



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land
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HB 591 – RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Chairs Lee and Yamane, Vice Chairs Lowen and Cullen, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports this bill provided that its passage does not adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget. Climate change is a pressing global issue with potential devastating impacts on environment and human health. An island state such as Hawai'i is especially vulnerable to the consequences of climate change such as hurricanes, tsunamis, and the environmental and health impacts of other extreme weather events. A proactive, informed approach to best prepare and respond to this issue is clearly needed. The working group created by this bill will bring both public and private experts on climate change, environmental health, and disaster preparedness together so that our state's planning and strategic approach to the health impacts of climate change will be optimized.