



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on Energy and Environment, and  
Water, Land, and Housing  
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by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Maxine Burkett, Associate Professor, William S. Richardson School of Law and  
Director, Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### **SB 2021 Relating to the Climate Change Task Force**

Chairs Gabbard and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs English and Solomon, and members of the committees:

As a focal point for University of Hawai'i climate expertise, the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy ("ICAP") serves as a two-way conduit between the University and island communities to catalyze climate change adaptation and resiliency. ICAP supports Senate Bill 2021, which would establish a climate change task force, but recommends including a Native Hawaiian representative on the task force and appropriating adequate funds.

First, ICAP supports a climate change task force because collaboration among state and county agencies and key stakeholders would better inform and support further adaptation efforts. For example, in *Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Land Use in Hawai'i: A Policy Tool Kit for State and Local Governments* (2011), ICAP identified twenty-four policy tools that Hawai'i decision-makers could use to prepare for climate change and sea-level rise. Prioritizing and implementing these tools prudently and resourcefully, however, requires further guidance regarding sector- and region-specific impacts and vulnerabilities. The proposed task force would provide this vital information.

Second, a Native Hawaiian representative should serve on the task force to ensure consideration of Native Hawaiian expertise, viewpoints, and interests. Finally, funds exceeding \$50,000 are necessary for the task force to fulfill its crucial objectives. Although the state faces budget limitations, adequate funding ultimately would conserve state and county resources by reducing duplication among various planning efforts.

In sum, ICAP supports Senate Bill 2021, amended to include a task force member representing Native Hawaiians and adequately funded.