



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Director
OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, February 22, 2019
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of
HB 1483, HD 1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance

The Office of Planning (OP) appreciates the intent of HB 1483, HD 1 and offers the following comments:

- OP strongly supports removing the requirement that the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force (GHGSTF) members are subject to HRS § 26-34 to efficiently seat members to fulfill statutory mandates.
- HB 1483, HD 1 removes the prior appropriation in HB 1483 and does not provide any operational funds by which the GHGSTF may operate. Members would have to provide their own funding to attend Task Force meetings, as there would be no funds to reimburse them “for reasonable expenses necessary for the performance of their duties, including travel expenses”. Additionally, there are no operational funds for the GHGSTF to fulfill its statutory mandates, such as studying sequestration potential in our natural and working lands, supporting best management practices, reviewing draw down pathways, and studying avenues to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. Thus, OP requests operational funds in the amount of \$300,000.
- The GHGSTF is presently supported by an OP staff position whose GHGSTF duties are in addition to the staffer’s full-time position obligations. The GHGSTF was made permanent by Act 15, SLH 2018, and the interest in its activities has proven to require a dedicated position to adequately fulfill its growing mandates. Therefore, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget, OP requests that a portion of the requested appropriation above (\$300,000) be directed to support a permanent (1.0 FTE) planner position that would serve as staff to the GHGSTF.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Friday, February 22, 2019
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1483, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

House Bill 1483, House Draft 1 proposes to amend the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force (GHGSTF) nomination process. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department supports removing the requirement that GHGSTF members are subject to Section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to efficiently seat members to fulfill statutory mandates.

The Department emphasizes the critical importance of expanding our green infrastructure as a means to: 1) reverse the trend of Honolulu's urban tree canopy loss, documented at 5% loss from 2010 to 2014, a trend which continues; 2) reduce storm water run-off and flooding; 3) reduce the urban heat island effect; 4) promote human health; and 5) sequester greenhouse gases. Therefore, the Department supports the original intent of this measure regarding establishment of a Green Urban Core Pilot Project per the measure's original version.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 10:59:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



To: The House Committee on Finance
From: Brodie Lockard, Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action
Date: Friday, February 22, 2019, 11:00 am

In strong support of HB 1483 HD1

Dear FIN Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members—

Organizing for Action strongly supports HB 1483 HD1, ***with its original language restored.***

The preamble to HB 1483's original version spells out clearly why a green urban core pilot project is so vital. Climate chaos is the defining issue of our time, threatening everything that lives on Earth in myriad ways, and we have 11 years to take the most drastic actions possible to save ourselves.

The preamble states climate change's threats clearly:

- * Hawaii has experienced over half a foot of sea level rise in recent decades, and the rate of sea level rise is quickly accelerating.
- * Honolulu could experience regular flooding of the urban core at high tide in as little as fifteen years.
- * Hawaii has experienced a rapid rise in air temperatures averaging a 0.3 degree increase per decade, with stronger warming at higher elevations. The rising sea level and changes in temperature will have a catastrophic effect on Hawaii.
- * The increases in temperatures are causing warming seas which has led to more hurricanes of increasing intensity. A hurricane direct hit on Honolulu is estimated to cause a loss of \$40 billion to Hawaii's infrastructure and economy.
- * Greater storm surges due to sea level rise could result in the loss of coastal property and infrastructure, increased cost for disaster damage and insurance, and loss of life. If nothing is done, the adverse effects of climate change will add a significant burden to local taxpayers, our economy, and way of life.
- * Accordingly, the purpose of this part is to help combat climate change by increasing vegetation and trees in the urban core which will decrease temperatures, sequester carbon emissions, and improve quality of life in Honolulu.

How can fighting climate change in every way possible not be our number one priority? Are we suicidal? HD1 has eviscerated this bill and made it useless for fighting climate change.

We urge you in the strongest terms to restore HB 1483's original language and pass it to combat climate catastrophe.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard
Hawaii State Climate Lead, Organizing for Action

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 11:07:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Philip Fernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1483-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 6:40:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB1483. Valuable coastline is eroding due to sea level rise and coral reefs are dying due to climate change, which is already occurring. We need to be a leader in legislation to mitigate global warming.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei