



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Energy and Environment
and Water, Land and Housing
Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 2:15 PM

By

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And

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SB 2745 RELATING TO ENVIROMENT

Chairs Gabbard and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs English and Solomon, and Members of the Senate Committees on Energy and Environment and Water, Land and Housing; the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology is in favor of SB 2745, which proposes to amend the Hawai'i State Planning Act, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 226, by adding a climate change adaptation priority guideline to part III of the Act.

Global warming is changing the climate of the Hawaiian Islands. Scientists have documented local increases in air temperature, sea level, ocean acidification and ocean temperature. Rainfall has decreased. Each of these changes will have significant impacts on the natural resources we rely upon and on the natural hazards that threaten our communities. By requiring that climate adaptation be considered in the design and engineering of planning activities, you will be taking a strong first step in protecting the public from the most dangerous aspects of climate change.

This bill will also result in improved collaboration between county, state, and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, the business community and other decision-makers for the purpose of defining steps that would achieve maximum protection of public health and safety as well as protection of natural resources for future generations.