

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2718 HD1
RELATING TO RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND
ADAPTATION.**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: March 13, 2020

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Recommended 1.0 FTE and \$165,000 general fund appropriation for
2 salary and operating expenses.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports HB2718 HD1 to
4 fill a gap in Hawaii's climate change response plan. Although there is robust activity related to
5 infrastructure resilience, the department is not aware of advanced conversations and planning
6 around human health mitigation, much less adaptation.

7 DOH has very experienced civil and environmental engineers and highly trained clinical and
8 population health management professionals, including public health preparedness, however, the
9 department has identified no resources that possess domain knowledge in both. A scan of other
10 state resources, such as at the Office of Planning, University of Hawaii School of Public Health,
11 and the John A. Burns School of Medicine revealed only three individuals with a professional
12 interest in human health adaptation related to climate change, but none with programmatic
13 responsibility for thought leadership on the topic.

14 A missing element, for example, that is key is surveillance: developing strategic climate
15 monitoring, surveillance, and response systems to prevent and respond to climate-related impacts
16 may include creating decision support systems that enable agencies to predict, anticipate, and

1 model events and early warning systems that enable rapid response. The capacity to
2 systematically collect, manage, analyze, and interpret climate and extreme weather data and the
3 impact on human health is critical to making informed climate policy and developing effective
4 responses to climate and weather events

5 The purpose of HB2718 HD1, therefore, is to establish a permanent Climate Change and Human
6 Health Adaptation Coordinator to assure health care and public health strategies are synthesized
7 with environmental- and energy-related mitigation and adaptation activities. This position's
8 scope of responsibility is to define and plan for anticipated health effects related to weather and
9 climate include death and illness from heat waves; injuries and mental health impacts from
10 catastrophic events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods; increased air pollution with
11 concurrent rises in respiratory and cardiovascular diseases; detrimental impacts on water quality
12 and quantity; and an increased incidence of vector-borne, foodborne, and waterborne diseases.
13 Recent climate and weather-related challenges, from extreme weather events to changing
14 patterns of communicable disease, have already demonstrated the critical need to improve public
15 health capacity and capability to identify, prevent, and respond to these threats. Although
16 deployed to the Department of Health because of the need for subject-matter supervision on both
17 health care and environmental issues, the Climate Change and Human Health Adaptation
18 Coordinator will coordinate closely with the state's Sustainability Coordinator and related
19 resources, as as aligning and informing the priorities of the Climate Change Mitigation and
20 Adaptation Commission.

21 Operational expenses include neighbor island travel to meet with stakeholders, consultants for
22 planning or human health adaptation research, and office supplies.

23 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

24

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER
PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

MARCH 13, 2020
9:15 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

HOUSE BILL NO. 2718 HD1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

Chairpersons Baker, Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2718 HD1 that establishes and appropriates funds for a climate change and human health adaptation coordinator within the Department of Health.

As the climate warms, animal and insect vectors for disease will extend the range of their current habitats, increasing the risk for illness in humans. *Aedes* mosquito species capable of transmitting dengue fever and zika virus are already present in the State. As a member of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Commission created by Act 32 SLH 2017, the Department of Agriculture supports a dedicated position within the Department of Health to address the impacts of climate change on human health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com



March 13, 2020

KIRK CALDWELL, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair
KAPUA SPROAT, Vice Chair
KAY C. MATSUI
RAY C. SOON
MAX J. SWORD

ROSS S. SASAMURA, Ex-Officio
JADE T. BUTAY, Ex-Officio

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer *W*

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
and Members
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu,
Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Gabbard and Members:

Subject: House Bill 2718, House Draft 1: Relating to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 2718, House Draft (HD) 1. This bill establishes and appropriates funds for a Climate Change and Human Health Adaption Coordinator within the Department of Health.

As the State and county agencies move forward to implement recommendations of the Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report (Report), there needs to be a coordinated effort between both the State and counties.

The BWS recognizes that climate change and sea level rise will impact coastal water infrastructure, and the sustainability of Oahu's water resources and vulnerability assessments and adaptation measures need to be prioritized and implemented. BWS recently completed its vulnerability assessment entitled Impacts of Climate Change on Honolulu Water Supplies & Planning Strategies for Mitigation (2019).

In the sea level rise analysis, cesspools in low lying areas subject to sea level rise were identified as a concern that could transport contaminated groundwater to the surface creating a public health situation. The impacts of excessive heat and humidity and

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
and Members
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
March 13, 2020
Page 2

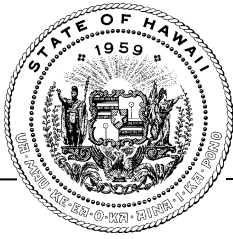
related diseases as the climate warms is not fully understood. The proposed coordinator position could bridge the gap between climate change and public health.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of HB 2718, HD 1.

Very truly yours,



ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND
HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Friday, March 13, 2020
9:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of
HB 2718, HD1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION.

Chairs Baker and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Chang and Ruderman, and Members of the Committees:

The Office of Planning **supports** HB 2718, HD1, to establish and appropriate funds for a climate change and human health adaptation coordinator within the Department of Health, provided it does not displace Executive Budget priorities.

The Office of Planning has been actively working on sustainable development and climate adaptation to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In 2018, the United Nations' World Health Organization (WHO) published a Special Report on Health and Climate Change, which was delivered to the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).¹ The Special Report recommended that the health sector be more actively involved in climate adaptation planning noting that local-level governments are increasingly promoting health and climate goals through policies for cleaner transportation, energy, waste management, and urban planning.

Climate change adds further pressure on public health, which is strongly influenced by effects on other sectors such as food, water, and sanitation. The WHO recommends that a multisectoral response is required to build on existing strengths and encourage the health care and public health communities to work with water and sanitation, food systems, and energy provision sectors to integrate and build climate adaptation and resilience.

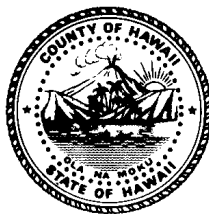
¹ World Health Organization. 2018. COP24 Special Report: Health & Climate Change. Available online: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/276405/9789241514972-eng.pdf?ua=1>

The Office of Planning notes that the Hawai‘i State Legislature recently established the State’s Sustainability Coordinator position within the Office of Planning, pursuant to the Supplemental Appropriation Act of 2016.

The Office of Planning thanks the Hawai‘i State Legislature for passing Act 146, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2019, now codified within the Hawai‘i State Planning Act as §226-65 to revise and update Hawai‘i’s 2050 Sustainability Plan to “serve as the State’s climate and sustainability action plan.” The State’s Sustainability Coordinator looks forward to working in collaboration with the proposed Climate Change and Human Health Adaptation Coordinator and the Department of Health to assist with the planning to adapt to climate change-related human health adaptation issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740*

March 10, 2020

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB 2718 HD 1, RELATING TO CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Friday, March 13, 2020
9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2718 HD 1, relating to climate mitigation and adaptation. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Public Safety Committee.

The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for a climate change and human health adaptation coordinator within the Department of Health. Climate change affects human health and well-being. U.S Center for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have reported that climate change is a critical public health problem. Though steps are being taken to lessen climate change and its impacts on human health, we will still be impacted by global climate change due to large entities such as U.S., China, and the European Union, continuing to produce greenhouse gases at a scale and pace that runs the risk of run-away climate change. This causes an increased risk for health effects from climate change to our most vulnerable people. Increased risk for health effects from climate change will further stress the health care infrastructure, and financial systems.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council



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 Senate Committees on
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday March 13, 2020
9:15AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In support of
HOUSE BILL 2718, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

House Bill 2718, House Draft 1 proposes to establish and appropriate funds for a climate change and human health adaptation coordinator within the Department of Health. **On behalf of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) I support this measure, provided it does not adversely affect the Department of Health’s 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.” It is a high-level multi-jurisdictional body that guides the priorities of the state’s climate response. Co-chaired by the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Office of Planning, it consists of 20 members—chairs of four legislative committees, and executive department heads at the county and state levels.

This measure acts on the Commission’s mandates as established by Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, to uphold the United States’ pledges under the Paris Agreement, and is a crucial component of Hawaii’s adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

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

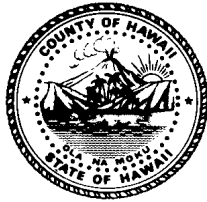
Co-Chairs:
Chair, DLNR
Director, Office of Planning

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

Harry Kim
Mayor

Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

West Hawai'i Office
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
Phone (808) 323-4770
Fax (808) 327-3563



County of Hawai'i
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Michael Yee
Director

Duane Kanuha
Deputy Director

East Hawai'i Office
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Phone (808) 961-8288
Fax (808) 961-8742

March 12, 2020

Testimony by
MICHAEL YEE
Director, County of Hawai'i Planning Department
before the
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
and the
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Friday, March 13, 2020, 9:15 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
In consideration of
HB 2718 HD1
Relating to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The County of Hawai'i Planning Department strongly **SUPPORTS** Bill HB 2718, HD1 to establish and appropriates funds for a climate change and human health adaptation coordinator within the Department of Health.

As a member of the Hawai'i Climate Change and Adaptation Commission I actively work on elevating social equity as an integral value of climate change and sea level rise policy. A Climate Change and Human Health Adaptation Coordinator at the Department of Health is critical to evaluating the health impacts on frontline communities facing climate change and sea level rise. The position would add to the multisector response that Hawai'i must have to help communities build adaptation and resilience.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.



March 12, 2020

To: The Senate Committee Members on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health and
Committee Members on Agriculture and Environment
The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair and Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair and Russell Ruderman, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Support of HB 2718 HD1, Relating to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Hrg: March 13, 2020 at 9:15 AM at Capitol Room 228

The Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA) is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

HPHA strongly supports HB 2718 HD1, which would establish and appropriate funds for a climate change and human health adaptation coordinator within the Department of Health and related operating expenses. The health impacts of climate change are already being felt in our communities and funding a dedicated position to coordinate adaptation will significantly benefit the health of Hawaii now and in the future.

Climate change is the greatest threat to human health in the 21st century. Every individual will be affected by some combination of extreme weather, air pollution, sea level rise, infectious disease or a host of other challenges to daily living. We will experience changes in the severity and frequency of health problems that are already affected by climate and unprecedented or unanticipated health problems in places where they have not previously occurred. Extreme heat, powerful storms and floods and other climate related events have already displaced people from their homes, damaged infrastructure and caused significant personal loss and mental health impacts. Climate change is a risk multiplier, creating additional stressors for those already bearing a disproportionate burden of disease.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical opportunity to address climate change related health issues affecting people in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Tenaya Jackman, MPH
Climate Change Legislative Sub-Committee Chair
Hawaii Public Health Association

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 3:30:57 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/13/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vickie Parker Kam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members and thank you for considering this bill.

I am writing in support of HB2718 HD1 due to our current situation as an island state. We must begin to prepare for the future by accepting the potential climate changes we will be facing. No longer can we sit idle while our most esteemed scientist predict future outcomes. Preparing now by funding this position will allow Hawaii to navigate more smoothly and safely into the future.

In conclusion, please support HB2718 HD1 in funding a postion to plan for our future.

Mahalo, Vickie Kam

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 9:35:08 AM

Testimony for CPH on 3/13/2020 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dwamato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2718-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 8:38:41 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/13/2020 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments: