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& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS, Director**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER & LAND  
AND**

**AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 1:05 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of  
**SB 1267**  
**RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

**LATE**

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards, and Members of the Senate Committees on Water & Land and Agriculture & Environment:

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** SB 1267.

SB 1267 proposes to transfer the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission ("Commission") from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to OPSD for administrative purposes and replaces the manager of the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) from the Commission with a representative of the University of Hawaii.

OPSD respectfully notes its statutory mandates in Chapter 225M, State Planning, directs OPSD to engage in comprehensive planning, coordination and cooperation through the Statewide planning system established in Part II of Ch. 226, Hawaii State Planning Act. OPSD is specifically charged in Ch. 225M with coastal and ocean policy management and sea level rise adaptation coordination and with climate adaptation and sustainability planning and coordination. Chapter 226-109, Hawaii State Planning Act, charges OPSD to address the impacts of climate change through ten different actions, including (8) Foster cross-jurisdictional collaboration between county, state, and federal agencies and partnerships between government and private entities; (9) Use management and implementation approaches that encourage continual collection, evaluation and integration of new information and strategies into new and existing practices.

The State Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, Chapter 225P-3, has achieved a number of major milestones since its establishment in 2014 and update in 2017 while attached for administrative purposes to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. The Commission has developed sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation reports in partnership with the University of Hawaii and the State Coastal Zone Management Program in OPSD. The

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Commission has adopted statements on climate equity, transportation mitigation and adaptation policies, and is currently creating a Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Hawaii's Legislature has been a leader in climate mitigation policies and will continue to provide leadership to state and county agencies as they adapt to the impacts of increasing world temperatures to protect Hawaii's economy, natural environment and communities. OPSD takes its policy direction from the Governor and Legislature and translates that into facilitation and planning among state, county and other partners.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.