



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

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1842
RELATING TO RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND
ADAPTATION.

REP. NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date: February 9, 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 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 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, 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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1842

February 10, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference

RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON HUMAN HEALTH

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 1842.

H.B. No. 1842 establishes a full-time climate change and human health adaptation coordinator (CCHHAC) within the Department of Health (DOH) and appropriates \$165,000 in general funds in FY 23 to DOH for the establishment of one full-time equivalent CCHHAC 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.

HB-1842

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 5:22:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimo Cruz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Opposed.

HB-1842

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 7:57:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/10/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There is no Climent Change that is Happening. The Government and the Media Have Lied to the People for more then 30 years about Climet Change. If we get ride of the Comunist that are in the Government and the Media this will all disapear. Stop wasting money on Bull Shit and starte working for the people or the people will have take care of the Problem!!