

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 243 HD1,
RELATING TO THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

Before the House Committees on
WATER AND LAND and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

By

Luke P. Meyers
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Keith-Agaran and
Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

HB 243, HD1 Requires each executive branch department to: identify existing and planned facilities that are vulnerable to sea level rise, flooding impacts, and natural hazards; assess options for mitigation impacts of sea level rise to existing and planned facilities; establish staff level points of contact to improve interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation, flooding, and resilience; and submit annual reports to the governor, legislature, and Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission. Effective 1/1/2050. (HD1)

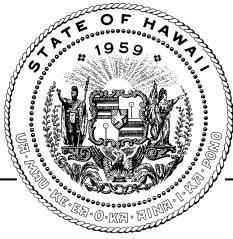
The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports** House Bill 243, HD1.

With the expected ongoing impacts of climate change, this bill will allow for continual updates on critical infrastructure and improved interagency coordination with state leadership. Recent science points to a likelihood of three feet or more of sea level rise in the second half of this century - within the expected lifespan of most existing and new development. It is critical that agencies and departments move expeditiously to address climate change impacts on public infrastructure. Identifying and prioritizing vulnerabilities to climate change impacts is a necessary first step. To maintain progress on this issue, frequent and regular reporting is essential, as is a point of contact at the staff level to accelerate action.

This process will provide connection to the risk assessment, preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery activities that are ongoing in HI-EMA.

Thank you.

Luke P. Meyers: Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

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/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
AND
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
1:05 p.m.
Conference Room 229, Videoconference

in consideration of
HB 243, HD1
RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION.

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committees on Water and Land & Agriculture and Environment.

The Office of Planning (OP) serves as the lead agency of the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, which was approved by the federal government in 1978, as defined in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 205A.

The OP recognizes the importance for integrating sea level rise into facility and land use planning and **supports the intent of HB243, HD1** which requires each executive branch department to identify existing and planned facilities that may at risk from sea level rise, flooding, and natural hazards; assess its risks and seek to mitigate impacts from sea level rise; and assign staff to work with the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission staff, and offers the following **comments**:

- Pursuant to Act 45, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, the legislature amended OP responsibilities by adding sea level adaptation coordination to its mandate. In order to serve more effectively in this task, we respectfully offer the following amendments for consideration:

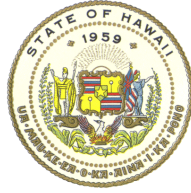
Page 5, Lines 9-13, “(b) Each department shall establish staff level points of contact with relevant expertise to build internal capacity and work with Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission staff, and the Office of Planning to improve interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation, flooding, and resilience.

Page 5, Lines 14-21, “(c) Each department shall submit a report to the governor, legislature, Office of Planning, and Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission.

- Within OP, the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, which primarily receives funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), for many years has been working on aspects of shoreline management and sea level rise adaptation options for Hawaii’s shorelines. Further, through the recently updated 2020 Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP), required under HRS Section 205A-62(1), the CZM Program has identified three (3) focus areas - one of which is addressing coastal development and chronic coastal hazards such as sea level rise.

We look forward to serving in this role and working with the executive branch on this important subject matter. As responsibilities increase for the OP, we also understand that the OP would need additional capacity to effectively address these significant adaptation needs and would request an increase in fiscal support and positions in upcoming years when there is more availability in the state general fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify 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 Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
And
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT.

Wednesday, March 17, 2021
1:05pm
State Capitol, Via Videoconference/Conference Room 229

In support of
HOUSE BILL 243, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION

House Bill 243, House Draft 1 proposes to require each executive branch department to identify existing and planned facilities that are vulnerable to sea level rise, flooding impacts, and natural hazards; assess options for mitigating impacts of sea level rise to existing and planned facilities; establish staff level points of contact to improve interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation, flooding and resilience and submit annual reports to the governor, legislature, and Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission. **On behalf of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) I support this measure.**

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.

In 2018, as part of its larger statement on adaptation, the Climate Commission issued the following priority for countering impacts of sea level rise, and:

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

Encourage[d] agencies and non-governmental utility providers to identify and prioritize assets within the 3.2 ft SLR-XA or more as described in the State's Sea Level Rise report, identify adaptation measures, and to provide a status update on this activity annually to the Climate Commission.

HB243 HD1 effectively addresses this priority of the Commission.

In December 2017, the Commission accepted the *Hawaii Sea Level Rise Report* and accompanying *Hawaii Sea Level Rise Viewer*. Along with the Report, a newly issued guidance (*Guidance for Using the Sea Level Rise Exposure Area in Local Planning and Permitting Decisions*, Oct 2020) and updated Viewer provide maps of a Sea Level Rise Exposure Area (SLR-XA) incorporating models of passive flooding, shoreline erosion, and annual high wave run-up with 3.2 feet of sea level rise.

Recent science summarized in the Report, Guidance and Viewer points to a likelihood of three feet or more of sea level rise in the second half of this century - within the expected lifespan of most existing and new development. It is critical that agencies and departments move expeditiously to address climate change impacts on public infrastructure. Identifying and prioritizing vulnerabilities to climate change impacts is a necessary first step. To maintain progress on this issue, frequent and regular reporting is essential, as is a point of contact at the staff level to accelerate action.

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



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LANDS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 17, 2021 1:05 PM

In **SUPPORT** of **HB243 HD1**: Relating to Sea Level Rise Adaptation

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Nishihara, and members of the committees,

On behalf of our 27,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports HB243 HD1**.

This bill requires each executive branch department to identify existing and planned facilities that are vulnerable to sea level rise, flooding impacts, and natural hazards; assess options for mitigation impacts of sea level rise to existing and planned facilities; establish staff level points of contact to improve interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation, flooding, and resilience; and submit annual report to the Governor, Legislature, and Climate Commission.

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

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. 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.

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

While the state of Hawai'i has adopted very ambitious goals for mitigation of climate change, including goals for clean and renewable energy to reduce our carbon emissions, much work remains for developing and implementing adaptation strategies we will need in this era of climate change. We welcome a bill like HB243 to begin laying the groundwork for sea level rise adaptation throughout our state and are pleased to see that the bill places high priorities on protecting the state's most vulnerable populations, and promoting resilience and nature-based adaptation solutions.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB243 HD1**.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Joint Hearing Wednesday, March 17, 2021 1:05 PM Conference Room 239 and
Videoconferencing

IN SUPPORT OF HB 243 HD1 Relating to Sea level Rise Adaptation

Co-Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Co-Chairs Keith -Agaran and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION –HIROC– was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean. We are currently asking the Legislature to pass a handful of very important bills to save our coral reefs – they are bills relating to sunscreens, cesspools, plastic marine debris, climate and sea level rise.

We support passage of HB 243 HD1 Relating to Sea Level Rise Adaptation.

This bill requires each executive branch department to identify existing and planned facilities that are vulnerable to sea level rise, flooding impacts, and natural hazards; assess options for mitigation impacts of sea level rise to existing and planned facilities; establish staff level points of contact to improve interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation, flooding, and resilience; and submit annual reports to the governor, legislature, and Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission.

It is essential to accelerate adaptation and mitigation, as rapid change could occur at any time. Also, the orderly process of procurement and contracting must be fully prepared with foresight, with funding made available to avoid loss of critical service. The steps set forth in the bill are very prudent and necessary given the importance of these public facilities to the health and well-being of the citizens of Hawai'i, and the risks many of them face from sea level rise.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Dave Raney

On behalf of the Hawai'i Reef Ocean Coalition

Testimony for planning

The causeway leading to the Wailua bridge on Kauai appears to be eroding quickly and is in eminent danger of failing. This trend of rising ocean levels, heavy rains and super tides are not going away, in fact they are due to our ungoing untreated climate disruption. This bridge and highway needs to be moving inland starting now as there are no other alternate routes to Lihue to get supplies and essential services for a large part of the Kauai population. Photos taken today.

Also, the sewage treatment plant is in the same low lying area and plans for building a new one upland needs to be done now as spills have occurred multiple times during flooding in the last few years.

I am a resident and I am worried. The sandbags are a ridiculous solution.



HB-243-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 10:47:28 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2021 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Imperative for Hawaii to pass this bill. Sea level rise is already picking at our doorsteps. Past time to move uphill! Please support!

HB-243-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 6:18:39 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2021 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is needed.

HB-243-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 11:58:30 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2021 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica dos Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committees,

I strongly support HB243 HD1 for improved planning and statewide coordination for sea-level rise adaptation. While the state of Hawaii has adopted very ambitious goals for clean energy and carbon neutrality to reduce our carbon emissions, much work remains for developing and implementing sea level rise adaptation strategies we will need in this era of climate change. HB243 is a common-sense first step. I also support language in this bill to protect the state's most vulnerable populations and promote resilience and nature-based adaptation solutions. Please pass HB243.

Respectfully,

Jessica dos Santos

HB-243-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2021 7:46:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2021 1:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committees,

I strongly support HB243 HD1 for improved planning and statewide coordination for sea level rise adaptation. While the state of Hawaii has adopted very ambitious goals for clean energy and carbon neutrality to reduce our carbon emissions, much work remains for developing and implementing sea level rise adaptation strategies we will need in this era of climate change. HB243 is a common sense first step. I also support language in this bill to protect the state's most vulnerable populations and promote resilience and nature-based adaptation solutions. Please pass HB243.

HB-243-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 9:05:53 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2021 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello Chair Inouye, Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committees,

I strongly support HB243 HD1 for improved planning and statewide coordination for sea level rise adaptation. While the state of Hawaii has adopted very ambitious goals for clean energy and carbon neutrality to reduce our carbon emissions, much work remains for developing and implementing sea level rise adaptation strategies we will need in this era of climate change. HB243 is a common sense first step. I also support language in this bill to protect the state's most vulnerable populations and promote resilience and nature-based adaptation solutions.

Please pass HB243.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,
Nanea Lo

HB-243-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 2:41:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2021 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support.

HB-243-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 3:35:03 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2021 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittney Hedlund	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because we need a plan that acknowledges the inevitable. Please take care of our coastline communities.

HB-243-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 10:57:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2021 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Olson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committees,

I strongly support HB243 HD1 for improved planning and statewide coordination for sea level rise adaptation. While the state of Hawaii has adopted very ambitious goals for clean energy and carbon neutrality to reduce our carbon emissions, much work remains for developing and implementing sea level rise adaptation strategies we will need in this era of climate change. HB243 is a common sense first step. I also support language in this bill to protect the state's most vulnerable populations and promote resilience and nature-based adaptation solutions. Please pass HB243.

HB-243-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:18:48 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2021 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ivy Hsu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committees,

I strongly support HB243 HD1 for improved planning and statewide coordination for sea level rise adaptation. While the state of Hawaii has adopted very ambitious goals for clean energy and carbon neutrality to reduce our carbon emissions, much work remains for developing and implementing sea level rise adaptation strategies we will need in this era of climate change. HB243 is a common sense first step. I also support language in this bill to protect the state's most vulnerable populations and promote resilience and nature-based adaptation solutions. Please pass HB243.

HB-243-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 8:48:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2021 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support

HB-243-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 3:45:45 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/17/2021 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear WTL and AEN Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee members,

I strongly support HB243 so that our state is prepared--as well as humanly possible—to deal with the fact of sea level rise that will inevitably occur across all our islands in the coming decades.

It is critically important for all of the Hawaiian islands to be aware of and informed about sea level rise in their area and its consequences for beaches, buildings, property and people—now, and in the future. This is particularly true for vulnerable inhabited coastal areas.

The State of Hawaii has a huge responsibility to assess, plan for and carry out projects that can mitigate the effects of a rising sea. But most of all, people will need resiliency in adapting to changing contingencies. And they will need leadership.

This bill must be passed this session because there is so much to be done. Please don't wait any longer. Pass HB243 HD1 now.

Thank you for listening and for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas – Aiea, Hawaii