

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1414

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 21 , 2025

RE: S.B. No. 657  
S.D. 1  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred  
S.B. No. 657, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR CLIMATE  
RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to  
establish and operate the Center for Climate Resilient Development  
within the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at the  
University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Office of  
Planning and Sustainable Development; University of Hawai'i School  
of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology; City and County of  
Honolulu Office of Climate Change; Ulupono Initiative; Surfrider  
Foundation Hawai'i Region; Climate Protectors Hawai'i; Coalition  
Earth; Hawai'i Climate Change and Health Working Group; and three  
individuals.

Your Committee finds that the State is vulnerable to climate  
change and lacks an office or agency that is responsible for  
developing community resiliency plans. Your Committee further  
finds that the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

2025-2805 SB657 HD1 HSCR HMSO



(SOEST) at the University of Hawaii at Manoa has already been working with communities to identify multiple forms of flooding due to sea level rise, hurricane storm surge, heat projections, and leveraging campus-wide expertise in wildfire ignition modeling. Your Committee notes that the work conducted at SOEST has largely been funded by federal grants. Instability, gridlock, and uncertainty in funding from the federal government puts the important work of SOEST at risk of being lost. This measure appropriates funds for the establishment and operation of a Center for Climate Resilient Development within SOEST and will ensure that SOEST's critical research activities continue.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 657, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Higher Education,



---

ANDREW TAKUYA CARRETT, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Thirty-third Legislature

**HSCR 1414**

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Higher Education**

Bill/Resolution No.: <b>SP1 SB657 HD1</b>	Committee Referral: <b>WAL, HED, FIN</b>	Date: <b>03.19.2025</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HED Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya (C)	✓			
2. AMATO, Terez (VC)	✓			
3. EVSLIN, Luke A.	✓			
4. KAPELA, Jeanne	✓			
5. KILA, Darius K.	✓			
6. LA CHICA, Trish	✓			
7. OLDS, Ikaika	✓			
8. SAYAMA, Jackson D.				✓
9. WOODSON, Justin H.				✓
10. MURAOKA, Christopher L.		✓		
11. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
<b>TOTAL (11)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office    Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				