

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 11 2025

RE: S.B. No. 657  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 657 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds for the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology to establish and operate a Center for Climate Resilient Development.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Health, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, University of Hawai'i School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, Ulupono Initiative, Coalition Earth, Climate Protectors Hawai'i, Restore the Commons, Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region, and two individuals.

Your Committees find that there is a lack of climate resilient development capacity in the State. Your Committees further find that the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) has been working with communities to identify multiple forms of flooding due to sea level rise, hurricane storm surge, heat projections, and leverages campus-wide expertise in wildfire ignition modeling. Your



Committees note that state and county agencies utilize modeling products developed by SOEST. Your Committees additionally find that the modeling capacities at SOEST are currently funded by soft money grants and contracts and are thus a fragile resource for the State that could disappear if funding fails to materialize. This measure appropriates funds to establish a Center for Climate Resilient Development within SOEST to ensure that the State will continue to benefit from this critical research.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of July 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committees note that this measure, as amended, contains an unspecified appropriation amount. Should your Committee on Ways and Means choose to deliberate on this measure, your Committees respectfully request that it consider inserting an appropriation amount of \$3,000,000 for the University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Ocean and Earth Science Technology to establish and operate a Center for Climate Resilient Development.

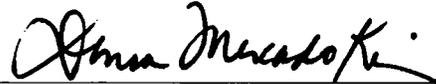
As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 657, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 657, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Higher Education  
and Agriculture and  
Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair





The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Agriculture and Environment**  
**AEN**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 657	HRE/AEN, WAM	2/3/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn				X
RHOADS, Karl	X			
AWA, Brenton			X	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original     Yellow     Pink     Goldenrod File with Committee Report     Clerk's Office     Drafting Agency     Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes