



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

By

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And

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#### HB 952 HD1 – RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i Climate Resilience Collaborative (CRC) and Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) **support House Bill 952 HD1.**

This measure appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to address the impacts of climate change in the State.

Natural resource protection and interagency coordination are critical to the State's success in mitigating and adaptation to climate change. The Department of Land and Natural Resources has the lead in protecting natural and cultural resources in the public trust, which support community vitality and resilience in Hawai'i. Threats to Hawai'i's native forests and watersheds, beaches and wetlands, and coral reef ecosystems are increasing with climate change. It is crucial that the department be adequately funded to meet the present and growing challenges through its divisions and the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

CRC is a multi-investigator research project at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa focused on sea level rise adaptation and climate resilience. CRC is updating coastal models that project the impacts of sea level rise.

Hawai'i Sea Grant's mission is to provide integrated research, extension, and education activities that increase understanding and use of ocean and coastal resources of the

Hawaiian and Pacific Islands and support the informed personal, policy, and management decisions that are integral to realizing this vision. Hawai'i Sea Grant is part of a national network of 34 university-based programs associated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that promote better understanding, conservation, and use of coastal resources.

CRC and Hawai'i Sea Grant would be happy to provide updated sea level rise data and projections to the Committee or any lawmaker upon request.

**CRC and Hawai'i Sea Grant support House Bill 956 HD1.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.