

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

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

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND AND  
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of  
**SENATE BILL 3060**

**RELATING TO A CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Chairs Inouye and DeCoite, Vice Chairs Elefante and Wakai, and Members of the Committees on Water and Land and Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

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

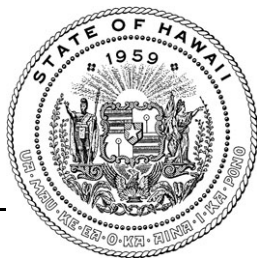
As an island state, the state of Hawai'i is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. While several plans related to climate adaptation have been published, there is currently no comprehensive statewide climate adaptation and resilience implementation plan for Hawai'i that assesses the 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. It will enable us 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 essential 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.



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

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JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA  
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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND  
AND ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

February 14, 2024  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

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

Chairs Inouye and DeCoite, Vice Chairs Elefante and Wakai, and members of the committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** the Administration's bill, SB 3060, 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 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.



## TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND and ENERGY,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

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

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **supports** SB 3060, 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,

**Kris Coffield**

*Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*

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**Abby Simmons**

*Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*

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**SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
WATER AND LAND  
and  
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

**February 14, 2024, 1:00 PM  
Room 229 & Videoconference**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3060**

Dear Chairs Inouye and DeCoite, Vice Chairs Elefante and Wakai, and Members of the committees:

American Flood Coalition Action (AFCA) appreciates the opportunity to express its **support for SB 3060**, Relating to a climate adaptation and resilience implementation plan. AFCA is the 501(c)(4) advocacy arm of the American Flood Coalition (AFC), a 501(c)(3) organization united in advancing common sense solutions to all types of flooding. AFC drives transformational adaptation efforts grounded in the experience of our more than 400 members – mayors, county officials, cities and towns, state lawmakers, governors, as well as nonprofit, business, and military leaders – across 21 states and the District of Columbia.

We are encouraged by the Hawai'i legislature taking this impressive step to prepare the State for future hazards, including flooding, by developing a strategic plan. States with strategic resilience plans do a better job of directing resources where they will have the greatest impact. With a plan in place that assesses risk and then prioritizes projects, programs, and policies, states more effectively draw down federal funding and deploy resources to get resilience projects in the ground faster. Through SB 3060, Hawai'i will set its communities up for success by implementing proven approaches that include mobilizing the full force of State government in a single strategy with clear goals, grounding the plan in forward-looking data, and including implementation metrics to define progress. In addition to this, we encourage the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) to support underserved communities and incorporate community feedback throughout the plan's drafting process.

Crucially, SB 3060 provides funding for dedicated staff to maintain momentum on this plan. The value of a climate adaptation and resilience implementation plan is inestimable for the people and economy of Hawai'i, and having a dedicated team of professionals to create the plan – with community input – will set the State up for long-term success.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this effort to make Hawai'i more resilient.

Respectfully,

**Melissa Roberts**  
President and Executive Director

**SB-3060**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 12:03:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, make state agricultural tourism requirements applicable to all counties, instead of only counties that have adopted an agricultural tourism ordinance.

Adopt rules that establish requirements applicable to all farms implementing agricultural tourism.

**SB-3060**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 3:13:20 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/14/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa May	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of SB3060. As a planner engaged in long-range land use and infrastructure planning, I see the challenges that agencies and communities are facing on a daily basis in grappling with climate change and sea level rise.

These impacts are already upon us, as evidenced by chronic flooding in Mapunapuna, increasing Kona storms causing widespread flooding in the urban core, and worsening erosion threatening homes and public beaches on the North Shore.

It will take decades in some cases to realize the kinds of changes that will be needed for the State to adapt to climate change in a proactive, rather than reactive way. How we adapt and plan ahead for our infrastructure and land use will make a tremendous difference in the costs and impacts experienced by our people and the losses of life and property. We simply cannot afford to tackle climate adaptation in a piecemeal and reactive way.

Our agencies lack the framework needed to engage in statewide adaptation planning, and OPSD, while tasked with its coordination, has not been given commensurate resources to do so. This is only one of the critical gaps in Hawaii's capacity to adapt, and it needs to be filled now to ensure Hawaii can get ahead of this issue.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.