

# SB 2352

Measure Title: RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.

Report Title: Coastal Lands; Environmental Assessment; Environmental Impact Statements

Description: Requires any environmental assessments and environmental impact statements for any major infrastructure improvement project or major construction project in any coastal lands to include an analysis of the environmental impact of projected sea level rise or fall over the anticipated lifespan of the project.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: EET/WLA/PSM, WAM

Introducer(s): L.THIELEN, IHARA, Gabbard, Green, Keith-Agaran, Kim, Riviere

JAN 22 2016

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that because state  
2 construction projects in coastal areas are environmentally  
3 precarious, it is essential to take the impacts of projected sea  
4 level change into account during the planning stage in order to  
5 protect current infrastructure investments over time.

6       The purpose of this Act is to make the impact of sea level  
7 change a consideration in any environmental assessment or  
8 environmental impact statement for a major infrastructure  
9 improvement project or major construction project proposed in  
10 any coastal lands.

11       SECTION 2. Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
13 and to read as follows:

14       "§343-     Content of environmental assessments and  
15 environmental impact statements; coastal lands. (a) Whenever  
16 any major infrastructure improvement project or major  
17 construction project is proposed in any coastal lands, as



defined in section 171-151, any necessary environmental assessment or environmental impact statement shall include an analysis of the environmental impact of projected sea level rise or fall over the anticipated lifespan of the project. The detailed analysis shall include a detailed scientifically-based methodology for evaluation of the project based on the best available information.

(b) For purposes of this section, the office shall keep current its guidance documents concerning ecological and environmental problems of coastal lands.

(c) As used in this section, "major" means any project having a projected completion cost exceeding \$ \_\_\_\_\_."

SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun before its effective date.

SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

*[Signatures]*



# S.B. NO. 2352

**Report Title:**

Coastal Lands; Environmental Assessment; Environmental Impact Statements

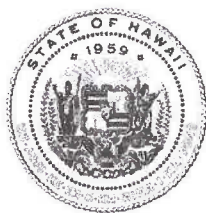
**Description:**

Requires any environmental assessments and environmental impact statements for any major infrastructure improvement project or major construction project in any coastal lands to include an analysis of the environmental impact of projected sea level rise or fall over the anticipated lifespan of the project.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*



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 D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY;  
and  
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE  
and  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Friday, February 12, 2016  
1:15 pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2352  
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Senate Bill 2352 proposes to require Environmental Assessments (EA) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for any major infrastructure improvement project or major construction project in any coastal lands to include an analysis of environmental impacts related to projected sea level rise over the anticipated lifespan of the project. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill and offers the following comments.**

There is strong consensus in the scientific community that rates of sea level rise will accelerate in the coming decades<sup>1</sup>. Increasing rates of sea level rise will result in environmental impacts from increased occurrence and severity of coastal erosion and flooding, migration or loss of wetlands, rising groundwater levels, and changes to flow patterns in natural watersheds and engineered drainages.

Because major infrastructure or major construction projects require long term planning horizons and have long life cycles, impacts related to sea level rise should be considered at the design phase of such projects in order to minimize costly adaption measures in the future.

<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2013), *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis*.  
<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/>

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

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FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.  
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

As you know, part of the Department's mission is to manage coastal areas and ocean resources through the Department's Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL). The Department regularly reviews EAs and EISs for the development of infrastructure in low lying coastal areas of the State. Improved science-based analysis of environmental impacts related to projected sea level rise over the anticipated lifespan of a project as required by this bill would provide vital information to improve decision making and long term community resiliency.

The Department believes that data is available to forecast sea level rise rates over this century. From these rates, potential hazards and vulnerabilities can be assessed for major development projects in the development review process.

In addition, the Department and the Office of Planning (OP) are presently engaged in assessing potential impacts and planning for climate change and sea level rise for the State as directed by the Hawaii Climate Adaptation Initiative Act (Act 83, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, codified as Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 225P). Act 83 establishes an Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee (within the Department, co-chaired by the Department and OP), which is presently focused on developing a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report for the State (due December, 2017). The Report and related data and maps will help in the assessment of potential environmental impacts resulting from projected sea level rise over the anticipated lifespan of major infrastructure improvement projects or major construction projects located near coastal lands.

The Department offers the following suggested changes to the bill language. Suggested language for removal is in brackets and strikethrough and suggested additions are underlined.

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that because ~~[state]~~ major construction projects in coastal areas are environmentally precarious, it is essential to take ~~[the]~~ impacts ~~[of]~~ related to projected sea level ~~[change]~~ rise into account during the planning stage in order to protect ~~[current]~~ infrastructure investments over time.

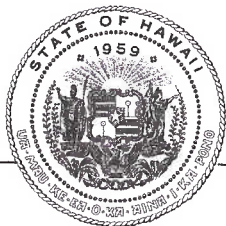
The purpose of this Act is to make ~~[the]~~ impacts ~~[of]~~ related to sea level ~~[change]~~ rise a consideration in any environmental assessment or environmental impact statement for a major infrastructure improvement project or major construction project proposed in any coastal lands.

SECTION 2. Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§343- Content of environmental assessments and environmental impact statements; coastal lands. Whenever any major infrastructure improvement project or major construction project is proposed in any coastal lands, as defined in section 171-151, any necessary environmental assessment or environmental impact statement shall include an analysis of ~~[the environmental]~~ impacts ~~[of]~~ related to projected sea level rise ~~[or fall]~~ over the anticipated lifespan of the project. The detailed analysis shall include a detailed scientifically-based methodology for evaluation of the project based on the best available information.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





## OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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/>

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

LEO R. ASUNCION  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY  
AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE  
AND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
Friday, February 12, 2016  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414  
  
in consideration of  
**SB 2352**  
**RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.**

Chairs Wakai, Gabbard, and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Slom, Nishihara, and Espero and Members of the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology; Water, Land, and Agriculture; and Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent of SB 2352, which proposes to include an analysis of the environmental impact of projected sea level rise or fall in any environmental assessments or environmental impact statements for any major infrastructure improvement project or major construction project proposed in any coastal lands, as defined in HRS § 171-151.

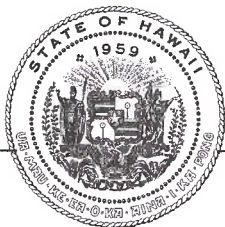
The OP respectfully offers comments on this measure:

- 1) SB 2352 proposes to use a projected completion cost of a project as the threshold to define the “major” infrastructure improvement project or a “major” construction project. The definition of “major”, and the rationale for the cost threshold are not clear from SB 2352.

- 2) Pursuant to HRS § 171-151, “coastal lands” means all land within the State coastal zone management area, provided that any leasing or development of public lands shall be limited to all fast lands up to one mile mauka of the shoreline and all submerged lands. Coastal zone management area, as defined in HRS § 205A-1, means all lands of the State and the area extending seaward from the shoreline to the limit of the State’s police power and management authority, including the United States territorial sea. In accordance with the definitions set forth in HRS § 171-151 and HRS § 205A-1, the coastal lands under SB 2352 will encompass the entire State.
- 3) Given the fact that global warming will result in sea level rises, we recommend the term “projected sea level rise or fall” in Section 2 be changed to “projected sea level rises.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





# OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, STATE OF HAWAII  
235 South Beretania Street, Suite 702, Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: (808) 586-4185  
Email: [oeqchawaii@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:oeqchawaii@doh.hawaii.gov)

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SCOTT GLENN  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Testimony of  
**SCOTT GLENN**  
Interim Director

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY,**  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE**  
and the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Friday, February 12, 2016  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

in consideration of  
**SENATE BILL 2352**  
**RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Chair Waikai, Vice Chair Slom, and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology;

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture; and

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Espero, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs,

The Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) administers Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). The purpose of the EIS law is to "establish a system of environmental review which ensures that environmental concerns are given appropriate consideration in decision making along with economic and technical considerations" (HRS §343-1). Additionally, the OEQC serves "the Governor in an advisory capacity on all matters relating to environmental quality control," as directed in HRS §341-3.

SB 2352 proposes to require any environmental assessments (EAs) and EISs for any major infrastructure improvement project or major construction project in any coastal lands to include an analysis of the environmental impact of projected sea level rise or fall over the anticipated lifespan of the project. It introduces a definition of major based on a monetary threshold to be determined.

The OEQC supports the intent of the bill and respectfully offers the following comments on SB 2352 for the Committees' consideration:

- 1) Climate change impacts are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's natural and built environments. The World Economic Forum at its meeting in Davos this year cited the failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation as one of the world's greatest risks<sup>1</sup>. OEQC supports the intent of this measure because it believes that EAs and EISs are an appropriate and necessary vehicle for examining how climate change could affect a proposed action.
- 2) OEQC believes that Chapter 343, HRS, and Hawai'i Administrative Rules 11-200 as currently written require the analysis of sea level rise. While Chapter 343, HRS, and HAR 11-200 do not explicitly identify sea level rise as a resource to be analyzed, existing language in the statute and rules encompasses any resource that is relevant to decision making, which would include sea level rise.
  - a. HRS §343-2 currently defines an "environmental impact statement" to mean:

"an informational document prepared in compliance with the rules adopted under section 343-6 and which discloses the environmental effects of a proposed action, effects of a proposed action on the economic welfare, social welfare, and cultural practices of the community and State, effects of the economic activities arising out of the proposed action, measures proposed to minimize adverse effects, and alternatives to the action and their environmental effects."
  - b. HRS §343-2 defines "significant effect" to be:

"the sum of effects on the quality of the environment, including actions that irrevocably commit a natural resource, curtail the range of beneficial uses of the environment, are contrary to the State's environmental policies or long-term environmental goals as established by law, or adversely affect the economic welfare, social welfare, or cultural practices of the community and State."
  - c. For EAs, HAR §11-200-12, Significance Criteria, states:

"In considering the significance of potential environmental effects, agencies shall consider the sum of effects on the quality of the environment, and shall evaluate the overall and cumulative effects of an action." HAR §11-200-12(a).

"In determining whether an action may have a significant effect on the environment, the agency shall consider every phase of a proposed action, the expected consequences, both primary and secondary, and the cumulative as well as the short-term and long-term effects of the action." HAR §11-200-12(b).

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<sup>1</sup> World Economic Forum. 2016. The Global Risks Report. <http://reports.weforum.org/global-risks-2016/part-1-title-tba/>

"In most instances, an action shall be determined to have a significant effect on the environment if it:...**Affects or is likely to suffer damage by being located** in an environmentally sensitive area such as a flood plain, tsunami zone, beach, erosion-prone area, geologically hazardous land, estuary, fresh water, or coastal waters" HAR §11-200-12(b)(11) (emphasis added).

- d. For EISs, HAR §11-200-16, EIS Content Requirements, states:

"The contents shall fully declare the environmental implications of the proposed action and shall discuss all relevant and feasible consequences of the action."

- e. HAR §11-200-17(I), Content Requirements, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, states:

"The draft EIS shall include a statement of the probable impact of the proposed action on the environment, and **impacts of the natural or human environment on the project**, which shall include consideration of all phases of the action and consideration of all consequences on the environment; direct and indirect effects shall be included. The interrelationships and cumulative environmental impacts of the proposed action and other related projects shall be discussed in the draft EIS. It should be realized that several actions, in particular those that involve the construction of public facilities or structures (e.g., highways, airports, sewer systems, water resource projects, etc.) may well stimulate or induce secondary effects. These secondary effects may be equally important as, or more important than, primary effects, and shall be thoroughly discussed to fully describe the probable impact of the proposed action on the environment." (Emphasis added.)

- f. HAR §11-200-17(P) Content Requirements, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, states:

"The draft EIS shall include a separate and distinct section that contains reproductions of all substantive comments and responses made during the consultation process."

Based on the above cited sections of statute and rules, sea level rise analysis would occur in determining whether a significant effect occurs under HAR §11-200-12(b)(11) and therefore requiring the preparation of an EIS. For any proposed action undergoing an EIS, sea level rise would need to be analyzed, if it is relevant, such as for a project along the shoreline or in an environmentally sensitive area.

- 3) In addition to the consideration that the law already provides for sea level rise analysis, the measure as proposed would introduce thresholds based on money, instead of potential significance, thereby changing the paradigm of the law. It is also unclear if this would apply solely to state actions or all actions. OEQC believes these would add further complications to understanding and complying with the law.
- 4) Lastly, as a matter of structure of the current statute, no individual resource or analytical method is listed. OEQC believes that adding specific resources to the statute would create a hierarchy of importance in the disclosure document that is not consistent with the overall philosophy and structure of the current law.

As noted, OEQC believes climate change is a critical threat to the people and the natural and built environments of Hawaii. The environmental review process is an appropriate place for addressing climate change. This measure as proposed would create additional complications to the statute that are unnecessary to achieve the goal of the measure.

In summary, OEQC supports the intent of this bill to and recommends further consideration and discussion of the measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology  
and  
Water, Land, and Agriculture  
and  
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Friday, February 12, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.

By  
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor  
and  
Darren T. Lerner, Director  
Dolan Eversole, Extension Agent  
Sea Grant College Program  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 2352 – RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Chairs Wakai, Gabbard and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Slom and Espero, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (UH Hawai'i Sea Grant) supports the intent of Senate Bill 2352 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents approved executive biennium budget. This legislation requires any environmental assessments and environmental impact statements for any major infrastructure improvement project or major construction project in any coastal lands to include an analysis of the environmental impact of projected sea level rise or fall over the anticipated lifespan of the project.

There is an increasingly strong scientific consensus that sea-level rise will accelerate in the coming decades. The impacts of this are just beginning to be felt here in Hawai'i with accelerated rates of coastal erosion and increasing frequency of coastal inundation. Hawai'i Sea Grant has been involved with providing scientific and technical support for climate change impacts including sea-level rise to a wide range of stakeholders including state and local agencies statewide. Establishing a specific requirement to recognize and analysis the impacts of sea-level rise in high risk areas will provide accommodation and mitigation opportunities for major new development in low elevation coastal areas and beach environments and offer more policy and regulatory options for future coastal managers dealing with coastal conservation and protection.

This type of environmental policy is consistent with President Obama's 2015 Executive Order 11988 regarding the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard. In recognition of

the threat of sea level rise, the U.S. Congress in their FY2016 omnibus package made it a law that federal agencies plan for rising seas in all projects. Executive Order 11988 requires that all projects using federal funding must meet a federal flood risk standard that either:

- 1) Use data and methods "informed by best-available, actionable climate science";
- 2) Build 2 ft. above the 100-year flood elevation for standard projects, and 3 ft. above for critical buildings (hospitals and evacuation centers); or
- 3) Build to the 500-year flood elevation.

We suggest you consider clarifying "major development" projects in Section 1 rather than "state construction" projects in order to apply this requirement equally to all major projects. By adding the term "development" to Section 1 this may appropriately trigger the sea-level rise assessment requirement for non-construction projects such as subdivision and consolidation.

UH Hawai'i Sea Grant supports SB2352 in the effort to establish proactive policies related to the coastal zone and to establish coastal policies that take into account the dynamic nature of the shoreline and the impending impacts of sea-level rise. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment,  
& Technology, Committee on Water, Land, & Agriculture, and Committee on  
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, & Military Affairs  
Friday, February 12, 2016 at 1:15 P.M.  
Conference Room 414, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 2352 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Chairs Wakai, Gabbard, and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Slom, Nishihara, and Espero, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports the intent of SB 2352**, which requires any environmental assessments and environmental impact statements for any major infrastructure improvement project or major construction project in any coastal lands to include an analysis of the environmental impact of projected sea level rise or fall over the anticipated lifespan of the project.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We cannot support the bill as drafted as it would amend Chapter 343 HRS by specifically requiring an analysis of the environmental impact of projected sea level rise or fall over the anticipated lifespan of any major infrastructure improvement project or major construction project in any coastal lands be included in the environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements required for the project.

Our concern is that currently Chapter 343 HRS generally establishes when an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement will be required for specific actions or activities. The content of the environmental documents are dictated by rules adopted by the Environmental Council pursuant to Chapter 343-6 HRS.

To add specific content requirements of an environmental document will complicated and create more confusion to an already complicated process.

We believe that appropriate mechanism to address the need to assess sea level rise in an environmental assessment and environmental impact statement is through the promulgation of Rules pursuant to Chapter 91 HRS.



Chamber *of* Commerce HAWAII  
*The Voice of Business*

We are opposed to S.B. 2352 as drafted. Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

# BIA-HAWAII

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

THE VOICE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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## MAILING

P.O. BOX 970967  
WAIPAHU, HAWAII  
96797-0967

STREET  
94-487 AKOKI STREET,  
WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797

P 808.847.4666  
F 808.440.1198  
E INFO@BIAHAWAII.ORG

WWW.BIAHAWAII.ORG

## Testimony to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Environment & Technology; Water, Land & Agriculture; and Public Safety, Intergovernmental, & Military Affairs Friday, February 12, 2016

1:15 PM.

State Capitol - Conference Room 414

### RE: SB 2352 – Relating to Environmental Impacts.

Dear Chairs Wakai, Gabbard, & Nishihara, Vice-Chairs Slom, Nishihara, & Espero, and members of the Committees:

My name is Gladys Marrone, Chief Executive Officer for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii), the Voice of the Construction Industry. We promote our members through advocacy and education, and provide community outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. BIA-Hawaii is a not-for-profit professional trade organization chartered in 1955, and affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

While BIA Hawaii supports the intent of S.B. 2352, we cannot support the bill as drafted, as it would amend Chapter 343 HRS by specifically requiring an analysis of the environmental impact of projected sea level rise or fall over the anticipated lifespan of any major infrastructure improvement project or major construction project in any coastal lands be included in the environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements required for the project.

Our concern is that, currently, Chapter 343 HRS generally establishes when an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement will be required for specific actions or activities. The content of the environmental documents is dictated by rules adopted by the Environmental Council pursuant to Chapter 343-6 HRS.

To add specific content requirements of an environmental document will complicate and create more confusion to an already complicated process.

We believe that appropriate mechanism to address the need to assess sea level rise in an environmental assessment and environmental impact statement is through the promulgation of Rules pursuant to Chapter 91 HRS.

We are unable to support S.B. 2352 as drafted. Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.



Conservation Council  
for Hawai'i

*Hawai'i's voice for wildlife*  
Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology; Water, Land and Agriculture; and Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Hearing: Wednesday, February 12, 2016 1:15 pm  
Conference Room 414

In Support of SB 2352 Relating to Environmental Impacts

Chairs Wakai, Gabbard, and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Slom and Espero, and Members of the Committees.

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2352, which requires any environmental assessments and environmental impact statements for any major infrastructure improvement project or major construction project in any coastal lands to include an analysis of the environmental impact of projected sea level rise or fall over the anticipated lifespan of the project.

In addition to protecting public safety and development from sea level rise, SB 2352 protects habitat for pupping, nursing, and resting critical habitat for the endangered Hawaiian monk seal; nesting and resting habitat for endangered hawksbill sea turtles and threatened green sea turtles; and nesting habitat for seabirds.

Please support SB 2352 and help recover these imperiled species by protecting their coastal habitats. Do not allow any more development along the coast in light of the loss of habitat resulting from development and sea level rise.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org) | web: [www.conservehi.org](http://www.conservehi.org)  
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 | Honolulu, HI 96814

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*Hawaii's Thousand Friends*

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Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

SB 2352

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

February 12, 2016

Hawaii's Thousand Friends (HTF) supports SB 2352, which wisely requires that environmental assessments and environmental impact statements conducted for infrastructure improvement or major construction projects within the coastal zone include an analysis of the environmental impact of projected sea level rise.

In 2007 NASA stated that rising seas are "unstoppable" and Chip Fletcher, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs UH School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology predicted that sea level rise is "a slowly emerging catastrophe" that is "going to slowly dawn on us."

It is nine years later and Hawai'i has been slow to recognize or understand the potential financial and environmental impacts on our coastal areas and the development within them from the expected 39 inches sea level rise in the next hundred years.

While SB 2352 cannot stop sea level rise but requiring informed and scientific information in environmental disclosure documents allows for informed decisions to be made on how we should treat our coastal areas and the appropriateness of future developments within our islands coastal zones.

HTF urges the committee to pass SB 2352. After all we owe future generations the same safe and beautiful coastal environment that we enjoy.

**wakai1 - Lilinoe**

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**SB2352**

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for EET/WLA/PSM on Feb 12, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Marie Kirk	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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