

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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

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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

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, AND TECHNOLOGY
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Monday, February 5, 2018
2:46 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2977
RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Senate Bill 2977 proposes to amend Chapter 225P-3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, related to the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Climate Commission) by requiring the Climate Commission to develop reports assessing the impact of the tourism industry on climate change. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

In 2017, to support the implementation of the Paris Climate Accord, Act 32, Hawaii Session Laws 2017, was adopted, and the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Climate Commission) was established. The establishment of the Climate Commission replaces the Hawaii Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee created in 2014 under Act 83. The Climate Commission will:

- Establish climate change mitigation and adaptation goals to help guide planning and implementation state-wide;
- Identify all climate change mitigation and adaption planning actions being undertaken at the federal, state and county level including an assessment of vulnerable people, places, and ecosystems, and how existing policies, plans, and programs can be enhanced to

promote and implement climate mitigation and adaptation in line with the Paris Agreement and State-determined climate change mitigation and adaptation goals;

- Identify information necessary to track greenhouse gas emission contribution levels in the State as well as the progress made in implementing and achieving the state-determined goals of reducing and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions;
- Determine what additional scientific and technical information is needed to monitor, understand, and forecast climate change and related impacts at the regional, state, and local level;
- Facilitate coordination of climate change mitigation and adaption measures, efforts, and programs among state, federal, county, international, and nongovernmental organizations and industries;
- Assess the capacity and availability of existing and identify new financial mechanisms and human resources necessary to conduct all climate change mitigation and adaptation actions at the state and local level;
- Provide oversight on the development of state, county, and community climate change mitigation and adaptation plans that shall reflect the highest possible ambitions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resiliency to climate change by identifying specific actions and resources necessary to be taken in line with the Paris Agreement and state-determine goals;
- Advise the governor and legislature on budgetary and other issues regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation; and
- Maintain a website that includes a mission statement of the Hawai‘i Climate Commission as well as access to all state climate mitigation and adaptation actions, plans, policies and results undertaken by or related to the commission.

The first major accomplishment of the Climate Commission was to accept the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report (SLR Report) in December 2017. Now the Climate Commission will turn its attention to issues concerning climate mitigation and other climate change vulnerabilities.

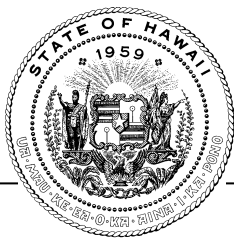
The problem of the build-up of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in the atmosphere is more serious than ever and there is widespread agreement that the Paris commitments won't be sufficient to keep global average temperature below 2 degrees centigrade as human actions have already warmed the planet to 1 degree centigrade over pre-industrial levels. For instance, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration reports that 16 out of the 17 years in the 21st century are the warmest years on record in nearly 150 years of global temperature records. At the rate and pace of global carbon emissions the world will expend the remaining budgeted one degree centigrade quickly unless we make a drastic change of course. We need to dig down deep and find ways to accelerate carbon reductions.

The global carbon budget, which is the total amount of greenhouse gases the world could emit while staying under 2 degrees, is being spent rapidly. So, we must act now. We need to make significant transitions from the use of fossil fuels in the next five years if we are to reduce the deleterious effects of climate change on present and future generations. We must try harder to decarbonize our economy in the following ways:

- Adopt a carbon budget for the state to guide policy and investment decisions in prioritizing our transition to a decarbonized economy.
- Transform our ground transportation away from fossil fuels to renewable fuels, electricity, and other technology as quickly as possible.
- Collaborate with governments, industry, and non-profits on transitioning global travel to renewable fuels and technology for shipping and aviation.
- Promote carbon offsets such as with our trees and soils to enhance our resiliency to climate change and remove carbon from the atmosphere.
- Continue to innovate and move away from fossil fuels for power generation.

Although the Department appreciates the intent of Senate Bill 2977 to scrutinize the tourism industry, the Department feels that it must look at GHG emissions from all sources including ships, planes, cars, land use, and power generation, and endeavor to decarbonize quickly. This will be one of the primary goals of the Climate Commission in the coming years.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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DAVID Y. IGE
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LEO R. ASUNCION
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Director, Office of Planning
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
TOURISM, AND TECHNOLOGY, & AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**
Monday, February 5, 2018
2:46 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
SB 2977
RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

Chairs Rhoads, Wakai, and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Gabbard, Taniguchi, and Riviere, and Members of the Senate Committees on Water and Land, Economic Development, Tourism and Technology & Agriculture and Environment.

SB 2977 explicitly directs the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Climate Commission) to: (1) analyze the types and amounts of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the Hawaii tourism industry, including emissions related to aviation and marine transportation; and (2) identify methods to decrease, mitigate or offset GHG emissions associated with the tourism industry.

The Office of Planning (OP) respectfully offers comments on SB 2977, which instructs the Climate Commission to assess the effects of tourism on climate change and publish a public report on its findings by December 31, 2020 and to reevaluate and update the report every five (5) years.

The primary source of income for Hawaii is the visitor sector, which spreads itself over several industries, such as service, transportation and retail trade. Given that Hawaii's major industry is tourism, with its attendant transportation GHG emissions, it may be beneficial to know tourism's impact on climate change and any offsetting measures that may be adopted to support Hawaii's current sustainability initiative.

However, with the broad definition of the visitor industry, which includes the service sector, including restaurants, retail operations, and small business owners to name a few, SB 2977 should consider limiting the Climate Commission's report to assessing the impacts of the tourism industry on climate change in terms of the transportation sector, including but not

limited to aviation and marine transportation, resorts and hotels, and service and retail businesses other than those meeting the definition of a small business, such as set forth by the U.S. Small Business Administration or as otherwise defined, to avoid unduly burdening small businesses that may have a negligible impact on climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-2977

Submitted on: 2/4/2018 7:56:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/5/2018 2:46:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND,
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM,
AND TECHNOLOGY, AND
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Monday, February 5, 2018

2:46 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2977, RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

To the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair; the Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee Water and Land:

To the Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair; the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology:

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2977, regarding the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission being instructed to assess the effects of tourism on climate change and publish a report on its findings.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2977 and support its passage as about one-third of greenhouse gas emissions in Hawaii come from aviation and marine transportation, much of which is driven by visitors.

Senate Bill No. 2977, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it instructs the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to assess the effects of tourism on climate change and publish a report on its findings.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[w]e know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions." (Platform of the DPH, P. 8, Lines 435-439 (2016)).

We need to give priority to the development of "green" sustainable industries and businesses. We need financial literacy and asset building programs to strengthen our 'ohana. Green commerce includes biodegradable or recycling packaging. We need to pursue relationships with the information technology industry. We need to invest in world-class higher education to stimulate our economic resources. We need to reduce our dependence on tourism, real estate development, and military. A diversified economy will help to create diversified jobs." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 68-73, (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2977 instructs the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to assess the effects of tourism on climate change and publish a report on its findings, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

SB-2977

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 5:13:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/5/2018 2:46:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2977

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 5:41:12 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/5/2018 2:46:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Culina		Support	No

Comments: