



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
Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 1:15 p.m.

By

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And

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And

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HB 1925 HD2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PLANNING ACT

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1925 HD2. This measure includes a representative from the University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) on the Hawai'i State Planning Act phase II task force.

As you may know, UHERO's core mission is to enhance public and private sector decision-making through rigorous research focused on the people, environment, and economy of Hawai'i. This mission aligns with the working group's charge to:

- Consider and incorporate into the plan equity concerns, including economic and accessibility impacts to low-income communities.

Although UHERO is grateful to be considered for this task force, we note that UHERO faculty already have many commitments and full research agendas. It is important to point out that UHERO relies on the donations and contracts for roughly one-half of its budget. Without financial support, taking on new unfunded projects places our existing research and projects at risk.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.