

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2430
RELATING TO HEALTH INSURANCE.

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: February 11, 2020

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** 1.0 FTE and \$165,000 general fund appropriation for salary and operating
2 expenses.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports SB2430 to fill a
4 gap in Hawaii's climate change response plan. Although there is robust activity related to
5 infrastructure resilience, the department is not aware of advanced conversations and planning
6 around human health mitigation, much less adaptation.

7 DOH has very experienced civil and environmental engineers and highly trained clinical and
8 population health management professionals, including public health preparedness, however, the
9 department has identified no resources that possess domain knowledge in both. A scan of other
10 state resources, such as at the Office of Planning, University of Hawaii School of Public Health,
11 and the John A. Burns School of Medicine revealed only three individuals with a professional
12 interest in human health adaptation related to climate change, but none with programmatic
13 responsibility for thought leadership on the topic.

14 A missing element, for example, that is key is surveillance: developing strategic climate
15 monitoring, surveillance, and response systems to prevent and respond to climate-related impacts
16 may include creating decision support systems that enable agencies to predict, anticipate, and
17 model events and early warning systems that enable rapid response. The capacity to

1 systematically collect, manage, analyze, and interpret climate and extreme weather data and the
2 impact on human health is critical to making informed climate policy and developing effective
3 responses to climate and weather events

4 The purpose of SB2430, therefore, is to establish a permanent Climate Change and Human
5 Health Adaptation Coordinator to assure health care and public health strategies are synthesized
6 with environmental- and energy-related mitigation and adaptation activities. This position's
7 scope of responsibility is to define and plan for anticipated health effects related to weather and
8 climate include death and illness from heat waves; injuries and mental health impacts from
9 catastrophic events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods; increased air pollution with
10 concurrent rises in respiratory and cardiovascular diseases; detrimental impacts on water quality
11 and quantity; and an increased incidence of vector-borne, foodborne, and waterborne diseases.
12 Recent climate and weather-related challenges, from extreme weather events to changing
13 patterns of communicable disease, have already demonstrated the critical need to improve public
14 health capacity and capability to identify, prevent, and respond to these threats. Although
15 deployed to the Department of Health because of the need for subject-matter supervision on both
16 health care and environmental issues, the Climate Change and Human Health Adaptation
17 Coordinator will coordinate closely with the state's Sustainability Coordinator and related
18 resources.

19 Operational expenses include neighbor island travel to meet with stakeholders, consultants for
20 planning or human health adaptation research, and office supplies.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

22

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

SENATE BILL NO. 2430
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

Chairpersons Baker and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2430 that establishes and appropriates funds for a climate change and human health adaptation coordinator within the Department of Health.

As the climate warms, animal and insect vectors for disease will extend their range their current habitats, increasing the risk for illness in humans. *Aedes* mosquito species capable of transmitting dengue fever and zika virus are already present in the State. As a member of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Commission created by Act 32 SLH 2017, the Department of Agriculture supports a dedicated position within the Department of Health to address the impacts of climate change on human health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
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February 11, 2020

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ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer *llw*

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
and Members
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,
and Health
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
State Senate
State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Baker, Chair Gabbard and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 2430: Relating to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports Senate Bill (SB) 2430. This bill establishes and appropriates funds for a climate change and human health adaption coordinator within the Department of Health.

As the State and county agencies move forward to implement recommendations of the Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report (Report), there needs to be a coordinated effort between both the State and counties.

The BWS recognizes that climate change and sea level rise will impact the sustainability of Oahu's water resources and coastal water infrastructure. As such, vulnerability assessments and adaptation measures needed to be prioritized and implemented. BWS recently completed its vulnerability assessment entitled Impacts of Climate Change on Honolulu Water Supplies & Planning Strategies for Mitigation (2019) and have incorporated the findings into our long-range CIP. Water quality vulnerabilities were also assessed to understand how sea level rise could impact our groundwater aquifers and public health.

Saltwater intrusion is the main water quality concern identified through this project. Continued monitoring of water quality is recommended. Development of additional triggers and actions for individual wells in response to rising trends in chloride

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
and Members

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members

February 11, 2020

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concentrations should be developed in consultation with the BWS, Department of Health (DOH) and the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) on water adaptation actions.

Other concerns include the number of cesspools potentially harming public health and the environment. The DOH provided BWS with data identifying the number of cesspools on Oahu, which potentially impacts water quality. There is a need to incorporate recommended climate change mitigation policies and adaptive measures to protect against future water quality impacts and degradation of existing sources of groundwater supplies.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of SB 2430.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Y. W. Lau', is positioned above the printed name.

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
Anukriti Hittle
Coordinator, Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission

Before the SENATE COMMITTEES ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TUESDAY, February 11, 2020
8:30AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In support of
SENATE BILL 2430
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

Senate Bill 2430 proposes to establish and appropriate funds for a climate change and human health adaptation coordinator within the department of Health. **On behalf of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) I offer the following comments in support of this measure, provided it does not adversely affect the Department of Health's Executive Supplemental Budget.**

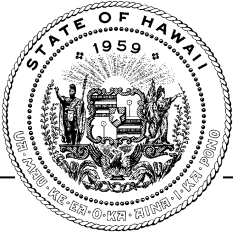
The Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission “recognizes the urgency of climate threats and the need to act quickly. It promotes ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsible strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean, equitable and resilient.” It is a high-level multi-jurisdictional body that guides the priorities of the state's climate response. Co-chaired by DLNR and Office of Planning, it consists of 20 members—chairs of four legislative committees, and executive department heads at the county and state levels.

This measure acts on the Commission's mandates as established by Act 32 SLH 2017 to uphold the United States' pledges under the Paris Agreement, and is a crucial component of Hawaii's adaptation to the impacts of climate change. Since the Commission is the coordinating body for policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation for the state, I suggest the measure make direct reference to the Commission and its staff, in order to more effectively coordinate and align State priorities and actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of this measure.

Co-Chairs:
Chair, DLNR
Director, Office of Planning

Commissioners:
Chair, Senate AEN
Chair, Senate WTL
Chair, House EEP
Chair, House WTH
Chairperson, HTA
Chairperson, DOA
CEO, OHA
Chairperson, DHHL
Director, DBEDT
Director, DOT
Director, DOH
Chairperson, DOE
Director, C+C DPP
Director, Maui DP
Director, Hawai'i DP
Director, Kaua'i DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM



**OFFICE OF PLANNING
STATE OF HAWAII**

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND
HEALTH AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of
SB 2430
RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION.

Chairs Baker and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Chang and Ruderman, and Members of the Senate Committees:

The Office of Planning **supports** SB 2430 to establish and appropriate funds for a climate change and human health adaptation coordinator within the Department of Health.

The Office of Planning has been actively working on sustainable development and climate adaptation to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In 2018, the United Nations' World Health Organization (WHO) published a Special Report on Health and Climate Change, which was delivered to the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).¹ The Special Report recommended that the health sector be more actively involved in climate adaptation planning noting that local-level governments are increasingly promoting health and climate goals through policies for cleaner transportation, energy, waste management, and urban planning. Climate change adds further pressure on public health, which is strongly influenced by effects on other sectors such as food, water, and sanitation. The WHO recommends that a multisectoral response is required to build on existing strengths and encourage the health care and public health communities to work with water and sanitation, food systems, and energy provision sectors to integrate and build climate adaptation and resilience.

¹ World Health Organization. 2018. COP24 Special Report: Health & Climate Change. Available online: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/276405/9789241514972-eng.pdf?ua=1>

The Office of Planning notes that the Hawai‘i State Legislature recently established the State’s Sustainability Coordinator position within the Office of Planning, pursuant to the Supplemental Appropriation Act of 2016. The Office of Planning thanks the Hawai‘i State Legislature for passing Act 146, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2019, now codified within the Hawai‘i State Planning Act as §226-65 to revise and update Hawai‘i’s 2050 Sustainability Plan to “serve as the State’s climate and sustainability action plan.” The State’s Sustainability Coordinator looks forward to working in collaboration with the proposed Climate Change and Human Health Adaptation Coordinator and the Department of Health to assist with the planning to adapt to climate change-related human health adaptation issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2430

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:41:00 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/11/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

You are wasting Tax payers Money on this Bull. Witch has already been proven to be False!!

SB-2430

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:53:29 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/11/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2430

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 11:17:22 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/11/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs Baker and Gabbard, Vice Chairs, and Esteemed Members of the Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Health and Agriculture and the Environment,

I write in strong support of Senate Bill 2430.

Allow me briefly to provide some experiential thoughts from my own background.

The climate change and human health adaptation coordinator position within the Department of Health would need to be differentiated among existing climate change specialists and generalists: including a coordinator at the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the State Sustainability Coordinator and the Director of the Hawai'i State Energy Office.

The Department of Health is bifurcated on environment, with an attached Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) at the Director's level. Meanwhile, the Deputy Director for Environmental Health oversees a bureaucracy including various Offices, and Divisions relating to the environment. This formerly included the Environmental Planning Office, which did support the department's climate-related work, including legislative tracking and geospatial analysis. I write as the former Environmental Geographic Information Systems (known as EGIS) coordinator. While the EGIS position still exists in the budget as an Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) IV, that Office does not, owing to abolishment by the State several years ago. The managerial and clerical positions there were funded through U.S. EPA grants that have been cut by the current Presidential Administration.

This position in SB2430 is listed as a Program Specialist VI, which seems practical. My personal suggestion is that the position may best serve as a revitalization as the purpose and intent of the former Environmental Planning Office, which was managed by a Planner VI. The EGIS coordinator could be brought back under that position's supervision and fulfil the coordinating services that this measure intends to provide, or else work closely with the coordinator.

I do not believe that OEQC would be the right place for this position because the OEQC is meant to analyze specific developments triggering review under the Hawaii

Environmental Police Act. The Environmental Health Administration bureaucracy, instead, is much broader in scope. It implements various federal laws on human safety and the environment, such as air, water and pollution monitoring and remediation. To house this climate change coordinator position with the EHA makes more sense owing to its stated purpose. Climate change is not merely conceptual but, as the words mitigation and adaptation suggest, has very tangible impacts on infrastructure and the human environment.

While I have provided a personal insight into this bill, I support the current Department's mission and hope that any of my thoughts are taken kindly, and used constructively, to advance the intention of the bill. Again, I support SB2430, and thank Senator Baker for introducing this thoughtful and timely measure.

Thank you,
Dylan P. Armstrong

SB-2430

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 7:28:58 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/11/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Withington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Vote Yes. Climate Change is real. And will be a big challenge starting now. We need coordination of the State's efforts to deal with climate change and this is a start. The problems reaches far beyond DOH, but that is a place to start with a professional coordinator.

Please vote yes.

Toni Withington, Hawi, North Kohala

SB-2430

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 12:51:37 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/11/2020 8:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharlene Chun Lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments: