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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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**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

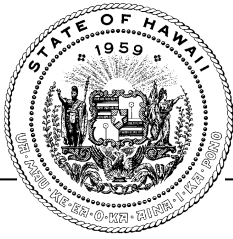
**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
and  
WATER, LAND & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, February 12, 2019  
8:55am  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 765  
RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE**

House Bill 765 requires incorporation of sea level rise projections in all new plans and updates to existing state plans generated under the Hawaii State Planning Act. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**



**OFFICE OF PLANNING  
STATE OF HAWAII**

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

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

8:55 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**HB 765**  
**RELATING TO COASTAL PLANNING.**

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

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the amendment to HRS Chapter 226 to add a new section “§226- Sea level rise; plans.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in this matter.



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

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

### JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEES ON EEP AND WLH

February 12, 2019 8:55 AM Room 325

In **SUPPORT** of **HB 765**: Relating to Coastal Planning

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Aloha Co-Chair's Lowen and Yamane, Vice Chair's Wildberger and Todd, and members of the committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports HB 765**, which requires incorporation of sea level rise projections in all new plans and updates to existing state plans generated under the Hawaii State Planning Act.

This bill is important, as it provides the legislative mandate needed to implement findings and recommendations from the "Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report" (the Report) prepared by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission<sup>1</sup>, especially those recommendations dealing with climate change hazards and mitigation in an era of sea level rise.

While much of the focus of the Report is on the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability projections of 3.2 feet expected to occur before the year 2100, *impacts of sea level rise are here already and will accelerate in coming years*. Policy and permitting decisions with long-term effects related to sea level rise are happening now, including approvals of structures with long life spans, siting of utilities and other capital improvements, and other actions with long-range consequences.

We commend the authors of HB 765 for their initiative in providing legislation to implement the Report's recommendations and are appreciative that the legislature has introduced several bills relating to sea level rise this session. This bill is a good first step to ensure our agencies incorporate and evaluate the latest sea level rise projections into applicable state plans.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 765**.

Mahalo,

Jodi Malinoski, Policy Advocate

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<sup>1</sup> [https://climateadaptation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/SLR-Report\\_Dec2017.pdf](https://climateadaptation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/SLR-Report_Dec2017.pdf)

**HB-765**

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 6:51:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 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:

**HB-765**

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 8:55:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-765**

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 9:23:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Thorne Abbott       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: