



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

By  
Brennon T. Morioka, Dean  
College of Engineering  
And  
Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1146 – RELATING TO THE ALA WAI CANAL

Chairs Kim and Inouye, Vice Chairs Kidani and Elefante, and Members of the Committees:

It is a pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of SB 1146 which is intended to engage the University of Hawai'i to assist the state in the development of an action plan and pre-engineering concepts to help address the debris accumulation and management as well as water quality issues in the Ala Wai Canal and the overall watershed.

The University of Hawai'i, through the College of Engineering, SOEST, and the UH Community Design Center, has been asked by the state to work with the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Department of Transportation (HDOT) to develop solutions for both near-term and long-term management of debris within the watershed that ends up in the canal and Ala Wai Boat Harbor areas following intense rain and weather events as witnessed recently over the last few months. This watershed is a critical component of an important ecosystem and natural resource both in terms of access and recreation for local residents but also an incredible asset for Hawaii's economy.

Through the use of student projects and faculty and industry mentoring, we believe this kind of collaboration between government, academia and industry professionals can serve as a sustainable and productive model for solution-oriented initiatives that can be utilized for a variety of problems facing our state.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our testimony in support and respectfully ask for your favorable consideration, provided its adoption does not impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.