



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 and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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And

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And

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SB 1417 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

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

The University of Hawai'i Climate Resilience Collaborative (CRC) and Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) **support SB 1417 SD1 HD1 and respectfully offer one comment.**

This measure would require 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.

CRC and Hawai'i Sea Grant respectfully ask that the Committee reinsert the guidance policy from the SD1 of the measure that stated “Development shall implement 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.” This policy was removed from Section 2 of the measure on page 7 and removed from Section 3 of the measure on pages 10-11. CRC and Hawai'i Sea Grant respectfully ask that the Committee reinsert that policy.

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 SB 1417 SD1 HD1 and appreciate the Committee's consideration of our comment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.