



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 Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Friday, February 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

By

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And

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SB 1350 – RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

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

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and the Climate Resilience Collaborative (CRC) **support Senate Bill 1350** provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents approved executive biennium budget.

This measure establishes the Climate Impact Special Fund, allocates five cents from the Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax to the Climate Impact Special Fund, and appropriates funds to the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to address impacts of climate change and to mitigate further impacts on the State through carbon sequestration and resiliency planning, allocates funds to the sea level rise voluntary relocation fund.

Hawai'i Sea Grant and CRC support the creation of Climate Impact Special Fund administered by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission because the cost of inaction on climate change is simply too high, and would leave Hawai'i's citizens vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, particularly sea level rise. For instance, the preamble to this measure notes that the *2017 Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report* “estimated the lost value of flooded structures and land at over \$19 billion.” Further, that estimate does not account for impacts to public roads, other public infrastructure, or loss of cultural, commercial, or societal resources, which may be an order of magnitude greater. The creation of Climate Impact Special

Fund will provide much-needed leverage to secure additional funds and commitments for climate adaptation in Hawai'i and may also support the development of critical climate adaptation plans and strategies at a time when these plans are being urgently requested by Hawai'i's communities and local government.

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 updating coastal models that project the impacts of sea level rise.

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 SB 1350.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.