Testimony Presented Before the House Committees on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs and Energy & Environmental Protection Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.

By

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HB 565 – RELATING TO DISCLOSURE OF COASTAL HAZARDS

Chairs Yamane and Lowen, Vice Chairs Todd and Wildberger, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i is in strong favor of this legislation, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

House Bill 565 would require mandatory disclosure in real property transactions to include identification of residential real properties located within the "sea level rise exposure area," based initially on the State of Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report and as officially designated by the Hawai'i climate change mitigation and adaptation commission.

Disclosure of sea level rise and coastal erosion within real estate transactions is critically important to increasing awareness of coastal hazards. It provides new buyers of coastal property with better information on which to make their purchase decisions and makes explicit within the process our existing policies and programs that aim to protect beaches.