

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 10:10 a.m. by Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation University of Hawai'i System

SB 2724 SD1 – RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in support of SB 2724 SD1 which requires the State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to establish a pilot program that will develop a Waikīkī adaptation and resilience plan to address the projected impacts of climate change and sea level rise in the Waikīkī special district.

As a complement to the excellent research, education and policy efforts put forth by both Hawai'i Sea Grant and the Climate Resiliency Initiative (formerly the Coastal Geology Group) in UH Mānoa's heralded School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, the College of Engineering's Coastal Erosion Shoreline Team possess additional research expertise in geotechnics, transportation, infrastructure and shoreline hardening that can provide working, technical solutions to this important pilot program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.