

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 20, 2015

RE: H.B. No. 591

H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and
Water & Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 591 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish a Climate Change
and Health Working Group to examine various potential health
impacts of climate change and to assist Hawaii's health
professions in effectively and efficiently preparing for and
responding to those health impacts.

The measure also requires the Interagency Climate Adaptation
Committee to include the Climate Change and Health Working Group's
findings and recommendations in the Interagency Climate Adaptation
Committee's sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation reports.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Health, the Office of Environmental Quality
Control, the Hawaii Public Health Institute, the Hawaii Public
Health Association, and one individual. The University of Hawaii
and the Office of Planning provided comments on the measure.

Your Committees find that there is overwhelming evidence that
human activities are altering the earth's climate and that climate
change will have significant local and global health impacts.
Your Committees further find that Hawaii is particularly
vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to its unique



geographic location and isolation. Your Committees believe that this measure will improve the State's ability to prepare for and respond to various potential health impacts of climate change.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:


- (1) Deleting provisions relating to the Climate Change and Health Working Group and instead requiring the Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee to prepare public health vulnerability and adaptation reports that include substantially similar provisions;
- (2) Requiring the Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee to assist with coordinating the implementation of climate change policies developed by county, state, and federal agencies;
- (3) Reorganizing the provisions of section 225P-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to the general functions, duties, and powers of the Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee; and
- (4) Making conforming amendments to the final paragraph of the measure's purpose section to reflect the substantive provisions of the measure, as amended.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 591, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 591, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Health.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Energy &
Environmental Protection and
Water & Land,



RYAN I. YAMANE, Chair



CHRIS LEE, Chair



