



# 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 & Land  
Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environmental  
Tuesday, February 5, 2024 at 1:15 p.m.

By

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And

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And

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#### SB 3300 – RELATING TO COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante and Richards, 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 3300**, which requires county planning commissions, county councils, and designated authorities on coastal zone management to seek to minimize, where reasonable, any risk to development from sea level rise and other coastal hazards.

Hawai'i Sea Grant and CRC support this measure because further development within the sea level rise exposure area will increase the vulnerability of coastal communities to coastal hazards and may ultimately lead to damage and loss of critical infrastructure and natural ecosystems due to increased threats from coastal hazards and climate change..

Hawaii Sea Grant and CRC suggest a minor amendment to clarify this intent applies to critical infrastructure, not just habitable dwellings. SB3300 proposed an amendment to Section 2 Section 205A-26.3(F), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to read (suggested amendments underlined).

"§205A-26 Special management area guidelines. Any risk to development from sea level rise and other coastal hazards, which may be accomplished by siting habitable structures **and critical infrastructure** outside of the sea level rise exposure area or adapting habitable structures and **critical infrastructure** within the sea level rise exposure area to accommodate sea level rise; provided that the sea level rise exposure area shall be designated by the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission or its successor."

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 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.

The research that goes into identifying Hawai'i's exposure to sea level rise is coming out of the University of Hawai'i School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology. To maintain our understanding of sea level threats based on the latest science, these researchers need ongoing financial support from the State. CRC 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 Senate Bill 3300. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.