



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 8:40 AM
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HB 1714 – RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Thielen, and Members of the House Committee assembled:

The University of Hawai'i is in favor of HB 1714, which establishes an interagency climate council with the task of implementing a general state policy to address climate change through 2050.

Climate change has become a dangerous, socially disruptive reality that threatens the future sustainability of life in the Hawaiian Islands. By developing an interagency climate council to implement a general state policy to address climate change, you will be taking a strong step toward achieving maximum protection of public health and safety as well as protection of natural resources for future generations.

I suggest that the effort place an initial focus on sea level rise as the most urgent impact for us to address while building a framework of research, planning and coordination to address other impacts. The focus on SLR also fulfills the intent of HB1512, which needs to be coordinated with this legislation.