



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1842 HD2
RELATING TO RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND
ADAPTATION.

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 23, 2022

Room Number: Video & 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** 1.0 FTE and \$165,000 general fund appropriation for salary and operating
2 expenses.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports HB1842 HD2 to
4 fill a gap in Hawaii's climate change response plan. Although there is robust activity related to
5 infrastructure resilience, the department is not aware of advanced conversations and planning
6 around human health mitigation, much less adaptation.

7 DOH has very experienced civil and environmental engineers and highly trained clinical and
8 population health management professionals, including public health preparedness, however, the
9 department has identified no resources that possess domain knowledge in both. A scan of other
10 state resources, such as at the Office of Planning, University of Hawaii School of Public Health,
11 and the John A. Burns School of Medicine revealed only three individuals with a professional
12 interest in human health adaptation related to climate change, but none with programmatic
13 responsibility for thought leadership on the topic.

14 A missing element, for example, that is key is surveillance: developing strategic climate
15 monitoring, surveillance, and response systems to prevent and respond to climate-related impacts
16 may include creating decision support systems that enable agencies to predict, anticipate, and
17 model events and early warning systems that enable rapid response. The capacity to
18 systematically collect, manage, analyze, and interpret climate and extreme weather data and the

1 impact on human health is critical to making informed climate policy and developing effective
2 responses to climate and weather events

3 The purpose of HB1842 HD2, therefore, is to establish a permanent Climate Change and Human
4 Health Adaptation Specialist to assure health care and public health strategies are synthesized
5 with environmental- and energy-related mitigation and adaptation activities. This position's
6 scope of responsibility is to define and plan for anticipated health effects related to weather and
7 climate include death and illness from heat waves; injuries and mental health impacts from
8 catastrophic events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods; increased air pollution with
9 concurrent rises in respiratory and cardiovascular diseases; detrimental impacts on water quality
10 and quantity; and an increased incidence of vector-borne, foodborne, and waterborne diseases.
11 Recent climate and weather-related challenges, from extreme weather events to changing
12 patterns of communicable disease, have already demonstrated the critical need to improve public
13 health capacity and capability to identify, prevent, and respond to these threats. Although
14 deployed to the Department of Health because of the need for subject-matter supervision on both
15 health care and environmental issues, the Climate Change and Human Health Adaptation
16 Coordinator will coordinate closely with the state's Sustainability Coordinator and related
17 resources, as as aligning and informing the priorities of the Climate Change Mitigation and
18 Adaptation Commission.

19 Operational expenses include neighbor island travel to meet with stakeholders, consultants for
20 planning or human health adaptation research, and office supplies.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

22

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1842, H.D. 2

March 23, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 225 and Videoconference

RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON HUMAN HEALTH

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1842, H.D. 2, establishes a full-time climate change and human health adaptation specialist (CCHHAS) within the Department of Health (DOH) and appropriates an unspecified amount in general funds in FY 23 to DOH for the establishment of an unspecified number of full-time equivalent CCHHAS positions and other operating expenses.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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P.O. Box 23404
Honolulu
Hawaii 96823

March 19, 2022

TO: Chairs Keohokalole & Gabbard and Members of the HTH & AEN Committees

RE: HB 1842HD2 Relating to Climate Change

Support for hearing on March 23

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support this bill as we support the establishment a climate change and human health adaptation specialist within the Department of Health. Climate change is upon us. We need to do all we can to deal with it.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel, President

HB-1842-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 4:48:07 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/23/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-1842-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 12:13:19 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/23/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop committing to the desecration of natural resources that prevent climate change, and stop supporting overdevelopment, and we won't have a climate change problem to deal with.

Secondly, the modern healthcare industry profits from sick people, and the cause of being a healthcare worker is to support that profit, under the auspice of helping people. Let's be honest with ourselves here. Honestly saves ill-researched budgets a lot of money.

HB-1842-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2022 1:35:43 PM

Testimony for HTH on 3/23/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is no such thing as Climate Change. This is a HOX. The Government is just Wasting the Taxpayer moneys on Stupid things like this so they can get Kickbacks in to their Pockets from Companies that will make money on this Bull Shit. It is time for Every one to Wake up to all the Wast of the Government.!!