

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM,
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, STATE OF HAWAII
235 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 702, HONOLULU, HI 96813

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Testimony of the Environmental Advisory Council on HB 2256
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism
Wednesday, March 23, 2022
3:15 PM, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

David Y. Ige
Governor

Chairperson
Puananionaona Thoene

Vice Chair
Mary Begier

Members
Roy Abe
Stephanie Dunbar-Co
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom
Makaala Kaaumoana
Ian Robin Kaye
Theresita Kinnaman
Ron Terry
Michael Tulang
N. Mahina Tuteur

March 21, 2022

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha and members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

I am the Chair of the State of Hawai'i Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) and submit this testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 2256 on behalf of the EAC.

This bill proposes to establish a Department of Environmental Protection on July 1, 2026. Further, it creates a Department of Environmental Protection working group to address the logistics required for the State to establish a Department of Environmental Protection, and requires the working group to submit a report to the legislature prior to the 2025 regular session of the Legislature.

With the growing challenge brought to Hawai'i with ongoing — and worsening — climate change, environmental actions would surely benefit from a more cohesive, integrated approach from the State of Hawai'i. Currently, environmental policy and programs — and priorities — are scattered among many State agencies and offices. A Department of Environmental Protection would focus Hawai'i's governmental resources, providing much greater coordination than currently exists.

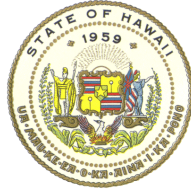
The EAC believes that the proposed working group is a critical component that should precede the creation of a new State department. We would suggest that the membership of the working group be expanded to include a representative from the EAC as well as representatives from the neighbor islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Puananionaona Thoene
Chair
Environmental Advisory Council

Robin Kaye
Chair
EAC Legislative Committee

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

3:15 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224, Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2256, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO A DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

House Bill 2256, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to establish a Department of Environmental Protection and to create a working group to develop an organizational and functional plan and a plan for the orderly transition of existing departmental functions and resources to the new department. The working group shall finish its work by July 1, 2026. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) respectfully opposes this bill.**

DLNR notes that in 2021, Senate Bill 968 and its companion, House Bill 423 were introduced but not heard. Both bills provided an extensive history of the efforts to create a Department of Environmental Protection, the reasoning for such a department, and a blueprint for transitioning existing laws and functions to a new department. This bill does not reflect any of that work.

DLNR believes that a department should have a clearly stated mission to frame its policy objectives. The proposed measure mentions, in section one, that there is no department to carry out the environmental policy goals enacted by the Legislature. Rather this policy is fractured among several departments, and some of those departments have internal conflicts. But the bill does not offer a proposed mission statement that would clearly frame the Legislature's intent.

DLNR is also concerned that the bill does not address how a Department of Environmental Protection would affect its own mission and functions and those of other agencies. If, for example, the DLNR becomes the Department of Land Management, those changes would also need to be addressed through legislation.

DLNR is concerned that there is no budget attached to this bill, for what will be difficult and time-consuming work, done under a tight deadline. We also note that the working group will likely not start until after the change in administration. This will push the working groups efforts back by at least six months if not more, as new directors get up to speed in their departments.

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

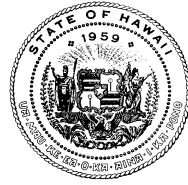
ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

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

Finally, DLNR is not convinced that even after all of this work is done, the creation of a new department would address environmental protection as envisioned by the Legislature. Will it have enough funding to do its job, or will more departments have less funding?

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2256 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO A DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

SENATOR GLENN WAKAI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Hearing Date: 3/23/2022

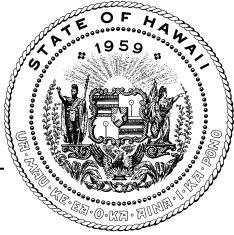
Room Number: 224/Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (department's) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** There would be certain advantages, as outlined in the bill's preamble,
5 to creating a department with the core mission of environmental protection. However, the
6 logistical challenges to a successful transition involving so many different existing departments
7 and offices should not be underestimated. Additionally, the department notes that there is no
8 budget attached to this bill. Departments and offices asked to provide members to the working
9 group may find it difficult to divert enough staff time to focus on this task.

10 To cite one example of challenges that must be overcome by the working group, the
11 Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office and branches within the Environmental
12 Management Division of the department are still recovering from losing about 25% of their staff
13 when these offices were moved from Kewalo Basin to Waimano Ridge less than five years ago.
14 The offices were moved to facilities owned by the department to avoid paying costly rent and
15 potentially facing relocation on a short timeline when the Kewalo Basin lease was ended by the
16 new owner. If these offices become part of a new Department of Environmental Protection, will
17 they remain in their present location? If these offices must move again, where will they go and
18 what effect will another move have on personnel issues, including retention and hiring?

- 1 **Offered Amendments:** None.
- 2 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Wednesday, March 23, 2022
3:15 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

COMMENTS
HB 2256, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO A DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

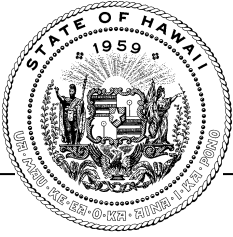
Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) offers comments on HB 2256, HD1, SD1 which establishes a department of environmental protection by July 1, 2026; creates a department of environmental protection working group to address the logistics required for the State to establish a department of environmental protection; and requires the working group to submit a report to the legislature prior to the 2025 regular session; and names the Chief Energy Officer or the Chief Energy Officer's designee as a participant in the working group.

HSEO offers comments concerning the bill's potential to replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

HSEO appreciates the addition in HB2256, HD1, SD1 of the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, or the Director's designee to the department of environmental protection working group. If this bill moves forward, HSEO is willing to participate in such a working group.

HSEO defers to the appropriate agency concerning the implementation of the bill's requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

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

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
Monday, March 23, 2022
3:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
in consideration of
HB 2256, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO A DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development respectfully offers **comments** on HB 2256 HD1 which establishes a department of environmental protection by July 1, 2026. Creates a department of environmental protection working group to address the logistics required for the State to establish a department of environmental protection. Requires the working group to submit a report to the legislature prior to the 2025 regular session.

With the recent passage of [Act 45, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2020](#), [Act 152, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021](#), and [Act 153, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2021](#), the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development continues to transition rapidly despite the office's limited funding and staffing to meet the statewide sea level rise adaptation coordination, sustainability and climate adaptation planning and coordination, economic recovery and resiliency planning, affordable housing collaboration and environmental review requirements over the past six months.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development agrees with the preamble of the bill that the ongoing climate crisis is one of the overarching issues of modern times, the protection of the State's environment and natural resources are extremely critical. The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development believes that the State of Hawai'i's sustainability, climate change mitigation, and climate change adaptation requires a multi-agency approach throughout all branches, departments, and agencies of the State of Hawai'i's government and it's counties.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development believes that through strong statewide planning and coordination laws in relation to sustainability and climate change issues, including: [Hawai'i Revised Statutes §225M-2](#), [Hawai'i Revised Statutes §225M-3](#), [Hawai'i Revised Statutes §225M-8](#), [Hawai'i Revised Statutes §225M-9](#), [Hawai'i Revised Statutes §225P-3](#), [Hawai'i Revised Statutes §225P-4](#), [Hawai'i Revised Statutes §225P-5](#), [Hawai'i Revised Statutes §225P-7](#), [Hawai'i Revised Statutes §226-108](#), and [Hawai'i Revised Statutes §226-109](#) provides the statewide coordination to unite this important work collectively as a State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com



March 23, 2022

RICK BLANGIARDI, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair
KAPUA SPROAT, Vice Chair
RAY C. SOON
MAX J. SWORD
NA'ALEHU ANTHONY

JADE T. BUTAY, Ex-Officio
DAWN B. SZEWCZYK, P.E., Ex-Officio

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
The Senate
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Wakai and Members:

Subject: House Bill 2256 HD 1, SD1: Relating to a Department of Environmental Protection

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 2256, House Draft (HD) 1, Senate Draft (SD) 1. The bill proposes amending Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 26-4 to create a department of environmental protection.

A state department of environmental protection centralizes the work to protect and preserve our environment and natural resources, which will further protect Hawaii's drinking water now and into the future. One example is the California Environmental Protection Agency that uses the latest science based information and research to develop, implement and enforce environmental laws to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality of the state.

The BWS recommends amending the bill to require the department of environmental protection report to a seven member board in a new stand-alone Section added to the HRS, entitled "Board Oversight," that provides:

"The Department of Environmental Protection will report to a seven member board that consists of one member appointed by each of the following:

- (1) the Office of the Governor;
- (2) the Hawaii State Senate;
- (3) the Hawaii State House of Representatives;
- (4) the Honolulu City Council;
- (5) the Kauai County Council;
- (6) the Hawaii County Council; and
- (7) the Maui County Council."

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
and Members
March 23, 2022
Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony concerning HB 2256, HD1, SD1.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Y. W. Lau', written in a cursive style.

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

HB-2256-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:21:31 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/23/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Wolfendale	Testifying for Rotary Club Hanelie Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Although related, the importance of Environmental protection warrants it's own focused Department to assist Counties in combating the changes we will face over the next 20 years.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Re: **HB 2256 HD 1, SD 1 – RELATING TO A DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 3:15 p.m., Conference Room 224 and
Via Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of HB 2256 HD 1, SD 1. This measure would establish a Department of Environmental Protection on July 1, 2026. It would create a Department of Environmental Protection Working Group to address the logistics required for the State to establish a Department of Environmental Protection. It would also require the working group to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the 2025 regular session.

The State of Hawaii needs an executive-level department dedicated to the protection of its environment and natural resources. This executive-level department will unite this vital work under a single administrative umbrella leading to greater efficiency in addressing Hawaii's environmental issues in a timely and proactive manner.

For these reasons, the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports HB 2256 HD1 SD 1 as it would create a department of environmental protection working group to address the logistics required for the State to establish a department of environmental protection. Please pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Melodie Aduja

Alan Burdick

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

HB-2256-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:16:45 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/23/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To: The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair, The Honorable Senator Bennette Misalucha, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing HB2256 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO A DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, Wednesday March 23, 2022 at 3:15 p.m.

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism!

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition is concerned with protecting the health of corals and other aquatic species. The Climate Protectors Hawai'i is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis and encouraging Hawai'i to lead the world towards a safe and sustainable climate and future. **The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i both support HB2256 HD1 SD1, but suggest that the working group include several environmental advocates.**

Unlike most states, Hawaii has no executive-level department dedicated to the mission of environmental protection and implementing the environmental policy goals enacted by the Legislature. Instead, these functions are dispersed among multiple state departments and agencies having differing missions that either do not focus on the importance of environmental protection or have internal conflicts.

The protection of the State's environment and natural resources is more critical now than ever. We are experiencing increasing environmental problems such as the Red Hill petroleum spill to our drinking water and invasive species. We face an ongoing climate crisis that is the overarching issues of modern times.

Our pristine environment has always been a primary attraction in Hawaii for tourism and economic development. We must maintain and enhance that environmental quality! This bill should help us do so.

Although almost all issues are multi-jurisdictional, creating an executive-level department to unite this important work under one administrative umbrella should lead to greater efficiency in addressing Hawaii's environmental issues in a timely and proactive fashion.

Restructuring environmental agencies will be complex. This bill appropriately provides for a working group with affected agency parties to address the logistics required for the State to establish a department of environmental protection by July 1, 2026, including but not limited to developing:

(1) An organizational and functional plan, including recommendations on the implementation, structure, and funding for the department; and

(2) A plan for the orderly transition and transfer of existing departmental functions, authority, records, and resources necessary for the establishment of the department.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i both support HB2256 HD1 SD1, but suggest that the bill be amended to include in the working group include several environmental advocates with expertise in water, land, air, and other environmental issues.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



LATE

March 22, 2022

In Support of **HB2256 HD1 SD1** Relating to a Dept. of Environmental Protection
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Dev., and Tourism (EET)
Hearing on March 23, 3:15pm

Aloha, Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Misalucha & Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the non-profit WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations and the Cesspool Task Force (a coalition of 40 members and groups), I am writing in **strong support of HB2256 HD1 SD1**. This bill would create a Working Group to address the logistics required for the State to establish a Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP).

WAI is a non-profit dedicated to protecting our drinking water, groundwater and near-shore ecosystems by reducing sewage pollution from cesspools and failing septic systems. Our goal is to help find more innovative, affordable, and eco-friendly solutions to wastewater management. Currently, we work with the Dept. Of Health's Wastewater Branch and Clean Water Branch on these issues, but they and many other environmental programs are understaffed, need more independent authority and would benefit from having their own Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Unlike most other states, Hawaii has no executive-level department dedicated to the mission of environmental protection and implementing the environmental policy goals enacted by the Legislature. Instead, these functions are dispersed among multiple state departments and agencies with differing missions, internal conflicts and bureaucratic obstacles.

The protection of the State's environment and natural resources is more critical now than ever. We are experiencing increasing environmental problems such as the Red Hill petroleum spill and threats to our drinking water from stormwater & wastewater pollution. We face an ongoing climate crisis that requires a more proactive and integrated DEP. Our environment has always been a central attraction in Hawaii for tourism and economic development, but it's also an essential part of the culture and Hawaii's identity. We must be more in protecting our Island Home!

Almost all issues are multi-jurisdictional, but creating an executive-level department like a DEP under one administrative umbrella should lead to greater efficiency in addressing Hawaii's environmental issues. Restructuring environmental agencies will be complex and challenging, but this bill appropriately provides for a working group with affected agency parties to address the logistics required for the State to establish a Department of Environmental Protection.

WAI supports HB2256 HD1 SD1, but we suggest that the bill be amended so the working group includes several environmental advocates with expertise in water, land and air issues. Mahalo for your consideration and support of this needed legislation. **This will be a tremendous legacy for legislative leaders to leave to the people of Hawaii!**

Aloha,

Stuart Coleman

Stuart H. Coleman, Executive Director

LATE

HB-2256-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 9:35:56 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/23/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Mark Deakos	Testifying for Hawaii Association for Marine Education and Research	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Committee Members,

Please support HB2256 HD1 SD1 to establish a department of environmental protection that can apply a working group to focus on Hawaii's much needed natural resource protection and restoration goals.

Mahalo,

Mark Deakos, PhD

President/Chief Scientist

Lahaina, Hawaii

HB-2256-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 9:55:57 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/23/2022 3:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manuel Mejia	Testifying for CORAL (Coral Reef Alliance)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Vice-Chairs of AEN, EET, and WAM Committees,

Thank you for supporting the creation of a Dept of Env Protection. We suggest as an ammendment that the working group includes representation from several environmental advocates as well as State agencies. Thank you for your leadership on this critical legislation, which will be a game changer and go a long way towards Hawaii protecting its natural assets, which we all rely upon and benefit from for our economic, health and overall well-being as an island society.

Thank you,
Manuel Mejia

Regional Program Director, Hawaii - Coral Reef Alliance

HB-2256-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:28:34 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/23/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
robin knox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Qualified Environmental Professional, I wholeheartedly support the creation of a separate Department of Environmental Protection. Environmental Protection often does not get the appropriate priority in an agency as large as DOH, with as broad a mission as DOH. Much of the time, the DOH director is not an environmental professional, but rather a medical professional. The State of HAawaii is facing extreme environmental problems includeing water supply, wastewater treatment, and impacts of climate change. The people of the State deserve to have a department that is focused on environmental protection, headed by an environmental professional

HB-2256-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:34:20 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/23/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB2256.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

HB-2256-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:32:26 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/23/2022 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

The people of Hawaii are tired of these Pay for Play Jobs to take care of some body that did something for the Governor or some other politition. this is a Bull Shit Job and you Knoe this the People Know to!!

HB-2256-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 10:08:45 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/23/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I strongly support this measure to more comprehensively address our environment and climate mitigation. Our current system is disjointed making it difficult to create and pass meaningful legislation and plans on how to respond to the greatest threat our state and earth have faced. Furthermore this measure needs dedicated funding to achieve its goals.

Respectfully,

Diane Ware, 99-7815 Kapoha Pl, Volcano Hi 96785

LATE

HB-2256-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 6:56:19 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/23/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Idol	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Idol said...

I agree with DLNR's cautionary testimony on this bill. I support it, but let's be smart about this department. The Department of Health already "protects" human health risks from environmental sources, e.g. pollution. DLNR "protects" natural ecosystems and the many ecosystem services they provide. Hawaii has its own version of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), known as HEPA. I do think we need an independent small department to provide advice and coordination on cross-agency environmental issues, such as achieving greenhouse gas neutrality. The state task forces, commissions, and other volunteer-led and often un(der)funded groups do good work, but they are too easily ignored or left out of important conversations and decision-making. There should be a strong state legal mandate for the official involvement of the DEP in policy- and decision-making on issues affecting the environment. A multi-agency working group can identify those areas and how such a department could help cut across agency boundaries. Such a department can identify the inefficiencies and duplications, and how depts may work at cross purposes. They can even help address the underfunded challenges of other state agencies and propose creative solutions, such as public-private/nonprofit partnerships, such as the Hawaii Invasive Species Council and Hawaii Association of Watershed Partnerships. Give them the freedom and the responsibility to think critically and creatively rather than bogging them down with routine tasks with inadequate funding and personnel.

LATE

HB-2256-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 11:29:17 AM

Testimony for EET on 3/23/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tapani Vuori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair, The Honorable Senator Bennette Misalucha, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

From: Tapani Vuori

Re: Hearing HB2256 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO A DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, Wednesday March 23, 2022 at 3:15 p.m. Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misaluch

I strongly support HB 2256 HD1 SD1 creating The Department of Environmental Protection in the State of Hawaii.

Environment should be elevated in its importance how we view it. There needs to be a fundamental paradigm shift how we deal with the environment because what we are doing today is not sustainable and I doubt any one of us wishes to leave a legacy of degradation and destruction to our future generations.

We should design a clear and new framework built with clear foundation, Vision and Mission and fund it adequately to reach these goals. This should not be dependent on the legacy political structures; it needs to be elevated and prioritized in our governance. Subject experts in environment, conservation and sustainability should be part of organizational makeup and most importantly Kanaka Maoli needs to have a strong voice in the decision making process. And lastly time is of essence I recommend that we fast track this initiative and not wait until 2025 to hear on the proposed legislation from the working group. Thank you.