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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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LAND
STATE PARKS

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 Committees on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
and
WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, February 6, 2020
9:15am

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1621
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

House Bill 1621 proposes to establish the Honolulu Shoreline Climate Protection Pilot Project. Requires the Hawaii Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Climate Commission) to develop comprehensive plan to protect urban Honolulu from the risk of coastal disaster events. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicted in the Executive Supplemental Budget.**

Recent studies show that Honolulu's primary urban center will face extensive sea level rise and storm related impacts within approaching decades. According to the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report, the urban Honolulu area represents 66% of statewide economic losses projected to result from 3.2 feet of sea level rise. Further, storms are expected to intensify, heightening the potential for major social disruption and extensive economic losses. Thus, pre-disaster planning and climate change related adaptation efforts are highly critical tasks that require timely attention. Such efforts will entail extensive collaboration among various stakeholders and thorough consideration of locally unique environmental and social aspects specific to the Urban Honolulu area. The intention of the Honolulu Shoreline Climate Protection Pilot Project is to facilitate such a process and would represent a strong step towards improving public safety and resilience.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
Anukriti Hittle
Coordinator, Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission

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

Thursday, February 6, 2020
9:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In support of
HOUSE BILL 1621
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

House Bill 1621 proposes to establish the Honolulu Shoreline Climate Protection Pilot Project. Requires the Hawaii Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Climate Commission) to develop comprehensive plan to protect urban Honolulu from the risk of coastal disaster events. Anticipates use of the plan as a model for the State. **On behalf of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) I offer the following comments in support of this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicted in the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Executive Supplemental Budget.**

The Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission “recognizes the urgency of climate threats and the need to act quickly. It promotes ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsible strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean, equitable and resilient.” The Commission, established by Act 32 SLH 2017 to uphold the United States’ pledges under the Paris Agreement, is the coordinating body for policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation for the state. It is a high-level multi-jurisdictional body that guides the priorities of the state’s climate response. Co-chaired by DLNR and Office of Planning, it consists of 20 members—chairs of four legislative committees, and executive department heads at the county and state levels.

Adaptation to sea level rise and its impacts are one of two priorities for the Commission, and this measure is a crucial step in addressing this priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of this measure.

Co-Chairs:
Chair, DLNR
Director, Office of Planning

Commissioners:
Chair, Senate AEN
Chair, Senate WTL
Chair, House EEP
Chair, House WTH
Chairperson, HTA
Chairperson, DOA
CEO, OHA
Chairperson, DHHL
Director, DBEDT
Director, DOT
Director, DOH
Chairperson, DOE
Director, C+C DPP
Director, Maui DP
Director, Hawai'i DP
Director, Kaua'i DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM

HB-1621

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:43:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Hearing Date: [February 6, 2020](#)

Time: 9:15 [am.](#)

Place: Conference Room 325

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and Energy and Environmental Protection Committee members and Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs Committee members:

The Climate Protectors Coalition **strongly supports HB**

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a new group inspired by the Mauna Kea Protectors but focused on reversing the climate crisis. As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, and rising sea levels.

We must do all we can now to plan for inevitable sea level rise and intense storms or face unprecedented destruction in urban Honolulu. This bill is a prudent first step. Please pass it! Mahalo!

HB-1621

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 3:42:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henry Curtis	Life of the Land	Support	Yes

Comments:



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

February 6, 2020 9:15 AM Room 325

In **SUPPORT** of **HB1621**: Relating to Climate Change

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Yamane, and members of the committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB1621** Relating to Climate Change.

The impacts of sea level rise and the related coastal hazards, including flooding, storm surges, high tides, and accelerated coastal erosion are already being felt in low-lying coastal areas throughout the state. These impacts will increase in coming years as sea level rise continues and eventually accelerates, potentially placing significant numbers of lives, properties, cultural and natural resources at risk in the absence of effective adaptation strategies. The impacts will occur in different areas at different times and will require different adaptation strategies depending upon the nature and location of coastal properties being impacted.

HB1621 would help refine the process for developing place-specific climate adaptation strategies by establishing a pilot process focusing on urban Honolulu and its shoreline, with a provision for participation by the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change and Resiliency.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on **HB1621**.

Mahalo,

Dave Raney
Co-Chair
Sierra Club Climate Adaptation and Restoration Team

HB-1621

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:45:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-1621

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:56:57 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/6/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gabrielle Goodgame	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

04 February 2020

To: Nichole E. Lowen, Chair

Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

Members of the Energy & Environmental Protection Committee

Ryan I. Yamane, Chair

Chris Todd, Vice Chair

Members of the Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

From: Gabrielle Goodgame

Subject: Support of House Bill 1621, Relating to Climate Change

Hello, my name is Gabrielle Goodgame and I am currently a Junior at Kalaheo High School. I strongly believe in House Bill 1621 and would like to ask for your support. I urge you to vote in favor of this bill that would appropriate funds to establish a pilot program to protect urban Honolulu from the risk of coastal disaster events.

Due to global warming increasing the rates at which sea levels are rising, in recent decades Hawaii has experienced over a half a foot of sea level rise. According to the National Climate Assessment, in Hawai'i where tourism comprises 26% of the state's economy, damage to tourism infrastructure could have large economic impacts. For example, the loss of Waikāʻā Beach alone could lead to an annual loss of \$2 billion in visitor expenditures. By implementing the program this bill proposes, it would be the necessary first step in a series of many to ensure our urban shorelines are protected from this looming danger.

Passing this bill would also help our vulnerable environment. According to the National Climate Assessment, coastal and nearshore environments will progressively be affected as sea levels rise and high wave events alter low islands' size and shape. Over the next century, sea level rise could cause future reductions of 10% to 20% in total regional mangrove area. This would in turn reduce the nursery areas and feeding grounds for fish species, habitat for crustaceans and invertebrates, shoreline protection and wave dampening, and water filtration provided by mangroves. The longer time passes before we take action, the more potential harm can be done to our islands.

If House Bill 1621 is passed, measures can be taken against the destructive impacts of global warming. Please help this bill pass and take action to protect our shorelines. Thank you for your time and consideration.