



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY  
DIRECTOR

## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT,  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

**AND**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

Friday, February 8, 2019

3:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of

**SB1529**

**RELATING TO THE HAWAII ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE.**

Chairs Gabbard, Kahele and Wakai, Vice Chairs Ruderman, Keith-Agaran and Taniguchi, and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **comments** on SB1529, which transfers the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Commission from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to DBEDT and establishes the Hawaii Energy and Climate Change Office with a deputy director position.

DBEDT agrees with the Department of Land and Natural Resource's comments that the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and its Coordinator should stay within DLNR.

DBEDT notes that creating another office takes careful planning and consideration of not only the employees but also needs to take into account budgetary issues. There are several bills that have been introduced to consolidate the Energy Office with different programs. DBEDT believes it would be premature to take a position on this bill at this time as we have not had the opportunity to discuss and plan for with the other agencies as well as any other stakeholders that would be affected by this consolidation. We are open to discussion and dialogue with the Chairs of the committees to hear your concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**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

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
and  
WATER AND LAND  
and  
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

**Friday, February 8, 2019  
3:00pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 1529  
RELATING TO HAWAII ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE**

Senate Bill 1529 proposes to establish the Hawaii Energy and Climate Change Office, transfers the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, establishes the Deputy Director of Energy and Climate Change Commission, ends funding for the Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative from the Energy Security Special Fund, and appropriates funds from the general fund for the Hawaii Energy and Climate Change Office. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) acknowledges the importance of this measure and offers the following comments.**

This measure's far sightedness in creating a Hawaii Energy and Climate Office and Deputy Director of Energy and Climate Change would bring a much needed focus for energy issues in Hawaii, and fill a sorely needed role of putting renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions reductions front and center of the strategy to achieve Hawaii's goals of 100 percent renewable energy.

However, we are concerned that the measure as currently written could jeopardize the momentum of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Climate Commission) in the critically important area of climate change adaptation. There is no question that climate change and energy are inextricably linked, but for Hawaii, they do not provide the full picture. For instance, even if Hawaii achieves carbon neutrality today, tomorrow, or in 30 years, global carbon emissions from developing countries will steadily increase over this time

resulting in additional global warming. Thus, despite our trailblazing accomplishments, Hawaii will not escape the severe effects of climate change in the form of rising sea level, water scarcity, increased storminess, and warmer temperatures. Sea level rise will reshape our shorelines at an increasing rate of change throughout this century and beyond. It is therefore critical that Hawaii brace for these effects by implementing aggressive climate change adaptation measures, such as those being implemented by the Department of Land and Natural Resources under the leadership of the Climate Commission.

In the brief 18 months of its existence, the Climate Commission and the Climate Coordinator have had a strong impact on state and county policies, and established a new standard for state level action on climate change mitigation and adaptation. In the first 18 months, the Climate Commission and the Climate Coordinator have accomplished a great deal of work:

- **Adopted a cutting edge Sea Level Rise Adaptation and Mitigation Report** in accordance with Act 32, SLH, 2017. This first statewide assessment of Hawaii's vulnerability to sea level rise uses the latest science to characterize the threat and risks to our coastal areas from sea level rise. Adopted a series of recommendations for adaptation to Sea Level Rise. The Climate Commission passed five recommendations aimed at State and counties that tackle keystone issues surrounding sea level rise, such as real estate disclosure of sea level rise hazards, direct all new development away from beach areas, urge counties to incorporate 3.2 feet sea level rise exposure into their general and community plans, encourage agencies and non-governmental utility providers to identify and prioritize assets with the 3.2 ft. projections, identify adaptation measures and report back to the Climate Commission annually on progress, and support legislation that funds state programs to meet the goals, and to bring resources to assist in planning and implementation for sea level rise and other related impacts. The Climate Commission put a high priority on supporting legislation that funds State programs to meet mitigation goals, and that brings resources to assist in planning and implementation for sea level rise and other climate related impacts. The 2019 legislative session will be a critical turning point for resourcing efforts to implement more specific sea level rise adaptation measures by implementing adaptation actions at the agency level.
- **Identified priority areas to help reduce emissions from ground transportation.** These include a strong statement on carbon pricing, along with addressing system efficiencies through transportation and parking studies, electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure deployment through government carshare and other programs, and a PSA campaign to engage residents and visitors in the transition to clean transportation.
- **Finalized a mission statement to bind together the above priorities.** The Commission aims "[t]o promote ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean, equitable and resilient."
- **Developed a climate "brand" for Hawaii** through a new website and social media presence to inform local and global audiences of Hawaii's climate response. The web portal launched in June helps to tie together all State efforts on Climate Change—adaptation, greenhouse gas sequestration, the greenhouse gas inventory, Hawaii Clean Energy Initiative, Sustainability initiatives, and the State Energy Office sites. The social media accounts attempt to provide insights into the Commission's ongoing work.

- **Projected a national presence for climate response.** Hawaii works with the 20-Governor US Climate Alliance (USCA) that was formed as a response to the Federal Administration's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. Hawaii is involved in various working groups, including for resilience, transportation, natural and working lands, and so on. The Climate Coordinator co-chairs, along with staff from Minnesota and Washington, the transportation working group and brings lessons from other states to Hawaii.
- **Hosted a dynamic statewide First Annual Climate Conference** bringing subject matter experts together from the mainland U.S. and from Hawaii, to engage with researchers, the interested public, industry and government in an effort to help resolve the most difficult issues facing the state and set the tone for the work of the Commission in 2019.

Thus, on the adaptation side, the Department has been the main conduit for climate change response and will continue to be—as these conditions intensify. For this reason, the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission and its Coordinator should stay within the Department.

If a new Hawaii Energy and Climate Office is created, the Department's Climate Coordinator will work directly with the Deputy Director of Energy and Climate Change on all energy and climate change mitigation initiatives. The Department would continue to work on climate change adaptation initiatives, such as sea level rise implementation. The Deputy Director of Energy and Climate Change could also serve as a Co-Chair on the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, along with the Chairperson of the Department. This would make for an efficient and effective approach to combat climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment of this measure.

**SB-1529**

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 7:10:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Winslow	Testifying for Hawaii Farmers Union	Support	No

Comments:



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

## MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

February 8, 2019 3:00 PM Room 414

**COMMENTS on SB 1529:** Relating to the Hawaii Energy and Climate Change Office

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Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Kahele, Chair Wakai, and members of the committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **provides comments on SB 1529**, which establishes the Hawaii energy and climate change office, transfers the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission from the department of land and natural resources to the department of business, economic development, and tourism, establishes the deputy director of energy and climate change commission, ends funding for the Hawaii clean energy initiative from the energy security special fund, and appropriates funds from the general fund for the Hawaii energy and climate change office.

While we certainly support our state agencies to prioritize clean energy and climate change issues, we have reservations to establishing a Hawaii Energy and Climate Change Office within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT). A recent audit of DBEDT's Hawai'i State Energy Office found that our current Energy Office's "*specific contributions to advancing clean energy initiatives are unclear...and that the Energy Office needs to better define its mission, role, and priorities within the State's energy independence effort.*"<sup>1</sup> Adding additional responsibilities to DBEDT in light of this audit may not have the intended effect to help us meet our clean energy targets, accelerate our transition away from fossil fuels, and better facilitate actions to adapt and mitigate climate change impacts.

The Sierra Club is supporting a similar bill, HB 1586, which would create a new "Department of Environment" for the state of Hawai'i. A core focus of this new Department would be to establish an Office of Climate Change and Sustainability and move the Energy Office from DBEDT to this new department. Climate change and clean energy are huge issues to tackle. We believe that it would be more beneficial to combine the existing state agencies dealing with environmental issues into a new agency, rather than place an additional office within DBEDT.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2018/18-01.pdf>

We appreciate the legislature's proven leadership on clean energy and climate change. Mahalo for the opportunity to offer comments on SB 1529.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodi Malinoski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jodi Malinoski, Policy Advocate

**SB-1529**

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 10:28:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-1529**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:56:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2019 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian Santiago	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stop wasting money on "climate change".