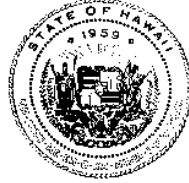


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR0192**

URGING THE HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A PROACTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY TO EDUCATE HAWAII'S RESIDENTS ABOUT THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE LOWEN, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Hearing Date: 3/23/2023 Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports this measure to raise awareness  
3 about the ways climate change will negatively impact human health. Hawaii has been a national  
4 leader in taking steps to increase resilience and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change.  
5 However, much of these efforts have been directed at planning and infrastructure and have not  
6 focused on preventing the illness and injuries that climate change will cause.

7 The health impacts from climate change are wide ranging and will affect every resident, visitor,  
8 and community. Certain communities will be disproportionately affected, enhancing already  
9 present health disparities and environmental injustice.

10 A focused communication effort to educate the residents of Hawaii about these potential health  
11 impacts will help people further understand the need for action to slow climate change and  
12 inspire efforts to mitigate the morbidity and mortality that is coming. An educated populace will  
13 be more prepared to respond to the upcoming challenges from climate change as well as  
14 advocate for changes to help keep them, their families and their communities safe.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None

16

17

18

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Josh Green  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION  
COMMISSION  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Co-Chairs:  
Chair, DLNR  
Director, OPSD

Commissioners:  
Chair, Senate AEN  
Chair, Senate WTL  
Chair, House EEP  
Chair, House WAL  
Chairperson, HTA  
Chairperson, DOA  
CEO, OHA  
Chairperson, DHHH  
Director, DBEDT  
Director, DOT  
Director, DOH  
Chairperson, DOE  
Director, C+C DPP  
Director, Maui DP  
Director, Hawaii DP  
Director, Kauai DP  
The Adjutant General  
Manager, CZM

Testimony of  
**Leah Laramee**  
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission

Before the Senate Committees on  
Energy & Environmental Protection

Thursday, March 23, 2023  
9:30 AM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325

In support of  
House Concurrent Resolution 192

**URGING THE HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A PROACTIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY TO EDUCATE HAWAII'S RESIDENTS ABOUT THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS.**

House Concurrent Resolution 192 urges the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to develop a proactive and comprehensive communication strategy to educate Hawai'i's residents about the health impacts of the climate crisis. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different departments, committees, and counties. Public health is already being impacted by climate change through increased heat, vector-borne diseases, crop failure and food insecurity, water insecurity, waterborne diseases, extreme weather events, air pollution, and adverse mental health impacts. The Commission is sensitive to these impacts and supports all efforts to address them. The Commission looks forward to the establishment of the Climate and Health position at the Department of Health and will continue to work with staff on addressing health related climate issues.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

March 23, 2023, 9:30 AM

Room 325

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 192**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and members of the committee:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports HCR 192**, which urges the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to develop a communications strategy to raise public awareness about the health impacts of climate change.

Islands, like Hawai'i, are ground zero for the destructive impacts of climate change—we are acutely vulnerable to impacts like sea level rise and food insecurity (because of our reliance on imported goods). Our tropical climate also means we will continue to experience extreme heat, extreme weather events and flooding, and increases in vector-borne illness, among other impacts.

Much of the local conversation about climate change has centered on framing these impacts as environmental and infrastructure issues. What isn't discussed as part of the public narrative is the human side of climate change—i.e. the human health co-benefits of mitigation (reduced air pollution, the health benefits of a plant-based diet and increased physical activity, etc.) as well as how public health will be impacted by hotter temperatures, mental health stresses, and an increased prevalence of disease (food-, water-, and vector-borne illnesses). Moreover, our low- and moderate-income residents, seniors, and indigenous residents will disproportionately experience these impacts.

That's why the public health engagement strategy in HCR 192 is so important. **Please pass HCR 192.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HCR-192**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 5:19:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/23/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** this climate change propaganda Resolution.