

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Thursday, February 14, 2019
8:30am
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1487
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

House Bill 1487 proposes to establish the Honolulu Shoreline Climate Protection Pilot Project to develop a plan to protect urban Honolulu from the acute impacts of sea level rise, floodwater, storms, and other impacts of a rapidly changing climate. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request, and also offers comments.**

In 2017, the Governor signed legislation into law as Act 32 establishing the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Climate Commission). Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) also established a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Coordinator (Climate Coordinator) position.

In the brief 18 months of its existence, the Climate Commission has had a tremendous impact on state and county policies and has established a new standard for state level action on climate change mitigation and adaptation. In its first 18 months, the Climate Commission and its Climate Coordinator have accomplished a great deal of work:

- **Adopted a cutting edge Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Mitigation Report (SLR 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 threats and risks to our coastal areas and proposes a series of recommendations for adaptation. The Climate Commission passed five of those recommendations that are specifically aimed at State and counties to tackle keystone issues surrounding sea level rise. These actions include 1) requiring real estate disclosure of sea level rise hazards, 2) redirecting all new development away

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

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LAND
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from beach areas, 3) advising counties to incorporate consideration of areas vulnerable to sea level rise exposure into their general and community plans, 4) encouraging agencies and non-governmental utility providers to identify and prioritize assets within areas characterized as vulnerable to sea level rise and to report back to the Climate Commission annually regarding their progress towards implementing adaptation measures, and 5) supporting legislation that funds State programs to meet goals and provide resources to assist in planning and implementation for sea level rise and related impacts. The 2019 legislative session will be a critical turning point that will potentially provide pathways in which sea level rise adaption measures can be executed 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 United States 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.

House Bill 1487 would task the Climate Commission to work with the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resilience to begin to implement elements of the SLR Report by developing a pilot project to improve urban Honolulu's resilience to sea level rise. The measure identifies six (6) "protection compartments:"

- (1) Provide a physically separate flood-protection zone, isolated from flooding in the other compartments;
- (2) Provide opportunities for integrated social and community planning processes;
- (3) Be connected by a continuous shoreline pathway which may be used for emergency access along the length of the shoreline;
- (4) Be built into shoreline parks and the urban landscape;
- (5) Be tailored to respond to individual neighborhood topography;
- and (6) Be capable of self-reliance in the event that the compartment becomes isolated from another due to climate change.

If this measure is passed out by this Committee, the Department would appreciate an opportunity to confer with the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resilience to further develop the project scope.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



HAWAII

1003 Bishop St.
Pauahi Tower, Ste. 740
Honolulu, HI 96813
T: 808.524.8694
F: 808.524.8565
tpl.org

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**The Trust For Public Land's Testimony In Support Of
HB 1487 Relating To Climate Change**

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, Conf. Room 325
Thursday, February 14, 2019, 8:30 a.m.

Aloha e Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Committee Members:

The Trust for Public Land supports HB 1487 relating to climate change, which proposes to establish a Honolulu shoreline climate protection pilot project.

The Trust for Public Land is part of a coalition of community groups advocating for a Lei of Parks or Lei of Green connecting Diamond Head to West O'ahu. The Trust for Public Land supports the intent of this bill – to work with urban communities in low lying areas of O'ahu's south shore to plan for sea level rise deploying green infrastructure, including a connected coastal path from Diamond Head to the Honolulu International Airport that would link or expand parks. We support supplying adequate funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to implement this effort.

This bill could also complement comprehensive planning efforts proposed by other pending bills such as SB 1287, which proposes that the Lei of Green or Lei of Parks concept be incorporated into statewide planning.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. I apologize that I cannot be present at the hearing of this bill due to scheduling conflicts.

Me ke aloha,

Hawaiian Islands State Director
Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow





HB 1487, RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

FEBRUARY 13, 2019 · HOUSE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. NICOLE E. LOWEN

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance supports HB 1487, relating to climate change, which establishes the Honolulu shoreline climate protection pilot project to develop a plan to protect urban Honolulu from the acute impacts of sea level rise, floodwater, storms, and other impacts of a rapidly changing climate. Appropriates funds.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding. Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring, like seawalls.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.



Statement of Lei of Parks Coalition
Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 14, 2019, 8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
In consideration of
HB 1487

To Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection.

The Lei of Parks Coalition is a group of nonprofit and advocacy groups who support the long held belief that a connected lei of green that links Honolulu's shoreline, green parks, open space, recreation areas, and greenways, interconnected with tree-lined multi-use paths, would greatly benefit the residents of Honolulu, residents of the State, and visitors. In addition, we believe it will support our ability to be resilient in the face of a changing climate, offering shoreline protection to help prevent flooding and damage to our infrastructure and livelihoods.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this draft legislation, as we have been working on a similar proposal for over three years, as an organized coalition. Our focus has been on connecting our parks and destinations through a greenway that would include green infrastructure and design. We are happy to share our work to date, including an existing conditions report, a GIS story map, as well as a number of outreach events to develop support for the concept. We have found that there is a strong need for the selection of a government agency who would have the authority and funding to work across jurisdictions to make this concept a reality. We understand why the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Commission is listed as the lead entity, in coordination with the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change and Resiliency. However, we believe that the State Office of Planning should also be involved, as there is a need for an agency that can have the authority to implement such a project. If this is to lead to a statewide effort, there needs to be an entity to lead the effort and collaborate with other jurisdictions. We also believe it is important to consider a greenway network throughout the islands, to serve as a connection as well as a way to protect property and infrastructure from sea level rise, flooding, and natural hazards.

While we enthusiastically support the efforts to create a pilot project, and we also believe this should be a statewide initiative. Implementation of the pilot project is a great step, as long as we can plan statewide to build onto this concept. It takes many different entities to work along the coastline and develop a comprehensive approach. For example, our efforts to create the Lei of Green requires us to track and work closely with: the Honolulu Harbors Master Plan, the City's Bicycle and upcoming Pedestrian Plan, the City's Complete Streets Projects and Plans, City and County Parks Projects, City and County Road Improvement Projects, OMPO Plans, RTIP, STIP, and Rail TOD planning, Flood control and the current Alawai project, State Department of Transportation Projects such as the Leeward Bikeway, State Department of Education and Library improvement plans, Bikeshare Hawaii plans, DLNR/DOFAW/Na Ala Hele plans, State parks and forests, and the State Department of Health's projects related to active transportation. There are numerous government entities, private businesses, non-profit organizations, advocacy groups, education institutions, federal agencies and military, and others that likely will need to be involved to make it a successful pilot project. Therefore, we strongly suggest that an entity with the ability to negotiate and work with all these different parties be the lead in this effort. It will take time, money and partnership to make it a reality.

Greenways with green infrastructure create solutions for many issues we are currently facing. Greenways provide a safe place for people to walk and bike safely and use it as alternative transportation; they reduce vehicle miles traveled and our carbon footprint. Greenways can be designed to buffer and mitigate flooding and storm surges and they support our goals for a 100% renewable energy future and our ability to be resilient in the face of increases in storms, sea level rise, and other natural hazards. We support this effort. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**HAWAII OPERATING ENGINEERS
INDUSTRY STABILIZATION FUND**



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*Uniting our strengths and working together
for a better tomorrow.*

House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

Honorable Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

February 13, 2019

**RE: SUPPORT OF H.B. 1487- ESTABLISHES THE HONOLULU SHORELINE CLIMATE PROTECTION
PILOT PROJECT**

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Pane Meatoga III and I am the Community Liaison representing the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund (HOEISF). We are a labor management fund representing 4000 unionized members in the heavy engineering site work and 500 general contractors specializing in heavy site and vertical construction.

Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund **supports HB 1487**. The construction industry understands that climate change is real and preparing for its impact on our islands is key to ensuring the livelihood and prosperity of our posterity here in the islands. The purpose of this act is to establish a Honolulu shoreline climate protection pilot project to develop a plan to protect urban Honolulu from the impact of climate change. This is the first step in a very lengthy process that will encompass years of research and planning. A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step. HB 1487 is that single step.

If you plan it, we can build it!

Sincerely,

Pane Meatoga III

Community Liaison

Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

By

Charles (Chip) Fletcher
Professor and Associate Dean
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
Vice-Chair, Honolulu Climate Change Commission

And

Makena Coffman
Professor, Urban and Regional Planning
Director, Institute for Sustainability and Resilience
Chair, Honolulu Climate Change Commission

And

Michael Bruno, PhD
Vice Chancellor for Research and Interim Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1487 – RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports HB 1487. It establishes a Honolulu shoreline climate protection pilot project to develop a plan to protect urban Honolulu from the impacts of climate change and be used as a model for the entire State. This measure also provides funding to start the planning process for deciding how the urban corridor will respond to climate change, and, more specifically, sea level rise, as we move into a future characterized by the strongly accelerating impacts of global warming. We believe this is an important step to increasing the resilience of our communities. We need to move forward on the planning process immediately, as community input and eventual implementation will take time to do well and avoid maladaptation. We also strongly urge the state to approach this pilot project with a holistic and collaborative approach that integrates relevant federal and county partners.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 14, 2019 8:30 AM Room 325

In **SUPPORT** of **HB 1487**: Relating to Climate Change

LATE

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports HB 1487**, which establishes and appropriates funds for the Honolulu shoreline climate protection pilot project to develop a plan to protect urban Honolulu from the acute impacts of sea level rise, floodwater, storms, and other impacts of a rapidly changing climate.

Climate Change impacts, especially sea level rise, create a new type of coastal hazard affecting coastal areas now and increasingly in the future. The "Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report" prepared by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, provides the first state-wide assessment of Hawaii's vulnerability to sea level rise by showing sea level rise exposure areas (SLR-XA) that are exposed to potential chronic flooding and land loss based on modeling passive flooding, annual high wave flooding, and coastal erosion. A summary of potential state-wide impacts from 3.2 feet of sea level rise (25,800 acres) are estimated to be \$19 billion in loss of land and structures, 38 miles of major roads flooded, 6,500 structures flooded, and 19,800 people displaced.¹

The coastline of urban Honolulu will be a particularly important and challenging area to protect in the face of rising seas and more frequent flooding and inland inundation. This bill will initiate and fund a pilot project to create a shoreline buffer from the Honolulu International Airport to the Diamond Head State Monument.

HB 1487 directs the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to plan a system of coastal protection for the "low-lying topography" of urban Honolulu, designating in

¹ https://climateadaptation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/SLR-Report_Dec2017.pdf

these areas different protection compartments and buffer zones. We would recommend language relating to “low-lying topography” to be replaced with “SLR-XA maps, as officially adopted by the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission”, to provide clarity on which areas should be the focus of the pilot project and ensure consistency with the findings of the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB 1487**.

Mahalo,

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

Jodi Malinoski, Policy Advocate

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting HB 1487 Relating to Climate Protection
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 14, 2019, 8:30AM, Room 325

LATE

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 preserves and work in over 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs, waters and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnership with government, private parties and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and the many benefits they provide to people.

The Nature Conservancy supports HB 1487 to establish a Honolulu shoreline climate protection pilot project.

We especially appreciate that this bill recognizes the potential for natural or green infrastructure to help mitigate impacts from climate change as we face increasing exposure to storms, flooding and sea level rise. Our island have environmental resources such as forests, wetlands, coral reefs, and other natural infrastructure that – if healthy, well-managed, and functioning – can help reduce emissions as well as mitigate the risks and related loss and damage from climate change.

For example, a team from The Nature Conservancy, University of California at Santa Cruz, Stanford University, and the US Geological Survey has developed biophysical models showing that coral reefs can provide an effective first line of defense for coastal flood reduction. These scientists have demonstrated that **healthy reefs can absorb up to 97% of wave energy**, protecting coastal properties from the power of the sea. Conversely, the loss of just one meter of reef could result in a doubling of the cost of damage.¹ And, two recent studies by the Conservancy and partners found that **natural climate solutions (i.e., conservation, restoration, and improved land management on natural and agricultural lands) can provide carbon storage and avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 21% of current U.S. annual emissions and 37% of cost-effective mitigation needed through 2030 toward holding global warming below 2°C.**^{2, 3}

As such, it is important to invest in nature-based infrastructure to protect built infrastructure and property.

Thank you for your support of this measure.

¹ Ferrario, Filippo, Michael W. Beck, et al. "The effectiveness of coral reefs for coastal hazard risk reduction and adaptation." *Nature Communications* volume5, Article number: 3794 (2014). www.nature.com/articles/ncomms4794

² Fargione, Joseph E., Steven Basset, et al. "Natural Climate Solutions for the United States.", *Science Advances* 2018, **4**: eaat1869, November 14, 2018. <http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/11/eaat1869>

³ Griscom, Bronson W., Justin Adams, et al. "Natural Climate Solutions." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. October 31, 2017 114 (44) 11645-11650. www.pnas.org/content/114/44/11645



LATE

HAWAII REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 14, 2019
8:30 AM, State Capitol Room 325

HB1487 – Relating to Climate Change

Statement of the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters – Support for HB1487

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters supports HB1487, which would establish the Honolulu shoreline climate protection pilot project to develop a plan to protect urban Honolulu from the acute impacts of sea level rise, floodwater, storms, and other impacts of a rapidly changing climate.

We are concerned about the potential for climate change to disrupt our island environment and affect the lives of everyone who calls Hawaii home. Not only do our union members enjoy Hawaii's unique natural environment, but our industry is particularly sensitive to future impacts of climate change. For example, rising water tables, subsiding land, and coastal erosion may require different designs for buildings and more advanced engineering techniques to be employed. Wetter winters may impact construction schedules, while hotter, drier summer days may also have an impact on worker health. There are many more possible impacts that we as a community must prepare for.

HB1487 calls upon the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Commission to plan a system of coastal protection for the low-lying topography of urban Honolulu, akin to the plans currently being developed in New York City after Hurricane Sandy. In New York City, these plans were developed with the support of area residents, community groups, business interests, and labor organizations. We trust that if such coastal protection plans are developed for Honolulu, the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Commission will take a similarly inclusive and comprehensive approach.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments.

STATE HEADQUARTERS & BUSINESS OFFICES

OAHU: 1311 Houghtailing Street, Honolulu Hawaii 96817-2712 • Ph. (808) 847-5761 Fax (808) 440-9188
HILO OFFICE: 525 Kilauea Avenue, Room 205, Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3050 • Ph. (808) 935-8575 Fax (808) 935-8576
KONA OFFICE: 75-126 Lunapule Road, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740-2106 • Ph. (808) 329-7355 Fax (808) 326-9376
MAUI OFFICE: 330 Hookahi Street, Wailuku, Maui 96793-1449 • Ph. (808) 242-6891 Fax (808) 242-5961
KAUAI OFFICE: Kuhio Medical Ctr Bldg., 3-3295 Kuhio Hwy, Suite 201, Lihue, Kauai 96766-1040 • Ph. (808) 245-8511 Fax (808) 245-8911

ADDRESS

3442 Waialae Ave., Suite 1
Honolulu, HI 96816

PHONE

808-735-5756



FAX

808-735-7989

EMAIL

bicycle@hbl.org

LATE

February 13, 2019

Testimony Supporting HB1487

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wilderberger, and esteemed members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

Hawaii Bicycling League **strongly supports House Bill 1487**, which establishes the Honolulu shoreline climate protection pilot project within the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Commission.

The realities of sea-level are stark and it behooves to act now to limit the future social and economic impacts. The Honolulu shoreline climate protection pilot project envisioned in HB1487 will be a major step forward in addressing this reality while achieving a solution that improves quality life and our local economy.

Thank you very much for considering the comments of Hawaii Bicycling League. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Daniel Alexander (808-275-6717, Daniel@hbl.org) or Chad Taniguchi (808-255-8271).

Ride and Drive Aloha,

Daniel Alexander
Co-Executive Director
Hawaii Bicycling League

Chad Taniguchi
Director Emeritus
Hawaii Bicycling League

LATE

Testimony of
Christopher Delaunay, Government Relations Manager
Pacific Resource Partnership

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

HB 1487 Relating to Climate Change

Thursday, February 14, 2019
8:30 A.M.
State Capitol – Room 325

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the Committee:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) **supports** HB 1487, which establishes the Honolulu shoreline climate protection pilot project to develop a plan to protect urban Honolulu from the acute impacts of sea level rise, floodwater, storms, and other impacts of a rapidly changing climate.

Scientists have been warning us for years that climate change will significantly impact our environment and overall well-being, especially if we are not proactive in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of sea-level rise. The Fourth National Climate Assessment, completed in November 2018, acknowledges that 3.2 feet of global sea-level rise is possible as early as 2060 in a worst-case scenario. According to the Assessment the value of all structures and land projected to be flooded by 3.2 feet of sea-level rise amounts to more than \$19 billion statewide. As such, it is prudent and urgent to begin planning for the potential impacts that these changes will bring to Hawaii.

Therefore, we respectfully ask for your favorable passage of HB 1487. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



LATE

HB-1487

Submitted on: 2/14/2019 8:10:47 AM
Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stuart Coleman	Surfrider Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and Committee Members,

The Surfrider Foundation's Hawaii Chapters strongly support HB1487 to create a pilot project in Honolulu to protect the area from the dangers of climate change and sea level rise. We have been lucky over the last five years not to have been hit directly by one of the massive hurricanes that approached our Islands, but one day we are not going to be so lucky. So we need to prepare, and this bill offers a smart and effective way to better prepare ourselves. Mahalo for your consideration and support.

Aloha, Stuart Coleman, Hawaii Manager, Surfrider Foundation, 2927 Hibiscus Pl., Hon., HI 96815