

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Friday, March 1, 2024  
9:55 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

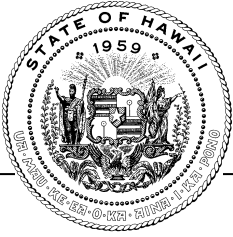
In consideration of  
**SB 3060, SD1**  
**RELATING TO A CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** the Administration's bill, SB 3060, SD1, which requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to develop and publish the State's first statewide climate adaptation and resilience implementation plan.

Hawai'i faces substantial financial risks due to climate change, encompassing infrastructure damage, financial losses, and impacts on agriculture and fisheries. Despite the publication of various climate plans, there is currently no comprehensive statewide climate adaptation and resilience implementation plan in place to assess the overall financial risk and exposure associated with climate change in Hawai'i. Creating such a plan is crucial for protecting our communities from climate change's adverse effects. It will enable the State to identify vulnerable areas, develop risk reduction strategies, and implement measures to enhance resilience and adaptability.

The many hazards our islands have faced make it clear: climate change isn't a distant threat; it's happening now, impacting Hawai'i. SB 3060, SD1 will aid our State in tackling the current and future challenges of climate change, safeguarding the resilience of our communities, natural resources, and economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF PLANNING  
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
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**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS, Interim Director**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Friday, March 1, 2024  
9:55 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of  
**SENATE BILL 3060, SD 1**  
**RELATING TO A CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **strongly supports** this Administration Bill, S.B. 3060, S.D. 1, which requires the OPSD to develop and publish the State's first statewide climate adaptation and resilience implementation plan.

As an island state, the state of Hawai'i is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. While several plans related to climate adaptation have been published, there is currently no overarching and comprehensive statewide climate adaptation and resilience implementation plan for Hawai'i that assesses the overall financial risk and exposure of the state associated with climate change.

Our State's nationally awarded climate and sustainability strategic action plan, the [Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan](#), recommends the need to develop a statewide climate adaptation and resilience implementation plan, on page 102, Strategy 17, to improve Hawai'i's climate resilience.

Climate change poses significant financial risks to Hawai'i, including damage to infrastructure, loss of tourism revenue, and impacts on agriculture and fisheries. Hawai'i's unique ecosystems and biodiversity are also at risk due to climate change. The creation of a statewide climate adaptation and resilience implementation plan is crucial for protecting our communities from the adverse effects of climate change. Such a plan will enable the State to identify vulnerable areas, develop strategies for risk reduction, and implement measures to enhance resilience and adaptability.

It is evident with the many hazards our islands have experienced that climate change is not a distant threat; it is happening now, and its impacts are being felt across Hawai'i. Passing this bill is vital to address the immediate and future challenges posed by climate change and ensure the resilience of our communities, economy, and natural resources.

OPSD strongly supports this initial \$500,000 funding to begin the climate adaptation and resilience implementation planning process, as well as to hire the necessary staff for the Statewide Sustainability Branch within OPSD which is mandated to address the State's numerous climate and sustainability statutory targets and goals.



## TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

MARCH 1, 2024

### SB 3060, SD1, RELATING TO A CLIMATE ADAPTION AND RESILIENCE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

#### POSITION: SUPPORT

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **supports** SB 3060, SD1, relating to a climate adaptation and resilience implementation plan. Pursuant to the "Public Safety and Disaster and Emergency Preparedness" section of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i platform, we "believe that climate change is real, affirms human activity as its primary cause and main driver, and supports emergency preparedness and planning efforts to mitigate its impacts."

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding. Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Last year, we witnessed the impact of the climate emergency on our shores. On August 8, 2023, wildfires swept across Maui and killed at least 100 people, making it one of the nation's deadliest natural disasters. The spread of the fires has been attributed to climate change conditions, such as unusually dry landscapes and the confluence of a strong high-pressure system to the north and Hurricane Dora to the south. The wildfires destroyed over 2,200 structures, including numerous residential buildings, historic landmarks, and school facilities. In September 2023, a report from the United States Department of Commerce estimated the total economic damage of the wildfires to be roughly \$5.5 billion. Investing in renewable energy generation could not be more urgent, given the growing threat of climate-induced catastrophes to our island home.

Therefore, **our state should take steps to accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy and continue our fight against climate change, including by strengthening planning for climate change adaptation and resilience.** Strengthening energy efficiency is vital in reducing emissions associated with electricity generation, while providing financial benefits for consumers. The Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative sets a statewide energy efficiency goal for 2030 at 4,300 gigawatt hours and directs the Public Utilities Commission to establish interim goals for 2015, 2020, and 2025. Extending these goals will ensure that the PUC may continue improving our state's energy-efficiency portfolio standards beyond 2030.

Mahalo nui loa,

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TO: Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director



DATE: March 1, 2024  
TIME: 9:55am  
PLACE: Room 211

RE: SB3060 SD1 Relating to a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Implementation Plan

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

HFIA is in support of this measure. As the measure notes a number of specific plans and reports have been published on climate change and its impacts on Hawaii. An overarching State level Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan will enable Hawaii to be better prepared as climate change continues to impact our state.

We look forward to working with the state to continue to make our food industry more resilient to the potential effects of climate change and ensure we can continue to feed our state. We encourage the Committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.