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STATE OF HAWAII**

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LEO R. ASUNCION
ACTING DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Acting Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Friday, March 20, 2015
8:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

in consideration of
HCR 108

**REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH
WORKING GROUP TO ASSESS THE SCOPE AND RISKS OF CLIMATE CHANGE
ON THE HEALTH OF HAWAII'S RESIDENTS AND TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC
PLAN TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS TO HEALTH STATEWIDE.**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Members of the House Committee on Health.

HCR 108 (and companion HR 61) requests the Director of Health to convene a Climate Change and Health Working Group to assess the scope and risk of climate change on the health of Hawaii's residents in order to develop a strategic plan to address climate change risks to health statewide.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent of HCR 108 (and companion HR 61), as strategic plan developed by the Climate Change and Health Working Group could be incorporated into OP's work on strategic climate adaptation plans and actionable policy recommendations pursuant to HRS § 225M-2(b)(9). Notwithstanding the above, we respectfully defer to the position of the Department of Health as the lead agency requested to carry out the provisions of this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



To: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair, Committee on Health
The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair, Committee on Health
Members, House Committee on Health

From: Jessica Yamauchi, Executive Director

Date: March 19, 2015

Hrg: House Committee on Health; Friday, March 20, 2015 at 8:45 a.m. in Rm 329

Re: **Support the intent for HCR 108/HR 61, Relating to Climate Change**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support of House Concurrent Resolution 108 and House Resolution 61**, requesting the convening of a climate change and health working group to assess the scope and risks of climate change on the health of Hawaii's residents and to develop a strategic plan to address climate change risks to health statewide.

The Hawaii Public Health Institute (HIPHI) supports and promotes policy efforts to create a health Hawaii. HIPHI weaves silos into working relationships as an effective network, ensuring that we come together across sectors to advance collaboration and innovation in public health and work towards making Hawaii the healthiest place on earth.

Hawaii is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including contamination or decrease in the water, food, and energy supply. Various potential health impacts of climate change include respiratory allergies, airway diseases, food-borne diseases, biotoxin exposure, heat-related illnesses, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, vector-borne diseases, and waterborne diseases. This working group will be able to develop, integrate, and maintain state and regional disease surveillance and monitoring systems to respond to various potential health impacts of climate changes as mentioned above. Members of the working group will also create evidence-based tools to predict and monitor the public health impacts of climate change in the State, and identify and prioritize communities and populations that may be vulnerable.

For these reasons HIPHI respectfully asks that you pas HCR 108/HR 61.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Yamauchi'.

Jessica Yamauchi, MA
Executive Director



March 20, 2015

TESTIMONY: oral & written

To: Chairperson Au Bellati, Vice-Chair Creagan and Members of the House Health Committee
From: The Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA)
Subject: HRC 108/HR 61: REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH WORKING GROUP TO ASSESS THE SCOPE AND RISKS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE HEALTH OF HAWAII'S RESIDENTS AND TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS TO HEALTH STATEWIDE.

Aloha Chair Belatti, Representative Creagan and Members of the House Health Committee:

My name is Nancy Partika, and I am President of the Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA). HPHA is pleased to be testifying today in strong support on a public health issue that is unparalleled in nature: that of climate change and its impacts on health. The Hawaii Public Health Association (HPHA) represents a membership of over 600 practitioners, professionals, and students in the field of public health statewide. HPHA's mission is to promote public health in Hawai'i through leadership, collaboration, education and advocacy, with health equity in Hawai'i and the Pacific and a strong public health workforce able to effectively respond to health challenges. HPHA is very concerned about the current and projected impacts of climate change on Hawaii's people and their health.

HPHA strongly supports HCR108/HR61, primarily because more work is needed to address the growing threat of climate change on health. The specific threats may vary by geographic location, but the consensus is that climate change influences human health and disease in numerous ways. Some existing health threats will intensify and new health threats will emerge. Important considerations include age, economic resources, and location. The health effects of these threats include: increased respiratory and cardiovascular disease, injuries and premature deaths related to extreme weather events, changes in the prevalence and geographical distribution of food- and water-borne illnesses and other infectious diseases, and mental health and displacement impacts on vulnerable populations most likely to be directly affected by climate change impacts on our environment. Hawaii also faces the potential migration of environmental refugees from elsewhere who flee from other environmentally-hostile locations to a safer but an increasingly stressed one, resources-wise.

Unlike HB591, HD1, HPHA sees this resolution as an opportunity for the Department of Health to appoint working group members such as HPHA that have the interest and capacity/background in health needed to adequately address climate change and health factors. There are a number of qualified Hawaii individuals and organizations that could be invited to participate in a climate change and health workgroup process- HPHA is happy to help provide suggestions as requested.

We recognize that this is an unfunded mandate, and that the scope of the activities proposed in this resolution is formidable. We suggest that it be accomplished in stages and with broad community/inter-agency support. HPHA also advocates for Hawaii applying for the next upcoming CDC's Building Resilience against Climate Effects (BRACE) Framework Initiative. It will assist Hawaii, as it is doing with 16 states and cities currently to develop and implement models to predict health impacts, to monitor health effects, and to identify the area's most vulnerable to these effects (<http://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/>).

In closing, we welcome the discussion today so that we can begin to chart our future actions to address the public health implications of climate change and health. We look forward to working with the Department of Health and all other agencies and organizations concerned to address the impacts of climate change on Hawaii's health. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

March 19, 2015

To: Chairperson Au Bellati, Vice Chair Creagan and Members of the House Health Committee

From: Holly Kessler

Subject: HRC 108/HR 61

Dear Chair Au Bellati, Vice Chair Creagan and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HCR108/HR61 as there is much work needed to address the growing threat of climate change on health.

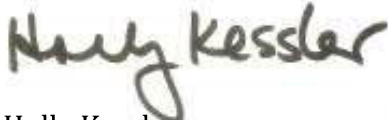
While specific threats vary by geographic location, there is strong documented evidence that climate change influences human health and disease in numerous ways.

Some of these threats may not even be known at this time, while other known health threats will intensify.

We need to be mindful of future populations and our footprint on the land. Hawaii is in a unique situation as our isolation may intensify health effects of potential climate change effects such as: increased respiratory and cardiovascular disease, injuries and premature deaths related to extreme weather events, changes in the prevalence and geographical distribution of food- and water-borne illnesses and other infectious diseases.

These discussions must be started, and the formulation of a working group to address these issues is needed at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Kessler". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Holly Kessler

creagan1 - Dannah

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2015 7:43 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: davidsher@juno.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR108 on Mar 20, 2015 08:45AM*

HCR108

Submitted on: 3/20/2015

Testimony for HLT on Mar 20, 2015 08:45AM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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