

JOSH GREEN, M.D. GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ÄINA

SYLVIA LUKE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ÄINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKUʻĀINA 'O HAWAI'I OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA 335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310 P.O. BOX 541 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809 Phone Number: (808) 586-2850 Fax Number: (808) 586-2856 cca.hawaii.gov NADINE Y. ANDO DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection Friday, March 22, 2024 9:40 a.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and via Videoconference State

On the following measure: S.R 106, REQUESTING THE HAWAII HURRICANE RELIEF FUND AND THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER TO ASSESS THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE.

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gordon Ito, and I am the Insurance Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Insurance Division. The Department offers comments on this resolution.

The purpose of this resolution is to request the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund and the Insurance Commissioner assess the impacts of climate change on homeowner's insurance.

We support the intent of seeking greater understanding of the impacts of climate change on insurance. However, the scope of the report requested in this resolution is beyond the expertise of the Insurance Division's staff. The Insurance Division would require funding for a consultant to complete the report requested in this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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