

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

**Senate Committees on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism, and  
Agriculture and Environment**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

1:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

**In Support  
S.B. No. 3097, Relating to Climate**

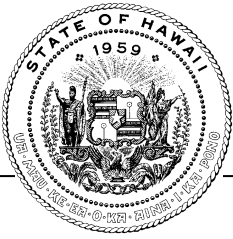
Chairs DeCoite and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and Richards, and members of the Senate Committees on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism, and Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. No. 3097, Relating to Climate. S.B. No. 3097 would establish, and appropriate funds for, the position of Senior Advisor on Climate within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development. The Senior Advisor on Climate would serve in an advisory role to the Governor, including advising the Governor on priorities, policies, initiatives, and areas related to climate change; assisting in the coordination and implementation of funding and policies for clean energy, climate, and resiliency initiatives; and serving as a member on the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

From sea level rise to record high temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, and intense heat waves, the effects of climate change are evident. Climate change is an immediate threat to our State and our world. There is a compelling and urgent need to reinforce and further actions to reduce climate risks and the impacts of climate change.

Combating climate change requires able leadership at the state level as well as coalitions of stakeholders and other leaders in the community to tackle the climate crisis. A Senior Advisor on Climate would be an essential leader in this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



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

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

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

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

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of  
**SB 3097  
RELATING TO CLIMATE.**

Chairs Decoite and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and Richards, and Members of the Senate Committees on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism and Agriculture and Environment.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports and offers an amendment** to SB3097, which establishes the Senior Advisor on Climate position within OPSD and makes the Senior Advisor on Climate a member of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC). Appropriates funds.

OPSD **supports** the establishment of the Senior Advisor on Climate as an exempt position appointed by the Governor, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. OPSD has been given roles by the Legislature to coordinate seal level rise and climate change adaptation activities in HRS, Chapter 225M, 225P, and 226-109.

In HRS. Chapter 226-53, OPSD is charged with providing recommendations and technical assistance to the Governor and state and county agencies and assisting the Legislature in conducting reviews of climate change adaptation priority guidelines.

As climate change impacts Hawaii, OPSD needs a position to advise the Governor and the Legislature on climate change mitigation and adaptation policies. The urgency for this position is highlighted by the impacts of flooding, droughts and wildfires, the impacts on health and need for equitable adaptations for vulnerable communities.

In addition, OPSD recommends a **housekeeping amendment** to HRS, Chapter 225P-3(c) be included in this measure. Please add a section to amend Section 225P-(c) by deleting, (14) ~~“The manager of the coastal zone management program.”~~ from membership on the Hawaii

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC). The CZM manger position is a permanent civil service position, who as a branch chief, would not otherwise be required to file a financial statement with the Hawaii State Ethics Commission, except for ex-officio membership on this commission. As we recruit to replace the former manager, this requirement will make recruitment more difficult.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**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, DHHL  
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, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**  
**AND**  
**AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Tuesday February 13, 2024**  
**1:00 PM**  
**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of**  
**Senate Bill 3097**  
**RELATING TO A CLIMATE**

Senate Bill 3097 establishes the senior advisor on climate position within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development. Makes the senior advisor on climate a member of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and appropriates funds. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) offers the following comment on this measure.**

The Commission recognizes the need for a senior climate advisor housed at the Governor's Office. To maximize effort to fulfill the duties and responsibilities outlined in HRS §225P-3 a position at the Governor's Office would effectively link administrative initiatives on housing, hazards, health, water security, food production and others to the impact of and the implications to climate change. The Commission would like to highlight that such a position is requested in this year's budget request and as this position would work directly on climate change issues the commission respectfully recommends that the position be housed with the commission.

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

**SB-3097**

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 11:55:00 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/13/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support! We need better climate planning, mitigating climate warming as well as adaptation.

**SB-3097**

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 12:41:47 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/13/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Greenpeace Hawaii	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and Richards, and members of the EET and AEN committees,

I am Co-Founder of Greenpeace Hawaii. Our international organization is one of the oldest and largest environmental organizations in the world. We stand in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to SB3097 that establishes the senior advisor on climate position within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, makes the senior advisor on climate a member of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, and appropriates funds.

Our concern is that this position for a \$175,000 a year salary is wasteful, and duplicates existing responsibilities already being carried out by the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development. Looking at the posted org chart for the Office of Planning & Sustainable Development, what they could really use are some staff to help implement the mandates, rather than adding a senior advisor.

This new senior advisor position is also a temporary position, which exists as long as this governor is in office. This limitation does not give this position the time that the person would need to strategically plan for the long term needs of the position.

As world Climate Scientists have warned, and this body has wisely acknowledged, we are already in a Climate Emergency, so we need to do everything we can to effectively deal with this growing crisis. Proper staffing would go a long way to help those who are already working on assisting Hawaii in achieving our sustainability and climate goals, but lack the funds and adequate staffing, to fully implement their mandate.

Please vote in opposition to SB3097.

Dave Mulinix, Co-Founder & Statewide Organizer

Greenpeace Hawaii



To: The Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism (EET)  
and  
The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)  
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 1pm

**In strong opposition to SB3097**

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and Richards, and members of the EET and AEN committees,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong opposition to SB3097** which would establish a ‘senior advisor on climate’ position within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, and who would be a member of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

As described, this new position for a “senior advisor” duplicates roles and functions already carried out by current high-level positions within the Office of Planning & Sustainable Development and the Hawaii State Energy Office. As such, it is a distraction and a poor use of resources from the critical work that is needed.

We are in a Climate Crisis. Creating a position with a \$175,000 per year salary for a political appointee to assume duties that are already being fulfilled by existing positions within the State is not necessary to combat climate change as this measure asserts. Taxpayers don’t need a high-salary “senior advisor” to duplicate the roles and functions of existing high-level positions. If anything, this money would be better spent towards filling positions at the Office of Planning & Sustainable Development for staff designated to help implement what has already been mandated of this Office, something that is critically needed in an effort to help Hawaii address and deal with Climate Breakdown.

According to the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, the era of global warming has ended and “the era of global boiling has arrived.” NOAA and NASA have confirmed, not only was 2023 by far the warmest year on record, but **the last decade was the hottest decade in human history**. This underscores the need to implement transformative and comprehensive climate action without delay to ensure a livable future for generations to come.

Bottom line: This is supposed to be the decade of action to address the Climate Emergency. We don’t have the luxury of time, nor do we have the budget, for unnecessary duplication of efforts. Let’s target our resources effectively. We urge you to oppose this misguided measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

**SB-3097**

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:08:35 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/13/2024 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,

RELATING TO CLIMATE.

Establishes the senior advisor on climate position within the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development. Makes the senior advisor on climate a member of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. Appropriates funds