ourselves from fossil fuels, despite our trailblazing accomplishments, Hawaii will not escape the severe effects of climate change in the form of rising sea level, water scarcity, increased storminess, and warmer temperatures. Sea level rise will reshape our shorelines at an increasing rate of change throughout this century and beyond. It is therefore critical that Hawaii brace for these effects by implementing aggressive climate change adaptation measures. Towards this end, we must strengthen the role of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and provide the necessary resources to implement the critical actions that are needed to respond to climate change impacts in Hawaii. From this proposed measure, it is unclear how the functions of the Commission and its Coordinator will be affected and will interact with the proposed Department of the Environment.

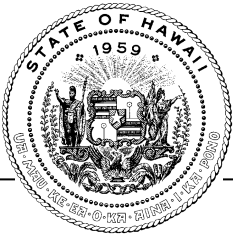
The Department would like the committees to note the work accomplished by the Commission and its Coordinator, in order to emphasize the rationale for where this office is currently housed. In the brief 18 months of its existence, the Climate Commission and the Climate Coordinator have had a strong impact on state and county policies and established a new standard for state level action on climate change mitigation and adaptation. In these 18 months, the Climate Commission and the Climate Coordinator have accomplished a great deal of work:

- **Adopted a cutting edge Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Mitigation Report** in accordance with Act 32, SLH, 2017. This first statewide assessment of Hawaii's vulnerability to sea level rise uses the latest science to characterize the threat and risks to our coastal areas from sea level rise. Adopted a series of recommendations for adaptation to Sea Level Rise. The Climate Commission passed five recommendations aimed at State and counties that tackle keystone issues surrounding sea level rise, such as real estate disclosure of sea level rise hazards, direct all new development away from beach areas, urge counties to incorporate 3.2 feet sea level rise exposure into their general and community plans, encourage agencies and non-governmental utility providers to identify and prioritize assets with the 3.2 ft. projections, identify adaptation measures and report back to the Climate Commission annually on progress, and support legislation that funds state programs to meet the goals, and to bring resources to assist in planning and implementation for sea level rise and other related impacts. The Climate Commission put a high priority on supporting legislation that funds State programs to meet mitigation goals, and that brings resources to assist in planning and implementation for sea level rise and other climate related impacts. The 2019 legislative session will be a critical turning point for resourcing efforts to implement more specific sea level rise adaptation measures by implementing adaptation actions at the agency level.
- **Identified priority areas to help reduce emissions from ground transportation.** These include a strong statement on carbon pricing, along with addressing system efficiencies through transportation and parking studies, electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure deployment through government carshare and other programs, and a PSA campaign to engage residents and visitors in the transition to clean transportation.
- **Finalized a mission statement to bind together the above priorities.** The Commission aims "[t]o promote ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean, equitable and resilient."

- **Developed a climate “brand” for Hawaii** through a new website and social media presence to inform local and global audiences of Hawaii’s climate response. The web portal launched in June helps to tie together all State efforts on Climate Change—adaptation, greenhouse gas sequestration, the greenhouse gas inventory, Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative, Sustainability initiatives, and the State Energy Office sites. The social media accounts attempt to provide insights into the Commission’s ongoing work.
- **Projected a national presence for climate response.** Hawaii works with the 20-Governor US Climate Alliance (USCA) that was formed as a response to the Federal Administration’s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. Hawaii is involved in various working groups, including for resilience, transportation, natural and working lands, and so on. The Climate Coordinator co-chairs, along with staff from Minnesota and Washington, the transportation working group and brings lessons from other states to Hawaii.
- **Hosted a dynamic statewide First Annual Climate Conference** bringing subject matter experts together from the mainland U.S. and from Hawaii, to engage with researchers, the interested public, industry and government in an effort to help resolve the most difficult issues facing the state and set the tone for the work of the Commission in 2019.

Thus, on the adaptation side, the Department has been the main conduit for climate change response and will continue to be—as these conditions intensify. The proposed measure would be stronger if it were to specify how the Department of the Environment plans to interface with the Climate Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

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Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, LABOR  
AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS**

Thursday, February 7, 2019  
8:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**HB 1586**  
**RELATING TO THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT.**

Chairs Lowen, Johanson, and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wildberger, Eli and Kitagawa, and Members of the House Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection, Labor and Public Employment, and Economic Development and Business.

The Office of Planning respectfully offers comments on HB 1568 which establishes and transfers to a Department of Environment certain agencies and programs administered by the Department of Health and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. This bill appears to duplicate some of the on-going functions of the Office of Planning established under chapter 225M, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and is authorized "to assist the Governor and the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism in maintaining an overall framework to guide the development of the State through a continuous process of comprehensive, long-range, and strategic planning to meet the physical, economic, and social needs of Hawaii's people, and provide for the wise use of Hawaii's resources in coordinated, efficient, and economical manner, including the conservation of those natural, environmental, recreational, scenic, historic, and other limited and irreplaceable resources that are required for future generations." See HRS § 225M-2. The Office of Planning also fixes responsibility and accountability to successfully carry out statewide planning programs, policies, and priorities; improves the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations of the executive branch; and ensure comprehensive planning and coordination to enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawaii.

The Office of Planning notes that the Legislature has introduced HB 449, Relating to Sustainability, which establishes a statewide sustainability division within the Office of Planning to ensure long-term planning, coordination, and implementation of Hawaii's sustainable goals and policies, and is consistent with the purpose and responsibilities of the Office of Planning, pursuant to HRS chapter 225M.

The Office of Planning prefers the language in HB 449, which will implement statewide sustainability coordination in an expedient manner. HB 1586 would result in the creation of another layer of governmental bureaucracy by establishing a new department and would prolong the implementation of sustainability coordination through the delay of transferring positions and funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY  
DIRECTOR

## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
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Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
AND  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS**

Thursday, February 7, 2019  
8:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

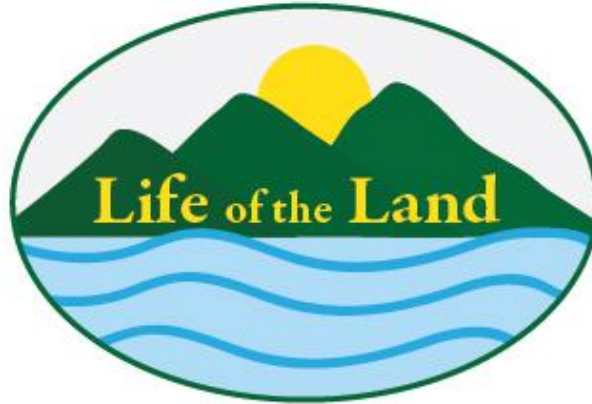
In consideration of  
**HB1586**  
**RELATING TO THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT.**

Chairs Lowen, Johanson, and McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wildberger, Eli and Kitagawa and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **comments** on HB1586, which transfers the Energy Office; programs relating to sustainability and climate adaption in the Office of Planning; and the Department of Health's Office of Environmental Quality Control into a new Department of Environment.

It is the Legislature that ultimately decides what is the best use of State funds. DBEDT notes that creating a new department takes careful planning and consideration of not only the employees but to take into account the budgetary issues. There are several bills that have been introduced to consolidate the Energy Office with different programs. DBEDT believes it would be premature to take a position on this bill at this time as we have not had the opportunity to discuss and plan for with the other agencies as well as any other stakeholders that would be affected by this consolidation.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this bill.



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**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

**COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair

**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS**

Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 7, 2019

TIME: 8:30 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 325

**HB 1586 RELATING TO THE STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT.**

**COMMENTS**

Aloha Chairs Lowen, Johanson, and McKelvey, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees

Life of the Land is Hawai`i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 49 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

HB 1586 is a very complex bill with many reasonable ideas. The triple-committee hearing means that this hearing is the first and last policy hearing in the House. The bill was introduced with little warning given its complexity.

The bill does not require the Department of the Environment to adopt Hawai'i Administrative Rules. Some rules may or may not be transferred as possibly noted in Section 22, but contradictions between what is brought over from which agency presents a problem.

The Department of Health has formal public hearings and contested case rules. DBEDT has much looser laws. DOE might not have any, they certainly aren't specified.

Having multiple agencies responsible for sustainability may offer better or worse safeguards than stripping agencies of their sustainability offices and concentrating them in one agency.

“There is established within the department the position of renewable energy facilitator ... The renewable energy facilitator shall have the following duties: (1) Facilitate the efficient permitting of renewable energy projects.”

This could be akin to a facility siting council which could be good or could be used to fast-track government-approved projects. Without firm rules, who knows?

The section on HRS §196-10 Hawaii renewable hydrogen program is important to understand. There are references to both hydrogen and renewable hydrogen. At the time this was enacted, Life of the Land pointed out that 95% of all hydrogen in the US

comes from fossil fuels. The language was intention. Talking about “renewable hydrogen” but promoting any kind of hydrogen. Get support from both sides.

There is also reference to HRS §196-10.5 Hawaii clean energy initiative program. The top-down, secretive, back-room Hawaii clean energy initiative program came into existence in 2007-10 without any definition in the agreement or in state law as to what clean energy means. The HCEI is all about strategic partnerships with investors that will move the State towards an undefined “clean energy economy”.

There is no preamble to the bill explaining why the bill is being introduced or how it is an improvement over business-as-usual.

At this point in time we neither support nor oppose the bill.

Mahalo

Henry Curtis

Executive Director





**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS**

February 7, 2019, 8:30 A.M.  
Room 325  
(Testimony is 2 pages long)

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1586**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Johanson, and Chair McKelvey, and members of the Committees:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports** HB 1586, which establishes the Department of Environment and transfers certain programs currently administered by the Department of Health and the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

This bill would transfer to a newly formed Department of Environment the functions and authority currently exercised by the Office of Environmental Quality Control, the Environmental Council, the State Energy Office, and the sustainability program of the Office of Planning.

With the urgency of climate change as a looming threat, a state government department focused on energy and climate concerns makes sense. The energy landscape has shifted dramatically since many of the government agencies listed above were formed. As one example, since the State Energy Office was established in 1974, Hawaii has committed to 100% renewable electricity and net carbon neutrality by 2045, added more than 8,000 electric vehicles to our roads, and has seen incredible growth in distributed solar—now over 80,000 homes in the state have rooftop solar.

**Energy decisions affect nearly every aspect of the state’s economy and residents’ lives. Hawaii needs an elevated, effective office to oversee Hawaii’s transition to a clean energy economy.**

**In addition to consolidating and streamlining the various agencies and offices that work on climate and energy via a new Department of Environment, Blue Planet believes that the legislature should go further:** If a new department is to be formed, the legislature should more fully articulate and codify the functions and authority of the department as they relate to Hawaii’s transition to a clean energy economy. By supplementing what is already laid out in the

bill with respect to the renewable energy facilitator and the office of climate and sustainability duties, House Bill 1586 can be a vehicle to ensure that state government priorities and processes best reflect the current energy landscape and are aimed at setting Hawaii on the fastest path toward meeting its clean energy and climate targets.

To further these goals, the Department of Energy could also be specifically charged with, among other activities in service of advancing our clean energy and climate goals:

- policy and technical planning and energy scenario analytic work;
- data collection, access, and sharing;
- partnership development, energy business interest management, and showcasing progress;
- coordination of public agency energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation programs;
- catalyzing innovation and developing testbed opportunities;
- serving as a policy and technology consultant to other state agencies, including the Public Utilities Commission; and
- streamlined implementation of energy conservation building codes; and
- oversight of state appliance efficiency standards that save consumers money.

**Blue Planet Foundation would welcome the opportunity to work with the committees and other members of the legislature to develop such an energy authority for Hawaii.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Chair Lowen, Johanson, McKelvey**  
**Vice Chair Wildberger, Eli, Kitagawa**  
**House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection**  
**House Committee on Labor & Public Employment**  
**House Committee on Economic Development & Business**

**Thursday, February 7, 2019**  
**8:30 AM**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1586 RELATING TO THE STRUCTURE  
OF GOVERNMENT**

Aloha Chairs Lowen, Johanson, McKelvey, Vice Chairs Wildberger, Eli, Kitagawa, Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, House Committee on Labor & Public Employment, and the House Committee on Economic Development & Business,

My name is Jun Shin. I currently serve as the Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair for the Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA), a member of the Common Good Coalition. YPDA represents about 1,000 Hawai'i residents, mostly of Honolulu who seek to build a Hawai'i that is just, equitable, and sustainable. YPDA is in **strong support of HB1586 relating to the structure of government.**

YPDA strongly supports the creation of a Department of Environment. In terms of efficiency, it would bring together some environmental/sustainable agencies and programs currently administered under different departments, to a department dedicated to the environment that can focus on continuing to develop and expand those agencies and programs. YPDA and our community supporters have been supporters of similar efforts on the city and county level in the form of the Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency and have participated in their community Climate Action Plan Public Meeting Series, as well as testified alongside them at city council hearings.

We hope that the Department of Environment continues with community outreach, while being a strong advocate for the environment in various hearings and discussions. Now, more than ever with the imminent threat of climate change, especially as we live in an island society, we need public institutions with resources dedicated to creating a sustainable future. We look forward to working with the legislature to pass this measure into law, and the Department of the Environment to preserve the Hawai'i that we

love for future generations to come. YPDA **urges you to support this measure and pass it out of your committees.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin

Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair

Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA)

1561 Kanunu St.

Cell: 808-255-6663

Email: [junshinbusiness729@gmail.com](mailto:junshinbusiness729@gmail.com)

**HB-1586**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 7:45:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/7/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS**

February 6, 2019, 8:30 a.m.  
*(Testimony is pages long)*

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1586**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Johanson, Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committees:

The Alliance for Solar Choice (TASC) respectfully supports HB 1586, relating to the structure of government. This bill would establish a Department of Environment by transferring several programs and agencies into one body.

There may be benefits of having various related functions, such as advancement of clean energy, under one Department with direct access to the Governor. The instant bill is a good step in that direction. That being said, the Legislature should consider giving more direction to the future Department about its purpose and direction. For example, directing the Department to focus on climate change would ensure this key state objective is prioritized.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1586**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 12:00:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/7/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In the era of global warming and other environmental assaults, creating a Dept. for Environment seems appropriate and timely.

## EEPtestimony

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**From:** Hunter Heavilin <noreply@jotform.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 5:05 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony; EDBtestimony; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Re: Testimony in Support of HB1586 - Hunter Heavilin



### Testimony in Support of HB1586

Name	Hunter Heavilin
Email	huntersh@hawaii.edu
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1586
Testimony	Aloha Chairs Lowen, McKelvey, Johanson, Vice Chairs Wildberger, Kitagawa, Eli, Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, Economic Development & Business, and Labor & Public Employment,

I support the creation of a Department of Environment and believe it would be a great addition to the state government. With O'ahu voters in 2016 overwhelmingly supporting similar efforts to create the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency, we can see that the public realizes the need to incorporate sustainability into public policy in the face of climate change, especially due to our place as an island society in the Pacific. A department with resources dedicated to the environment will allow for us to do so, helping to preserve the Hawai'i that we all love for generations to come. Please support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



## EEPttestimony

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**From:** Korynn Grenert <korynng@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 10:51 AM  
**To:** EEPttestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1586

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, members

I support the establishment of a Department of the Environment. It's time we truly took seriously the task of planning and creating a sustainable future here in the islands. This is the kind of big thinking our leaders should be doing and we commend you for the introduction of this bill.

Mahalo,  
Korynn Grenert

## EEPttestimony

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**From:** Marilyn McAteer <noreply@jotform.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 5:02 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony; EDBtestimony; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Re: Testimony in Support of HB1586 - Marilyn McAteer



### Testimony in Support of HB1586

Name	Marilyn McAteer
Email	alohaoceanus@yahoo.com
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1586
Testimony	Aloha Chairs Lowen, McKelvey, Johanson, Vice Chairs Wildberger, Kitagawa, Eli, Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, Economic Development & Business, and Labor & Public Employment,

I support the creation of a Department of Environment and believe it would be a great addition to the state government. With O'ahu voters in 2016 overwhelmingly supporting similar efforts to create the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency, we can see that the public realizes the need to incorporate sustainability into public policy in the face of climate change, especially due to our place as an island society in the Pacific. A department with resources dedicated to the environment will allow for us to do so, helping to preserve the Hawai'i that we all love for generations to come. Please support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

## EEPttestimony

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**From:** Eric Schrager <peschrager@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 11:16 AM  
**To:** EEPttestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1586

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, members

I support the establishment of a Department of the Environment. It's time we truly took seriously the task of planning and creating a sustainable future here in the islands. This is the kind of big thinking our leaders should be doing and we commend you for the introduction of this bill.

Mahalo,

Eric Schrager  
Ewa Beach

## EEPttestimony

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**From:** Javier Mendez <menjavi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 12:18 PM  
**To:** EEPttestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1586

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, members

I support the establishment of a Department of the Environment. It's time we truly took seriously the task of planning and creating a sustainable future here in the islands. This is the kind of big thinking our leaders should be doing and we commend you for the introduction of this bill.

Mahalo,

Javier Mendez

## EEPttestimony

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**From:** Marilyn Mick <marilynmick@pobox.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 2:46 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1586

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, members

I support the establishment of a Department of the Environment. It's time we truly took seriously the task of planning and creating a sustainable future here in the islands. This is the kind of big thinking our leaders should be doing and we commend you for the introduction of this bill.

Mahalo, Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

## EEPttestimony

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**From:** Natalie Toma <noreply@jotform.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 4:49 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony; EDBtestimony; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Re: Testimony in Support of HB1586 - Natalie Toma



### Testimony in Support of HB1586

Name	Natalie Toma
Email	nnt2101@iolani.org
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1586
Testimony	Aloha Chairs Lowen, McKelvey, Johanson, Vice Chairs Wildberger, Kitagawa, Eli, Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, Economic Development & Business, and Labor & Public Employment,

I support the creation of a Department of Environment and believe it would be a great addition to the state government. With O'ahu voters in 2016 overwhelmingly supporting similar efforts to create the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency, we can see that the public realizes the need to incorporate sustainability into public policy in the face of climate change, especially due to our place as an island society in the Pacific. A department with resources dedicated to the environment will allow for us to do so, helping to preserve the Hawai'i that we all love for generations to come. Please support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

## EEPtestimony

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**From:** Randy Gonce <noreply@jotform.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 5:25 AM  
**To:** EEPtestimony; EDBtestimony; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Re: Testimony in Support of HB1586 - Randy Gonce



### Testimony in Support of HB1586

Name	Randy Gonce
Email	rgonce@my.hpu.edu
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1586
Testimony	Aloha Chairs Lowen, McKelvey, Johanson, Vice Chairs Wildberger, Kitagawa, Eli, Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, Economic Development & Business, and Labor & Public Employment,

I support the creation of a Department of Environment and believe it would be a great addition to the state government. With O'ahu voters in 2016 overwhelmingly supporting similar efforts to create the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency, we can see that the public realizes the need to incorporate sustainability into public policy in the face of climate change, especially due to our place as an island society in the Pacific. A department with resources dedicated to the environment will allow for us to do so, helping to preserve the Hawai'i that we all love for generations to come. Please support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

## EEPtestimony

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**From:** Ross Villiger <noreply@jotform.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 10:13 AM  
**To:** EEPtestimony; EDBtestimony; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Re: Testimony in Support of HB1586 - Ross Villiger



### Testimony in Support of HB1586

Name	Ross Villiger
Email	rossvilliger@gmail.com
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1586
Testimony	Aloha Chairs Lowen, McKelvey, Johanson, Vice Chairs Wildberger, Kitagawa, Eli, Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, Economic Development & Business, and Labor & Public Employment,

I support the creation of a Department of Environment and believe it would be a great addition to the state government. With O'ahu voters in 2016 overwhelmingly supporting similar efforts to create the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency, we can see that the public realizes the need to incorporate sustainability into public policy in the face of climate change, especially due to our place as an island society in the Pacific. A department with resources dedicated to the environment will allow for us to do so, helping to preserve the Hawai'i that we all love for generations to come. Please support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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## EEPtestimony

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**From:** Sylvia Ching <noreply@jotform.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 8:49 AM  
**To:** EEPtestimony; EDBtestimony; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Re: Testimony in Support of HB1586 - Sylvia Ching



### Testimony in Support of HB1586

Name	Sylvia Ching
Email	sching35@gmail.com
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1586
Testimony	Aloha Chairs Lowen, McKelvey, Johanson, Vice Chairs Wildberger, Kitagawa, Eli, Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, Economic Development & Business, and Labor & Public Employment,

I support the creation of a Department of Environment and believe it would be a great addition to the state government. With O'ahu voters in 2016 overwhelmingly supporting similar efforts to create the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency, we can see that the public realizes the need to incorporate sustainability into public policy in the face of climate change, especially due to our place as an island society in the Pacific. A department with resources dedicated to the environment will allow for us to do so, helping to preserve the Hawai'i that we all love for generations to come. Please support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.

## EEPtestimony

---

**From:** noreply@jotform.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 5:01 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony; EDBtestimony; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Re: Testimony in Support of HB1586 -



### Testimony in Support of HB1586

Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1586
Testimony	<p>Aloha Chairs Lowen, McKelvey, Johanson, Vice Chairs Wildberger, Kitagawa, Eli, Members of the House Committee on Energy &amp; Environmental Protection, Economic Development &amp; Business, and Labor &amp; Public Employment,</p> <p>I support the creation of a Department of Environment and believe it would be a great addition to the state government. With O'ahu voters in 2016 overwhelmingly supporting similar efforts to create the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency, we can see that the public realizes the need to incorporate sustainability into public policy in the face of climate change, especially due to our place as an island society in the Pacific. A department with resources dedicated to the environment will allow for us to do so, helping to preserve the Hawai'i that we all love for generations to come. Please support this measure.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to testify.</p>

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## EEPtestimony

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**From:** Will Caron <noreply@jotform.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 4:19 PM  
**To:** EEPtestimony; EDBtestimony; LABtestimony  
**Subject:** Re: Testimony in Support of HB1586 - Will Caron



### Testimony in Support of HB1586

Name	Will Caron
Email	willcaronforhawaii@gmail.com
Subject	Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1586
Testimony	Aloha Chairs Lowen, McKelvey, Johanson, Vice Chairs Wildberger, Kitagawa, Eli, Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, Economic Development & Business, and Labor & Public Employment,

I support the creation of a Department of Environment and believe it would be a great addition to the state government. With O'ahu voters in 2016 overwhelmingly supporting similar efforts to create the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency, we can see that the public realizes the need to incorporate sustainability into public policy in the face of climate change, especially due to our place as an island society in the Pacific. A department with resources dedicated to the environment will allow for us to do so, helping to preserve the Hawai'i that we all love for generations to come. Please support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

**MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.***

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS**

February 7, 2019    8:30 AM    Room 325

**LATE**

**In SUPPORT of HB 1586:** Relating to the Structure of Government

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Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Johanson, and Chair McKelvey and members of the committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB 1586**, which establishes and transfers to a Department of Environment certain agencies and programs administered by the Department of Health (the Office of Environmental Quality Control and the Environmental Council) and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (the Energy Office and programs relating to sustainability and climate adaptation planning in the Office of Planning).

The Sierra Club supports this initiative to create a new "Department of Environment" for the state of Hawai'i. While we understand the Legislature might have reservations to expanding government, we believe that it would be beneficial to combine the existing state agencies dealing with environmental issues into a new agency that is streamlined, transparent, and action-oriented.

We appreciate that a core focus of this new Department would be to establish an Office of Climate Change and Sustainability. We believe climate change is the most pressing environmental issue facing our state and it will have drastic, disruptive consequences that will impact every resident of Hawai'i, especially our most vulnerable children, elderly, low-income, and minority communities. Climate change will also have huge financial impacts to our budget and our economy, making adaptation and mitigation critical issues to focus on today.

In 2016, O'ahu voters passed a Charter Amendment to establish a Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency. In the past two years, this new office has made tremendous progress toward advancing a variety of environmental goals (projects like a Resiliency Strategy, Climate Action Plan, and Greenhouse Gas Inventory), while effectively engaging stakeholders and the community via island-wide meetings, presentations, and mass communications. Recognizing the success of this office, there were discussions at the Maui County Council in 2018 to consider a similar charter amendment for Maui County voters.

Through the creation of a State Office of Environment, Hawai'i can have even more of an impact and continue our leadership in climate change and sustainability efforts.

We also support the transfer of the Energy Office from DBEDT to the proposed Office of Environment. A recent audit of the Hawai'i State Energy Office found that our current Energy Office's "specific contributions to advancing clean energy initiatives are unclear...and that the Energy Office needs to better define its mission, role, and priorities within the State's energy independence effort."<sup>1</sup> An Department of Environment could reduce the burden on DBEDT, help us meet our clean energy targets, accelerate our transition away from fossil fuels, and better facilitate the State's program for energy planning and conservation.

In summary, the formation of a Department of Environment will help to facilitate discussion about the impacts of climate change, breakdown departmental silos, and initiate sustainability and clean energy projects that will encourage conservation jobs, stimulate our economy, and protect our shared resources for future generations.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 1586**.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodi Malinoski".

Jodi Malinoski, Policy Advocate

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<sup>1</sup> <http://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2018/18-01.pdf>



**LATE**

**Hawaii Solar Energy Association**  
*Serving Hawaii Since 1977*

**TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION  
IN REGARD TO HB 1586, RELATING TO THE STRUCTURE OF  
GOVERNMENT  
BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
AND THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS  
ON  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018**

Chair Lowen, Chair Johanson, Chair McKelvey and members of the committee, my name is Will Giese and I represent the Hawaii Solar Energy Association, Inc. (HSEA)

**HSEA supports the intent of HB 1586.** The measure establishes and transfers to a Department of Environment certain agencies and programs administered by the Department of Health (the Office of Environmental Quality Control and the Environmental Council) and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (the Energy Office and programs relating to sustainability and climate adaptation planning in the Office of Planning).

The HSEA was founded in 1977 to further solar energy and related arts, sciences and technologies with concern for the ecologic, social and economic fabric of the Hawaiian Islands. Our membership includes the vast majority of locally owned and operated solar installers, contractors, distributors, manufacturers, and inspectors across all islands.

Big problems require big solutions, and there is no bigger problem than solving the issue of climate change. Currently, there is not one single office or agency of the state of Hawaii that deals directly with climate changes as it's primary mission. This bill seeks to unite the efforts of various agencies and offices related to climate change under one roof, thereby increasing the efficiency and ability of the state to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Overall, the HSEA strongly supports the intent of this bill. Various states and jurisdictions have realized the importance of creating a single office or entity responsible for expediting that jurisdiction's response to climate change. The City and County of Honolulu is the most readily apparent example of this type of office, and the City of Honolulu's Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency (OCCSR) has been relatively successful in its mission despite its short tenure.



## **Hawaii Solar Energy Association**

*Serving Hawaii Since 1977*

The office that this measure envisions could be orders of magnitude more impactful in fighting and adapting to climate change.

In its current iteration relative to the renewable energy portion, there may be room for several amendments or refinement that would make this bill stronger. HSEA would be happy to offer the expertise of its staff and volunteers in assisting the committees with drafting or offering specific feedback or amendments. As an example, we suggest further examination into these specific areas of renewable energy be added or explored in this measure:

- Empowerment of the renewable energy facilitator to examine, implements projects, and/or administer programs related to technology such as:
  - Energy storage,
  - Smart inverters,
  - Distributed energy aggregation technology,
  - Demand response technology,
  - Peer-to-peer energy networks,
  - EV charging infrastructure,
  - Other innovative renewable energy technology as determined by this individual.

We **support the intent of** HB 1586 and we urge this committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**HB-1586**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 7:57:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/7/2019 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments: