

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi
Director

Shawn K. Nakama
First Assistant

Research (808) 587-0666
Revisor (808) 587-0670
Fax (808) 587-0681



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 446
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments

HCR102, HD1

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING, IN COLLABORATION WITH VARIOUS AGENCIES, TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH A STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN HAWAII

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Monday, March 29, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329

Chair Johanson and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Johanson and members of the Committee. My name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written **comments** on H.C.R. 102, H.D. 1, Requesting the Office of Planning, in Collaboration with Various Agencies, to Develop a Plan to Establish a State Geological Survey in Hawaii.

The purpose of this measure is to request the Office of Planning, in collaboration with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Department of Transportation, and the appropriate county planning departments and county emergency management agencies, to develop a plan to establish a state geological survey in Hawaii. The plan is requested to include:

- (1) Proposed scopes of work for the state geological survey, including proposed ways to consolidate existing functions into a state geological survey;
- (2) Proposed organizational structures of the state geological survey, including advantages and disadvantages of each proposed structure;

- (3) Proposed staff positions that would be needed for the state geological survey, including salary levels;
- (4) Proposed sources for funding or other necessary resources; and
- (5) Enabling legislation to create the state geological survey.

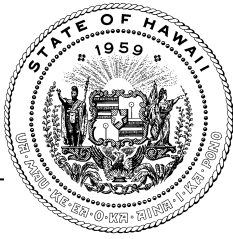
The measure also directs the Legislative Reference Bureau, upon request of the Office of Planning, to assist in the preparation of any proposed legislation that may be required to implement the Office of Planning's findings and recommendations; provided that, before December 1, 2021, the Office of Planning submits any draft documents, including information and materials deemed necessary by the Legislative Reference Bureau, for the preparation of proposed legislation. The measure further requests the Office of Planning to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023.

The Bureau takes no position on the merits of this measure but submits the following comments for your consideration.

With regard to the services requested of the Bureau, we note that the Office of Planning is requested to submit any draft documents necessary for the preparation of proposed legislation to the Bureau before December 1, 2021. This date appears to be an oversight, and we assume that the intent is for any draft documents to be submitted to the Bureau before December 1, 2022, since the measure requests a final report from the Office of Planning prior to the Regular Session of 2023. The Committee may wish to clarify this date.

The Bureau believes that, if the scope of the Bureau's requested assistance is not altered, the services requested under the measure would be manageable; provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many additional responsibilities, such as conducting studies, writing or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or any combination of these for the Legislature or for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written comments.



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: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Monday, March 29, 2021
2:00 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

In consideration of
HCR 102, HD 1 / HR 85, HD 1

**REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING, IN COLLABORATION WITH
VARIOUS AGENCIES, TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH A STATE
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN HAWAII.**

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee on
Consumer Protection & Commerce:

The Office of Planning (OP) **supports** HCR 102, HD 1 / HR 85, HD 1 and recognizes the importance of establishing a state geological survey in Hawai'i to unify the State's mapping capability, make Hawai'i eligible to compete for applicable federal funds, and provide a broader range of geological information for the public and state decision-makers to use in mitigation and management planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
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 Committee on
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

**Monday, March 29, 2021
2:00 PM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 329

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 102, HOUSE DRAFT 1/
HOUSE RESOLUTION 85, HOUSE DRAFT 1
REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, IN COLLABORATION
WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH A STATE
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN HAWAII**

House Concurrent Resolution 102, House Draft 1/House Resolution 85, House Draft 1, requests the Legislative Reference Bureau, in collaboration, with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and University of Hawaii, to Develop a Plan to Establish a State Geological Survey in Hawaii. **The Department supports these resolutions.**

A State Geological Survey would provide additional data on natural resources and hazards. The collection, analysis, organization, and communication of this data will become more critical as climate change transforms the geological and climatic processes that affect our islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
March 29, 2021

Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR102, HD1/ HR 85, HD1
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING, IN COLLABORATION WITH VARIOUS AGENCIES, TO
DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH A STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN HAWAII

Submitted by:
Donald Thomas

I am a member of the research faculty of the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology at the University of Hawaii and have been conducting research on Hawaii's geothermal and groundwater resources for more than 40 years. I have served as a member of the HIEMA Hawaii Earthquake and Tsunami Advisory Committee since 1998 and have maintained a Cooperative Research Agreement with the US Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory since about 2003 that focuses on Hawai'i Island's volcanic and earthquake hazards. I have been working with Hawaii Department of Health to assist them in understanding the hydrogeology in the vicinity of Red Hill and the potential risks that may arise from fuel storage facility there.

Although my colleagues and I at the University have made progress on understanding these resources, and both the natural and anthropogenic hazards to which Hawaii's residents are exposed, our best efforts can only address a small fraction of the work that needs to be done to fully characterize Hawaii's resources and hazards so that they can be managed in the most appropriate way to sustain those resources and protect our communities. An appropriately staffed and supported geological survey, with a mission to fully characterize natural resources and natural hazards, would be able to make much more rapid progress in this effort than has been done in the recent past. I therefore support the establishment of Hawaii Geological Survey and would be happy to assist in that effort to the extent that I am able.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony.