



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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And

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And

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HB 1159 HD1 – RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and the Climate Resilience Collaborative (CRC) **support House Bill 1159 HD1** and recommend this Committee consider similar amendments made to its Senate companion SB 1417.

This measure requires the Hawai'i Community Development Authority to consider the impacts of climate change, sea level rise, and climate resilience development in the design and siting of buildings in the Kaka'ako and Kalaeloa community development districts.

Hawai'i Sea Grant and CRC testified in support of this measure's companion SB 1417 to the Senate joint Committees on Agriculture & Environment and Water & Land on February 10, 2023. Based on our testimony, the Senate Committees adopted our proposed amendment to require the implementation of design standards for new construction that require the lowest finished floor to elevate a minimum of two feet above the flood insurance rate map base flood elevation or 5.8 feet above mean higher high water, whichever is higher, based on the latest guidance from the climate change commission of the City and County of Honolulu. Hawai'i Sea Grant and CRC recommend this Committee also adopt this proposed addition to this measure or, in the alternative, to favor HB 1159's companion SB 1417 when it crosses over to this chamber.

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 (NOAA) that promote better understanding, conservation, and use of coastal resources.

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 working to update coastal models with more recent projections of sea level rise and to take account of other variables that impact Hawai'i's shorelines.

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

Hawai'i Sea Grant and the Climate Resilience Collaborative support House Bill 1159 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.