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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
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OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1842, H.D. 1

**February 25, 2022**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

**RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON HUMAN HEALTH**

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1842, H.D. 1, establishes a full-time climate change and human health adaptation specialist (CCHHAS) within the Department of Health (DOH) and appropriates \$165,000 in general funds in FY 23 to DOH for the establishment of 1.00 full-time equivalent CCHHAS position and other operating expenses.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

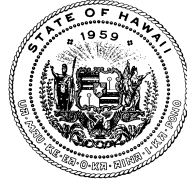
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



BRUCE S. ANDERSON, PHD  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1842  
RELATING TO RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND  
ADAPTATION.**

REP. SYLVIA LUKA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 25, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference

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 HB1842 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  
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 HB1842 HD1, therefore, is to establish a permanent Climate Change and Human  
4 Health Adaptation Specialist 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

**HB-1842-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 5:29:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

More Bull Shit. Our only problem is the Comunist behind this Propaganda!!