

SB-657

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:20:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LIBRADO COBIAN	Testifying for AAC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The effects of Climate affects everyone equally. The Climate and environment does not discriminate . This a bias bill of selective victimization. I oppose anything that has the word EQUITY or SOCIAL. Equity is no longer EQUALITY . Li Cobian



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

February 3, 2023, 1:00 PM
Room 224

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 657

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Inouye, and members of the committees:

Blue Planet Foundation **supports SB 657**, which funds the development of a Hawai'i-specific database under the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to identify which residents and communities are most vulnerable to the numerous environmental, economic, and public health impacts of climate change.

Climate change will have devastating, long-term consequences on Hawai'i's environment, economy, and quality of life. For these reasons and others, the State of Hawai'i has committed to a decisive transition away from fossil fuels. The legislature has passed aggressive carbon reduction goals, including a mandate to achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2045 (Act 97 of 2015), and a goal to be carbon-negative by 2045 (Act 15 of 2018), with an interim goal to achieve a 50% reduction from 2005 levels by 2030 (Act 238 of 2022).

Although we are making progress towards these goals, we also recognize that the impacts of climate change are already being experienced in our islands and will continue to intensify.¹ These impacts— such as extreme weather events, human health effects, food and water insecurity, forced displacement, and other related risks—could have a disproportionate impact on economically disadvantaged communities, indigenous residents, children, the sick, and the elderly.

To address this, in 2021 and 2022 the Hawai'i State Climate Commission partnered with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and other stakeholders to produce a report titled, *Social Vulnerability to Climate Change in Hawai'i: Data, Indicators, and "Gap" Assessment*.² The report identifies national and local research and tools available to assess the social vulnerability of

¹ University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Sea Grant College Program. "Climate Change Impacts in Hawai'i - A summary of climate change and its impacts to Hawai'i's ecosystems and communities." June 2014. (<https://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/smFINAL-HawaiiClimateChange.pdf>)

² University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Institute for Sustainability and Resilience, "Social Vulnerability to Climate Change in Hawai'i: Data, Indicators, and "Gap" Assessment." May 2022. (https://climate.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SCOVI-Report-Final_5_4_22_Clean-1.pdf)

Hawai'i's residents through various indicators. Ultimately, the report produced a key recommendation that the state fund and develop a comprehensive, user-friendly data portal on social vulnerability and climate change risks in Hawai'i.

We strongly support SB 657 to provide the funding capacity necessary to produce a Hawai'i-specific social vulnerability index. A holistic, equitable approach to addressing climate change is necessary to ensure marginalized communities are identified and uplifted in our climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. This bill is a critical tool to support decision-makers in collective planning efforts and help identify safety net gaps so that, together, we can create a healthier, more resilient future for Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-657

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 4:28:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

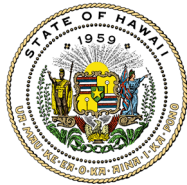
Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Richards and Elefante and Committee Members,

Thank you Senator Gabbard and other for introducing SB657 to appropriate funds for development of a database and data portal on social vulnerability to climate change in Hawai‘i.

As a state we have committed to acting to avoid or improve vulnerability to climate change to those most impacted and readily available data will give planners of programs access to the information they need.

I spent my career in software development on multiple database projects and know the value to customers of access to information. Thank you for considering this important next step.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AGENCY

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 657
RELATING TO CLIMATE EQUITY

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON **AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER AND LAND**

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Richards, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the committee:

I am James Barros, Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA).

HI-EMA provides written testimony to **OFFER COMMENTS** on SB657.

This measure would appropriate funds for the development and maintenance of a database and data portal on social vulnerability to climate change in Hawaii.

Such a database could be a useful asset for developing future plans to mitigate the impact of climate change, with a particular focus on social vulnerability, which has been a new area of emphasis amid concerns that have been raised about equity in past federal mitigation grantmaking.

HI-EMA would note that the data to be collected in this database overlaps with data that is already being collected as part of the State's hazard mitigation framework, which requires regularly updated hazard mitigation plans from the State and all of its counties. HI-EMA has already begun work to collect public input for the regularly scheduled update of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan this year.

HI-EMA applauds the effort to “un-silo” available data on vulnerable populations and climate change, and to make the shared data available to all planners with an interest in the issues. We would encourage the committee to consider adding language to the bill to clarify that the development of the database should be coordinated with all relevant parties, including those parties involved in the existing hazard mitigation framework.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB657.

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HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
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**Testimony of
Leah Laramee
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, February 3, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 224**

**In support of
Senate Bill 657
RELATING TO RELATING TO CLIMATE EQUITY**

Senate Bill 657 appropriates funds for fiscal year 2023-2024 for the development of a database and data portal from data sources detailed in the May 2022 report on social vulnerability to climate change mitigation and adaptation commission and the accompanying guide. Appropriates funds for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the maintenance and updating of the data portal. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Commission's mission statement identifies equity as one of three primary considerations for all climate action. The Commission's 2019 statement on climate equity urges all government entities in Hawaii to use a vulnerability framework that is appropriate for Hawaii, and incorporate cultural responsiveness, reflect indigenous voices and customary law practices to identify any inequitable distribution of benefits, burdens and processes caused by climate change impacts and policy. Although climate change negatively affects all of us, some communities face disproportionate impacts through no fault of their own. Factors such as demographics, socioeconomic status, and limited access to resources can make it much harder to prepare for and recover from climate change. Because of these conditions, events such as extreme weather, sea level rise, heatwaves, flooding, and erosion might prove a hazard for some, but a disaster for others.

Federal equity tools do not sufficiently address local realities and are not refined enough to be used for local and state planning tools. To address this, the Hawai'i State Climate Commission partnered with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, stakeholders, and community to produce the Social Vulnerability to Climate Change in Hawai'i: Data, Indicators, and "Gap" Assessment. The report

identifies current research and tools to identify social vulnerability and climate hazard exposure. The project has resulted in two key recommendations. The creation of a comprehensive, user-friendly data portal on social vulnerability and climate change was one of these recommendations. Accessible information will support decision-makers, non-profits, and community leaders in addressing social vulnerability throughout their work and assist in uplifting communities impacted by climate change.

The Commission is very supportive of this bill and respectfully suggests that the funding be directed to the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s Institute for Sustainability and Resilience as they have the technical skills and capacity required to conduct this important work.

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