Chairs Gabbard and Solomon, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Galuteria, and Members of the Senate Committees assembled; the University of Hawai‘i is in favor of HB 1714 HD1, which establishes the Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee under the Department of Land and Natural Resources with the task of creating a sea-level rise vulnerability and adaptation report and tasks the Office of Planning with establishing and implementing strategic climate adaptation plans and policy recommendations based on the report.

Climate change has become a dangerous, socially disruptive reality that threatens the future sustainability of life in the Hawaiian Islands. By developing an interagency climate committee to report on the issue of sea level rise, you will be taking a strong step toward achieving maximum protection of public health and safety as well as protection of natural resources for future generations.

Researchers at the University of Hawai‘i stand ready to assist the committee in their work.