



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824  
Web:  
<http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
Thursday, February 25, 2021  
11:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 308, Videoconference

in consideration of  
**HB 243, HD1**  
**RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance.

The Office of Planning (OP) serves as the lead agency of the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, which was approved by the federal government in 1978, as defined in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 205A.

The OP recognizes the importance for integrating sea level rise into facility and land use planning and **supports the intent of HB243, HD1** which requires each executive branch department to identify existing and planned facilities that may at risk from sea level rise, flooding, and natural hazards; assess its risks and seek to mitigate impacts from sea level rise; and assign staff to work with the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission staff, and offers the following **comments**:

- Pursuant to Act 45, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, the legislature amended OP responsibilities by adding sea level adaptation coordination to its mandate. In order to serve more effectively in this task, we respectfully offer the following amendments for consideration:

Page 5, Lines 9-13, “(b) Each department shall establish staff level points of contact with relevant expertise to build internal capacity and work with Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission staff, and the Office of Planning to improve interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation, flooding, and resilience.

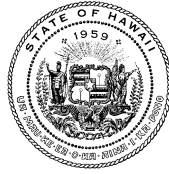
Page 5, Lines 14-21, “(c) Each department shall submit a report to the governor, legislature, Office of Planning, and Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission.

- Within OP, the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, which primarily receives funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), for many years has been working on aspects of shoreline management and sea level rise adaptation options for Hawaii's shorelines. Further, through the recently updated 2020 Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP), required under HRS Section 205A-62(1), the CZM Program has identified three (3) focus areas - one of which is addressing coastal development and chronic coastal hazards such as sea level rise.

We look forward to serving in this role and working with the executive branch on this important subject matter. As responsibilities increase for the OP, we also understand that the OP would need additional capacity to effectively address these significant adaptation needs and would request an increase in fiscal support and positions in upcoming years when there is more availability in the state general fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO  
COMPTROLLER  
AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021, 11:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 308, VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 243, H.D. 1

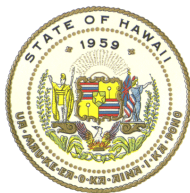
RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting the intent of H.B. 243, H.D. 1, with comments.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports action to mitigate the future impacts of sea level rise, however we currently lack the necessary resources required to fund and administer the research, analysis, and recommendations mandated by this bill for DAGS facilities.

In addition, the DAGS recommends one centralized agency, such as the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, to provide statewide protocol and guidance to ensure consistency of results as part of a more comprehensive mitigation measure and to provide support across all executive branch agencies. This support would include, but not be limited to, providing resources for education of staff and consultants, identifying regional mitigation measures and recommendations for facilities and infrastructure by regions, and establishing a statewide budget and program for agencies to utilize for the requested assessments and reporting.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.



**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**

**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, DHHH  
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

**Before the House Committee on**  
**FINANCE**  
**Thursday, February 25, 2021**  
**11:00 am**  
**State Capitol, Via Videoconference/Conference Room 308**

**In support of**  
**House Bill 243 HD1**  
**RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION**

HB 243 HD1 proposes to require each executive branch department to identify existing and planned facilities that are vulnerable to sea level rise, flooding impacts, and natural hazards; assess options for mitigating impacts of sea level rise to existing and planned facilities; establish staff level points of contact to improve interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation, flooding and resilience and submit annual reports to the governor, legislature, and Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission. **On behalf of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) I support this measure.**

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.” The Commission, established by Act 32 SLH 2017 to uphold the United States’ pledges under the Paris Agreement, is the coordinating body for policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation for the state. 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.

In 2018, as part of its larger statement on adaptation, the Climate Commission issued the following priority for countering impacts of sea level rise, and:

Encourage[d] agencies and non-governmental utility providers to identify and prioritize assets within the 3.2 ft SLR-XA or more as described in the State’s Sea Level Rise report,

identify adaptation measures, and to provide a status update on this activity annually to the Climate Commission.

**HB243 HD1 effectively addresses this priority of the Commission.**

In December 2017, the Commission accepted the *Hawaii Sea Level Rise Report* and accompanying *Hawaii Sea Level Rise Viewer*. Along with the Report, a newly issued guidance (*Guidance for Using the Sea Level Rise Exposure Area in Local Planning and Permitting Decisions*, Oct 2020) and updated Viewer provide maps of a Sea Level Rise Exposure Area (SLR-XA) incorporating models of passive flooding, shoreline erosion, and annual high wave run-up with 3.2 feet of sea level rise.

Recent science summarized in the Report, Guidance and Viewer points to a likelihood of three feet or more of sea level rise in the second half of this century - within the expected lifespan of most existing and new development. It is critical that agencies and departments move expeditiously to address climate change impacts on public infrastructure. Identifying and prioritizing vulnerabilities to climate change impacts is a necessary first step. To maintain progress on this issue, frequent and regular reporting is essential, as is a point of contact at the staff level to accelerate action.

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

**LATE**

**HB-243-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 12:30:20 PM  
Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christine Kinimaka	Department of Accounting and General Services	Support	No

Comments:

I am available for comments.

Testifier for DAGS on HB243, HD1, representing Comptroller Curt Otaguro



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 25, 2021 11:00 AM

**In SUPPORT of HB243 HD1: Relating to Sea Level Rise Adaptation**

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Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee,

On behalf of our 27,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **supports HB243 HD1.**

This bill requires each executive branch department to identify existing and planned facilities that are vulnerable to sea level rise, flooding impacts, and natural hazards; assess options for mitigation impacts of sea level rise to existing and planned facilities; establish staff level points of contact to improve interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation, flooding, and resilience; and submit annual report to the Governor, Legislature, and Climate Commission.

Climate change impacts, especially sea level rise, create a new type of coastal hazard affecting coastal areas now and increasingly in the future. The "Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report" prepared by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, provides the first state-wide assessment of Hawaii's vulnerability to sea level rise by showing sea level rise exposure areas (SLR-XA) that are exposed to potential chronic flooding and land loss based on modeling passive flooding, annual high wave flooding, and coastal erosion. A summary of potential state-wide impacts from 3.2 feet of sea level rise (25,800 acres) are estimated to be \$19 billion in loss of land and structures, 38 miles of major roads flooded, 6,500 structures flooded, and 19,800 people displaced.<sup>1</sup>

While much of the focus of the Report is on the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability projections of 3.2 feet expected to occur before the year 2100, *impacts of sea level rise are here already and will accelerate in coming years.* Policy and permitting decisions with long-term effects related to sea level rise are happening now, including approvals of structures with long life spans, siting of utilities and other capital improvements, and other actions with long-range consequences. These impacts will increase in coming years as sea level rise continues and eventually accelerates, potentially placing significant numbers of lives, properties, cultural and natural resources at risk in the absence of effective adaptation strategies.

While the state of Hawai'i has adopted very ambitious goals for mitigation of climate change, including goals for clean and renewable energy to reduce our carbon emissions, much work

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<sup>1</sup> [https://climateadaptation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/SLR-Report\\_Dec2017.pdf](https://climateadaptation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/SLR-Report_Dec2017.pdf)

remains for developing and implementing adaptation strategies we will need in this era of climate change. We welcome a bill like HB243 to begin laying the groundwork for sea level rise adaptation throughout our state and are pleased to see that the bill places high priorities on protecting the state's most vulnerable populations, and promoting resilience and nature-based adaptation solutions.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in **support of HB243 HD1**.



**HB-243-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:27:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Natalie Parra	Keiko Conservation	Support	No

Comments:

We fully support this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony!



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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Thursday, February 25, 2021, 11:00 am

House Committee on Finance

HOUSE BILL 243 – RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION: Assess Mitigation Options for State Facilities

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice-Chair Ty Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party, through its Committee on Energy and Climate Action, is in strong support of HB243, which requires executive agencies to identify facilities to be affected by sea level rise and to assess and report mitigation options.

The most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Synthesis Report, leading into this November's meeting in Glasgow, underscores the increasingly accelerated arrival of points of no return. Feedback loops are bringing coming change more rapidly than was estimated in the past. This seems to be true with every new report, as data gets more voluminous and sophisticated. It is altogether proper that State and county facility managers and planners use the most current maps, lest climate change overtake us before we have truly grasped the seriousness of our plight.

We have also seen that the State energy goals to be met by 2045 are likely to be too late, and testimony on this session's bills have been pressuring to move the target dates up to 2035, if not sooner. Regardless of which targets are chosen, the essential message is that we may not be able to move fast enough or with the alacrity needed to overcome business-as-usual.

We should expect sea level rise to arrive in more pronounced forms as the years pass, but recognize that the process will not be steady but be "punctuated" by catastrophic ice shelf and glacial collapse, causing more rapid sea level rise. Results will not be instantaneous, but certain. This will be especially apparent with storm surge, as we may see during this coming hurricane season.

It is essential to accelerate the adaptation and mitigation process, as rapid change could occur at any time, particularly with storm surge during the coming hurricane season, and the orderly process of procurement and contracting must be fully prepared with foresight, with funding made available to avoid loss of critical service. Such steps are essential, given that many State facilities are important to the health and well-being of the citizens of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this important issue.

/s/ Charley Ice, Co-Chair, Energy and Climate Action Committee, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Thursday, February 25, 2021 11:00 AM Conference Room 308

**IN SUPPORT OF HB 243 HD1** Relating to Sea level Rise Adaptation

Chairs Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, Committee Members:

The HAWAII REEF AND OCEAN COALITION –HIROC– was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean. We are currently asking the Legislature to pass a handful of very important bills to save our coral reefs – they are bills relating to sunscreens, cesspools, plastic marine debris, climate and sea level rise

We support passage of HB 243 HD1 Relating to Sea Level Rise Adaptation.

This bill requires each executive branch department to identify existing and planned facilities that are vulnerable to sea level rise, flooding impacts, and natural hazards; assess options for mitigation impacts of sea level rise to existing and planned facilities; establish staff level points of contact to improve interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation, flooding, and resilience; and submit annual reports to the governor, legislature, and Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission.

These steps are very prudent and necessary given the importance of these public facilities to the health and well-being of the citizens of Hawai'i, and the risks many of them face from sea level rise.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Dave Raney

On behalf of the Hawai'i Reef Ocean Coalition

**HB-243-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:49:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 24, 2021

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Finance Committee members,

I am in support of HB243 HD1.

We need to more aggressively reduce global-warming emissions. In addition, we must adapt to the inevitable consequences of the carbon that we've already pumped into the atmosphere. HB243 HD1 outlines some of the necessary structural changes needed to ensure that we focus resources on this critical (adaptation) task.

Thank you,

Noel Morin - Hilo

**HB-243-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 11:00:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Finance Committee members,

Climate change is ongoing worldwide. This is evident from the erratic weather, more powerful storms, droughts, raging floods and fires communities have experienced in recent years. Science confirms our beliefs that human causes are to blame.

To avoid higher costs later, Hawaii must plan NOW for the effects climate change will inevitably bring to our islands. Among the most noticeable effects will be sea level rise. Without a plan, displacement of structures and people will occur randomly and chaotically.

Bill HB243 HD1 will help us plan for sea level rise. It calls for each State department to: 1) identify facilities vulnerable to sea level rise, 2) assess options for mitigation, 3) establish points of contact to improve interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation, flooding, and resilience; and 4) submit annual reports to State officials and the Hawaii sea level rise commission.

I strongly support HB243 HD1 to help Hawaii's people adjust to rising sea levels in the near future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii