



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Water and Land  
Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 8.30 a.m.

By

Robert Wright

Director, Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology

Paul Wessel

Professor and Chair, Department of Earth Sciences

Charles (Chip) Fletcher

Professor and Associate Dean

Brian Taylor

Dean

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 102/HR 85 – REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH A STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN HAWAII

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and members of the Committee:

HCR 102/HR 85 requests that the Legislative Reference Bureau, in collaboration with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the University of Hawai'i, develop a plan to establish a state geological survey in Hawai'i.

The School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, enthusiastically supports the plan to establish a geological survey in the State of Hawai'i (the only State in the nation without one) and would be a willing partner in such a planning effort.

As noted in these resolutions, a sustainable future for the state will rely on mapping, and an accounting of the resources we have within our borders, including energy resources, water resources and our coastal resources.

Hawai'i will also face growing challenges related to climate change, including increased exposure to tropical cyclones, coastline erosion and landslides, flooding and drought, sea-level rise and heating of the air and ocean, and other impacts.

SOEST faculty, staff, and students are actively conducting federally-funded research into all of the aforementioned topics (as well as volcanic, earthquake, and tsunami hazards), and will be happy to provide advice and assistance that may be required.