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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 446
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments

HCR102

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH A STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN HAWAII

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the House Committee on Water & Land

Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 430

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

Good morning Chair Tarnas and members of the Committee. My name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written **comments** on H.C.R. 102, Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau, in Collaboration with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and University of Hawaii, to Develop a Plan to Establish a State Geological Survey in Hawaii.

The purpose of this measure is to request the Legislative Reference Bureau to develop a plan to establish a state geological survey in Hawaii. The plan is requested to include:

- (1) Proposed scopes of work for the state geologic survey, including proposed ways to consolidate existing functions into a state geological survey;
- (2) Proposed organizational structures of the state geological survey, including advantages and disadvantages of each proposed structure;

- (3) Proposed staff positions that would be needed for the state geological survey, including salary levels;
- (4) Proposed sources for funding or other necessary resources; and
- (5) Enabling legislation to create the state geological survey.

The measure further requests the Bureau to consult with the United States Geological Survey, state Office of Planning, and any other organization or person deemed appropriate. The Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022.

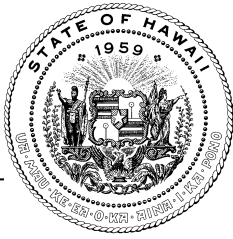
The Bureau takes no position on this measure but submits the following comments for your consideration.

With regard to the plan requested of the Bureau, we note that the Bureau has no specific expertise regarding geological surveying, hazard mitigation, or resource management.

The Bureau understands that the Office of Planning is intending to offer a friendly amendment to substitute the Office of Planning, rather than the Bureau, to conduct the planning activities requested by this resolution. Because the Office of Planning currently administers the Hawaii State Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program and various land use planning activities, it already possesses the information, data, and expertise required to create the plan requested by this measure. Accordingly, the Bureau supports the adoption of the Office of Planning's proposed amendments.

If the proposed amendments from the Office of Planning are adopted and the Committee desires to keep the Bureau involved, the Bureau would respectfully request that the measure be further amended to have the Bureau assist with only the drafting of any proposed legislation that may be required to implement the Office of Planning's findings and recommendations. Further, we would ask that the Office of Planning submit to the Bureau by December 1, 2021, any draft documents for the proposed legislation to allow us adequate time to prepare bill drafts. The Bureau believes that such alternative assistance would be manageable, provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many additional responsibilities, such as conducting studies, writing or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or any combination of these for the Legislature or for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written comments.



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Tuesday, March 23, 2021
8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 430
In consideration of
HCR 102 / HR 85

**REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, IN COLLABORATION
WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH A STATE
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN HAWAII.**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Members of the Committee on Water & Land:

The Office of Planning (OP) **supports** the intent and offers **proposed amendments** for HCR 102 / HR 85 and recognizes the importance of establishing a state geological survey in Hawai'i to unify the State's mapping capability, make Hawai'i eligible to compete for applicable federal funds, and provide a broader range of geological information for the public and state decision-makers to use in mitigation and management planning.

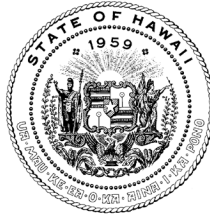
The Office of Planning has coordinated with the Legislative Reference Bureau, and offers the **friendly amendment** for the Office of Planning to conduct the study requested by this resolution instead of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

The Office of Planning recommends:

1. Replacing all references to the "Legislative Reference Bureau" with the "Office of Planning" (in the title of the resolution; page 3, lines 29-30, and 34-35; page 4, lines 14-15, 17, and 19-20); and on page 4, line 16, ~~state Office of Planning,~~
2. Adding language to enable the coordination with the:
 - Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency,
 - Department of Transportation, and
 - County planning departments and emergency management agencies.
3. Changing the due date of the report to "twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023" to allow for a thorough study and evaluation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021
8:30 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 430

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 102/HOUSE RESOLUTION 85
REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, IN COLLABORATION
WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH A STATE
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN HAWAII**

House Concurrent Resolution 102/House Resolution 85 requests the Legislative Reference Bureau, in collaboration, with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and University of Hawaii, to Develop a Plan to Establish a State Geological Survey in Hawaii. **The Department supports these resolutions and offers comments.**

A State Geological Survey would provide additional data on natural resources and hazards. The collection, analysis, organization, and communication of this data will become more critical as climate change transforms the geological and climatic processes that affect our islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Water and Land
Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 8.30 a.m.

By

Robert Wright

Director, Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology

Paul Wessel

Professor and Chair, Department of Earth Sciences

Charles (Chip) Fletcher

Professor and Associate Dean

Brian Taylor

Dean

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 102/HR 85 – REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO ESTABLISH A STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN HAWAII

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and members of the Committee:

HCR 102/HR 85 requests that the Legislative Reference Bureau, in collaboration with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the University of Hawai'i, develop a plan to establish a state geological survey in Hawai'i.

The School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, enthusiastically supports the plan to establish a geological survey in the State of Hawai'i (the only State in the nation without one) and would be a willing partner in such a planning effort.

As noted in these resolutions, a sustainable future for the state will rely on mapping, and an accounting of the resources we have within our borders, including energy resources, water resources and our coastal resources.

Hawai'i will also face growing challenges related to climate change, including increased exposure to tropical cyclones, coastline erosion and landslides, flooding and drought, sea-level rise and heating of the air and ocean, and other impacts.

SOEST faculty, staff, and students are actively conducting federally-funded research into all of the aforementioned topics (as well as volcanic, earthquake, and tsunami hazards), and will be happy to provide advice and assistance that may be required.