

# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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MARY ALICE EVANS  
DIRECTOR  
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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

**SB 2430**

**RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee:

The Office of Planning **supports** SB 2430 to establish and appropriate funds for a climate change and human health adaptation coordinator within the Department of Health.

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.

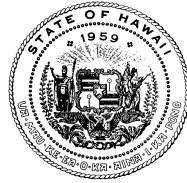
In 2018, the United Nations' World Health Organization (WHO) published a Special Report on Health and Climate Change, which was delivered to the 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).<sup>1</sup> The Special Report recommended 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.

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 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2430**  
**RELATING TO RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND**  
**ADAPTATION.**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 19, 2020

Room Number: 211

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

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports SB2430 to fill a  
4 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 planning on human health  
6 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  
17 model events and early warning systems that enable rapid response. The capacity to  
18 systematically collect, manage, analyze, and interpret climate and extreme weather data and the

1 impact on human health is critical to making informed climate policy and developing effective  
2 responses to climate and weather events

3 The purpose of SB2430, therefore, is to establish a permanent Climate Change and Human  
4 Health Adaptation Coordinator to assure health care and public health strategies are synthesized  
5 with environmental- and energy-related mitigation and adaptation activities. This position's  
6 scope of responsibility is to define and plan for anticipated health effects related to weather and  
7 climate include death and illness from heat waves; injuries and mental health impacts from  
8 catastrophic events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods; increased air pollution with  
9 concurrent rises in respiratory and cardiovascular diseases; detrimental impacts on water quality  
10 and quantity; and an increased incidence of vector-borne, foodborne, and waterborne diseases.  
11 Recent climate and weather-related challenges, from extreme weather events to changing  
12 patterns of communicable disease, have already demonstrated the critical need to improve public  
13 health capacity and capability to identify, prevent, and respond to these threats. Although  
14 deployed to the Department of Health because of the need for subject-matter supervision on both  
15 health care and environmental issues, the Climate Change and Human Health Adaptation  
16 Coordinator will coordinate closely with the state's Sustainability Coordinator and related  
17 resources, as as aligning and informing the priorities of the Climate Change Mitigation and  
18 Adaptation Commission.

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

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

22

Harry Kim  
Mayor

Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

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Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
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**County of Hawai'i**  
**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

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Director

Duane Kanuha  
Deputy Director

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February 17, 2020

Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Chair Dela Cruz,

The County of Hawai'i Planning Department strongly **supports** bill SB 2430 to establish and appropriate 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 Adaption 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.

Sincerely,

Michael Yee  
Planning Director

## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
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**LATE**


February 19, 2020

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Manager and Chief Engineer

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

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 2430: Relating to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports Senate Bill (SB) 2430. This bill establishes and appropriates funds for a climate change and human health adaptation 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 the sustainability of Oahu's water resources and coastal water infrastructure. As such, vulnerability assessments and adaptation measures needed 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) and have incorporated the findings into our long-range CIP. Water quality vulnerabilities were also assessed to understand how sea level rise could impact our groundwater aquifers and public health.

Saltwater intrusion is the main water quality concern identified through this project. Continued monitoring of water quality is recommended. Development of additional triggers and actions for individual wells in response to rising trends in chloride concentrations should be developed in consultation with the BWS, Department of Health (DOH) and the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) on water adaptation actions.

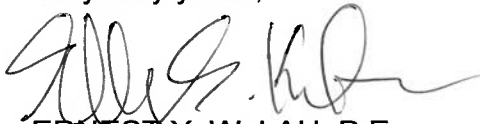
Other concerns include the number of cesspools potentially harming public health and the environment. The DOH provided BWS with data identifying the number of cesspools on Oahu, which potentially impacts water quality. There is a need to incorporate recommended climate change mitigation policies and adaptive measures to protect

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
and Members  
February 19, 2020  
Page 2

against future water quality impacts and degradation of existing sources of groundwater supplies.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of SB 2430.

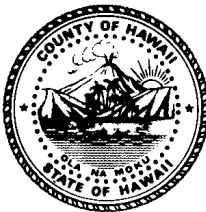
Very truly yours,



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

*f*

REBECCA VILLEGAS  
Council Member  
District 7, Central Kona



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**LATE**

## HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL

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

February 18, 2020

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS  
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON SB 2430, RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 19, 2020  
10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2430, relating to climate change 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 the necessary funds for a climate change and human health adaptation coordinator within the Department of Health. Climate change affects human health and well-being. The major public health organizations have reported that climate change is a critical public health problem. As the planet warms, oceans expand, and sea level rises, floods and droughts become more frequent and intense, and heat waves and hurricanes become more frequent. Changes in our climate increase the risk for health effects and will further stress the health care infrastructure, financial systems, and delivery systems. Though steps are being taken to reduce impacts from climate change, insufficient focus has been applied that focuses on adaptation, specifically for human health.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Ways and Means 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



**Healthy Climate  
Communities**

**Testimony in support of SB2430**

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**Hearing Wednesday February 19, 2020, 10:00am**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB2430. Just as we will need to adapt our physical infrastructure to rising sea levels, we will need to adapt our preventive and curative health systems and facilities to the many potentially harmful health effects of climate change. By starting early to think about the changes that need to be made over time, we can both save money and prevent human suffering.

By having a full-time professional thinking through the health impacts of extreme weather events, port closure, newly introduced diseases and more we can become resilient in the face of climate change.

Mahalo,

**Dr. Lisa Marten**

Executive Director  
HealthyClimateCommunities.org  
healthyclimate@hawaii.rr.com



**SB-2430**

Submitted on: 2/15/2020 6:38:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm in strong support of SB2430.

The consequences of our changed climate include the alternation of the vector map - vectors (insects and other organisms) have expanded in their geographic reach as temperatures increase. This raises the prospect of diseases taking a foothold in our state. We need to proactively understand the implications and use them to create resiliency. SB2430 offers us a means to start creating capacity to proactively respond to the threat.

Please support SB2430.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Noel Morin

Hilo

**SB-2430**

Submitted on: 2/17/2020 10:30:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2430**

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 6:02:49 AM  
Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2020 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Robert Hanson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Ke Akua, Please understand, Latest climate change modules. Are now prediction 20 feet ocean rise by 2040.

Antarctica and Greenland melting faster than ever, was expected.

We have hit the tipping point. Predicted in 1992, At the Earth Summit.

I can only pray, on my hands and knees, planting more trees.

That it is, not to late, to plant more trees.

Please pass SB2430. Before the water, is in the streets. Up to our knees.

Like it is in Florida, NOW!

Aloha Mark R.Hanson the Sandalwoodman