



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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LEO R. ASUNCION
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Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, April 5, 2018
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
HB 2106, HD3
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent of HB 2106, HD3 which calls for the Environmental Council to adopt and maintain rules pursuant to Chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), for all environmental assessments (EA) and environmental impact statements (EIS) prepared pursuant to HRS Chapter 343, to include consideration of sea level rise based on the best available scientific data regarding sea level rise.

Hazards resulting from the effects climate change can pose a threat to the natural and built environment of the State and is an issue of great concern. OP agrees that it is in the best interest of the State that EA and EIS documents consider the impacts of sea level rise on their proposed actions.

OP defers to the Office of Environmental Quality Control for comment on these matters as the Environmental Council is in currently in the process of drafting recommendations for rule changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 11-200.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



ORGANIZING *for* ACTION

To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Brodie Lockard, OFA Hawaii, 262-1285
Date: Thursday, April 5, 2018

In strong support of HB 2106 HD3

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee members,

I am the Hawaii Climate Lead for Organizing for Action, a progressive group that played a lead in electing President Barack Obama twice. OFA Hawaii strongly supports HB 2106 HD3.

Consideration of sea level rise in every environmental assessment and environmental impact statement will keep awareness of climate change in the front of state and county officials' minds.

Sea level rise is a crucial factor to consider when approving the use of state or county lands or funds in conservation districts, shoreline areas, historic sites, and Waikiki.

Factoring sea level rise into these decisions will save time, money and effort in the long run, as climate change continues to exacerbate environmental disruption in our communities.

Please support HB 2106 HD3.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard
Hawaii Climate Lead, Organizing for Action



To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Thursday, April 5, 2018

In strong support of HB 2106 HD3

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee members,

I am the Vice President of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org strongly supports HB 2106 HD3.

Consideration of sea level rise in every environmental assessment and environmental impact statement will keep awareness of climate change in the front of state and county officials' minds.

Sea level rise is a crucial factor to consider when approving the use of state or county lands or funds in conservation districts, shoreline areas, historic sites, and Waikiki.

Factoring sea level rise into these decisions will save time, money and effort in the long run, as climate change continues to exacerbate environmental disruption in our communities.

Please support HB 2106 HD3.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sherry Pollack
Vice President, 350Hawaii.org

HB-2106-HD-3

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 8:10:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2106 HD3** relating to Environment; Environmental Assessments; Environmental Impact Statements; Sea Level Rise; and Environmental Council.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB2106 HD3** and supports its passage.

HB2106 HD3, is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), as it requires the Environmental Council to adopt and maintain rules requiring all environmental assessments and environmental impact statements prepared pursuant to chapter 343, HRS, to include consideration of sea level rise based on the best available scientific data regarding sea level rise.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "[t]he Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

We believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally friendly modes of transportation, recycling and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation and restoration of Hawaii's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources.

We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in management of coastal resources.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions.. (Platform of DPH, P. 8, Lines 407-438 (2016)).

Given that **HB2106 HD3** requires the Environmental Council to adopt and maintain rules requiring all environmental assessments and environmental impact statements prepared pursuant to chapter 343, HRS, to include consideration of sea level rise based on the best available scientific data regarding sea level rise, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel: (808) 258-8889

HB-2106-HD-3

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 12:41:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Siracusa	Testifying for Malama O Puna	Support	No

Comments:

Malama O Puna is a 501(c)(3) environmental nonprofit, with a membership base, that has been active on the Big Island, in one form or another, since 1990. We are in support of this bill.

HB-2106-HD-3

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 4:45:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee,

I am writing in SUPPORT of this bill. Our current EIS process neglects one of the biggest threats - sea level rise. This will help to make sure this extra factor is present in the analysis conducted on large projects so that there will be no conflict in 50 years.

Dr. Kim Falinski