



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 1417 – RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Chair Gabbard, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair 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 1417** and offer one comment on how to improve the specificity of the measure.

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

Hawai'i Sea Grant and CRC support SB1417 as written but note that the measure could give more direction as to what is required under this new guidance policy. Specifically, the measure states in Section 2 and Section 3 that the Kaka'ako Community Development District and the Kalaeloa Community Development District “shall consider the impacts of climate change, sea level rise, and climate resilient development in the design and siting of buildings.” As one example, we recommend that the measure implement design standards for new construction that require 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 Honolulu Climate Change Commission. This would help align SB1417 with local adaptation guidance.

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 1417.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.