



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Charles “Chip” Fletcher, PhD  
Interim Dean

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

And

Michael Bruno, PhD  
Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### SB 657 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee:

**The University of Hawai'i School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) strongly supports Senate Bill 657 SD1 HD1**, which appropriates funds for SOEST to establish and operate a Center for Climate Resilient Development.

The proposal set forth in SB 657 SD1 HD1 to create a Center for Climate Resilient Development at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa represents a crucial step in safeguarding the future of Hawai'i.

Building on the SOEST's proven expertise in climate modeling, the Center will provide actionable data on sea level rise, coastal erosion, wave flooding, groundwater inundation, storm water drainage, and more—already indispensable to Hawai'i's real estate, environmental review, and county resilience laws. Further, laws that refer to the Sea Level Rise Exposure Area include the clause “or its successor,” contemplating updates to SOEST's modeling products that cannot be completed without adequate resources.<sup>1</sup>

The following is a list of laws and policies that depend on SOEST data.

- Mandatory disclosure of sea level rise in real estate transactions
  - Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 508D-15(5)
- Required analysis of sea level rise in the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act
  - Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 343
  - Hawai'i Administrative Rules §§ 11-200.1-13, -18, -21, -24
- Shoreline Setback Ordinances in Kaua'i County, Maui County, and the City & County of Honolulu
  - Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 205A-45
  - Maui County Administrative Rules, Title 12 Chapter 203
  - Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Chapter 26
  - Kaua'i County Code, Title IV, Chapter 8, Article 27

<sup>1</sup> See e.g. Haw. Rev. Stat. § 508D-15(a)(5).

- Special Management Area in Maui County and the City & County of Honolulu
  - Hawai'i Revised Statutes §§ 205A-21 et seq.
  - Maui County Administrative Rules, Title 12 Chapter 202
  - Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Chapter 25
- Kaua'i County Sea Level Rise Constraint District
  - Kaua'i County Code, Title IV, Chapter 8, Article 12.5

In 2017, the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission formally adopted the Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation report based on SOEST research.<sup>2</sup> Since then, SOEST data and modeling have been utilized in many state and local reports and plans. City and County of Honolulu and Maui County Mayors have also issued proclamations requiring their respective departments to incorporate sea level rise considerations into their planning and decision making.<sup>3</sup>

Currently, research at SOEST relies heavily on unstable federal grants, putting this vital work at risk without consistent funding. Recently, the Trump Administration implemented a pause on all federal grants, indicating a concerning trend for an administration that has shown limited interest in funding climate change-related research.

While SB 657 SD1 HD1 requests a one-time appropriation for this legislative session, SOEST advocates for an ongoing funding mechanism.

With \$3 million annually, the Center will solidify Hawai'i's capacity to address evolving climate hazards, collaborate with communities statewide, and champion equitable, sustainable development to protect the islands' people, ecosystems, and future.

The utilization of general fund dollars for climate and sea level rise research offers significant long-term cost savings. While the initial investment may seem substantial, it pales in comparison to the future expenses that the state will inevitably face if it fails to adequately prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Investing in research now allows for the development of data-driven strategies to mitigate these impacts, protecting critical infrastructure and minimizing damage from severe weather events. Every dollar spent proactively on research can save the state significantly more in the form of avoided future infrastructure repairs, emergency services costs, and the immeasurable cost of human suffering during climate-related disasters. This proactive approach is not only fiscally responsible but also demonstrates a commitment to the safety and well-being of Hawai'i's residents.

In conclusion, passing SB 657 SD1 HD1 and funding climate and sea level rise research at SOEST, whether through general fund, or through some other means, is a strategic investment in the state's future. This vital research will help to protect the natural beauty that attracts tourists and generates significant revenue, while also mitigating future costs associated with

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<sup>2</sup> Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. 2017. Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc. and the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, under the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Contract No: 64064.

<sup>3</sup> Off. of the Mayor, City and Cty. of Honolulu, Exec. Directive No. 18-2 (Jul. 16, 2018); Off. of the Mayor, Cty. of Mau Honolulu, Exec. Proclamation (Feb. 22, 2018).

climate change impacts. This investment is not merely an expenditure, but a crucial step towards ensuring Hawai'i's environmental, economic, and social resilience in the face of an increasingly uncertain future.

We urge your passage of SB 657 SD1 HD1, provided its adoption does not impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
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ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
HIGHER EDUCATION

Wednesday, March 19, 2025  
2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

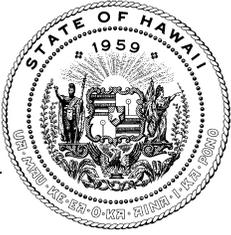
In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 657, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

Senate Bill 657, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds for the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology within the University of Hawai'i to establish and operate a Center for Climate Resilient Development. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill.**

The Department has a close working relationship with the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST), and has used the sea level rise data and coastal erosion modeling to help develop the 2017 and 2022 State Sea Level Rise and Adaptation Reports as well as the resulting policies.

The work conducted at SOEST has largely been funded by federal grants, which can be subject to the influence of changing national priorities. Climate science and sea level rise modeling continue to advance. If the State wishes to continue to base its policies on science, the Department believes that we should invest directly in the development and support of scientific resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.



**STATE OF HAWAI'I  
OFFICE OF PLANNING  
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
DIRECTOR

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

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824  
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Statement of  
**MARY ALICE EVANS, Director**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Wednesday, March, 19 2025, 2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

in consideration of  
**SB 657 SD 1 HD1**

**RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT.**

Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

The purpose of SB 657 SD 1 HD 1 is to appropriate funds for the University of Hawai'i, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) to establish and operate a Center for Climate Resilient Development which will provide climate data and modeling on coastal hazards such as sea level rise, coastal erosion and groundwater inundation.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports** this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact administrative budget priorities, as the availability of up-to-date and reliable information is a critical component to ensuring that decision making along the shoreline is informed by science. Building on SOEST's proven expertise in climate modeling, the Center will provide actionable data on sea level rise, coastal erosion, wave flooding, groundwater inundation, and more—already indispensable to Hawai'i's real estate, environmental review, and county resilience laws. With dedicated funding, the Center will be able to provide foundational data for planning and managing our coastal areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY  
*KE KE'ENA LOLI ANIAU MĀLAMA 'ĀINA A ME KE OLA LOA*  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 11<sup>th</sup> FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-2277 • EMAIL: [resilientoahu@honolulu.gov](mailto:resilientoahu@honolulu.gov) • INTERNET: [www.resilientoahu.org](http://www.resilientoahu.org)

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
*MEIA*



BENJAMIN SULLIVAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &  
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER  
*PO'O HO'OKŌ & KAHU OLA LOA*

KEALOHA FOX  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR &  
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER  
*HOPE PO'O & HOPE KAHU OLA LOA*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025, 2:00 P.M.

STATE OF HAWAII  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 657, SD1, HD1  
RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT**

BY,

BENJAMIN SULLIVAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER  
OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Dear Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee:

The City and County of Honolulu (“City”) Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (“Resilience Office”) **supports** SB657, SD1, HD1, which appropriates funds for the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) within the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa to establish and operate a Center for Climate Resilient Development.

The City has greatly benefited from the research, data, and modeling produced by SOEST, including those utilized in the City’s recent update to shoreline setback and special management area regulations to better safeguard beaches and adjacent development in the face of increasing climate change impacts, including sea level rise and coastal erosion. Additionally, the City relies upon SOEST’s partnership, data, and modeling in planning efforts to increase the climate resiliency of infrastructure in Waikīkī and Iwilei, as well as lower climate hazard risk for communities in the Ko‘olaupoko region. Climate impacts will continue to increase, and SOEST remains a critical partner and resource in our ability to plan for and address these impacts on our communities. Secure investment in these scientific resources will be necessary to effectively do so into the future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB657, SD1, HD1.



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025 — 2:00 p.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports SB 657 SD 1 HD 1, Relating to Center for Climate Resilient Development.**

Dear Chair Garrett and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

**Ulupono supports SB 657 SD 1 HD 1**, which appropriates funds for the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) within the University of Hawai'i at Manoa to establish and operate a Center for Climate Resilient Development.

Hawai'i faces unique and pressing challenges from climate change that require coordinated, science-based solutions. The proposed Center would fill a considerable gap by providing dedicated capacity for community-focused climate resilience planning.

SOEST is ideally positioned to house this Center, given its established expertise in climate modeling and track record of working directly with communities. Its existing modeling capabilities are already essential to the state's climate adaptation efforts, including:

- Mandatory sea level rise disclosure requirements for real estate transactions
- Environmental review processes
- County-level shoreline setback and special management area regulations

However, this vital research currently relies on vulnerable soft money funding. By providing stable state funding of \$3 million annually, this bill would protect and enhance Hawai'i's climate science capabilities at a time when federal support for climate research faces uncertainty.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



March 17, 2025

House Committee on Higher Education  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 657 SD1 HD1, Relating to the Center for Climate Resilient Development  
Hearing: Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 2:00 PM CR 309 via Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato and Members of the Committee

**Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region strongly supports Senate Bill 657 SD1 HD1** which proposes to establish a Center for Climate Resilient Development at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots activist network dedicated to the protection of our oceans, waves, and beaches. Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region supports SB657 because Hawai'i's coastal communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. Sea level rise threatens coastal communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems, including world-renowned beaches and surf breaks. Accurate projections of sea level rise impacts are crucial for developing effective adaptation strategies, such as managed retreat and infrastructure improvements.

Surfrider Foundation works closely with researchers at the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) to understand their modeling projects and interpret how to best advocate for the resilience for Hawai'i's beaches. SOEST research informs policy decisions and land management practices, helping to protect Hawaii's coastal resources for future generations.

As example, SOEST members play a key role in our North Shore Coastal Resilience Working Group (NSCRWG), a community-based effort to identify proactive solutions to combat chronic coastal erosion and beach loss along the North Shore of O‘ahu. In 2022, SOEST SLR-XA projections were a critical point of discussion and formed much of the recommended management strategies. We are reinstating the NSCRWG this year and SOEST will again be included and looked to for their expertise in climate modeling. The proposed Center will provide actionable data on sea level rise, coastal erosion, wave flooding, groundwater inundation, and more which will be instrumental knowledge to successful coastal management strategies.

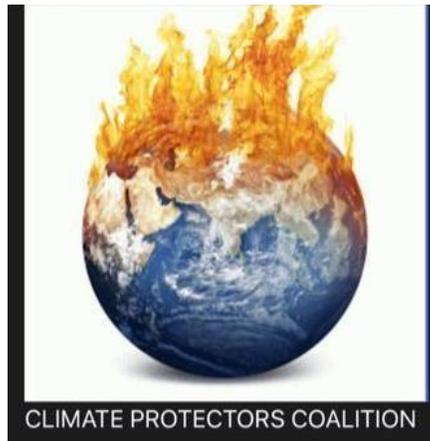
Surfrider Foundation is concerned about the climate crisis in Hawai‘i because sea level is projected to rise by several feet in Hawai‘i by the end of the century, underscoring the urgent need to prioritize community resilience. In order to prepare our keiki for the climate of tomorrow, we need accurate projections of future sea level rise and climate impacts in Hawai‘i’s communities and SB657 does just that.

In summary, Surfrider Foundation strongly supports SB657 and appreciates the Committees’ thorough consideration of the bill and the positive impact it will have for Hawai‘i’s resilience.

Mahalo for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Hanna Lilley  
Hawai‘i Regional Manager  
Surfrider Foundation



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To: The Honorable Chair Andrew Takuya Garrett, the Honorable Vice Chair Terez Amato, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education.

From: The Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **SB657 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT**

Hearing: Wednesday March 19, 2025, 2:00 p.m. Rm. 309

Aloha Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Terez Amato, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education!

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seeks to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate.

**The Climate Protectors Hawai'i STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB657 SD1 HD1!**

Hawai'i is extremely vulnerable to hazards from climate warming, but no single agency or entity is responsible for developing climate resiliency plans.

The University of Hawai'i School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) has been working with communities to identify some of those vulnerabilities: flooding from hurricanes and sea level rise, heat projections, and wildfires, with expertise in ignition modeling. SOEST has developed modeling for the State's mandatory disclosure of sea level rise in real estate transactions and for environmental reviews. Contracts and federal money that SOEST has used are likely to be unavailable in the next few years. Based on its experience, SOEST would appear to be the best single entity in Hawai'i to develop climate resiliency plans.

This bill would establish a Center for Climate Resilient Development in UH SOEST. This Center would provide communities with guidance on climate hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities and recommend capital improvement projects and shovel-ready projects to build resiliency.

Climate Protectors Hawai'i is very concerned that Hawai'i **minimize the future costs** of adapting for climate warming hazards and vulnerabilities. **Hawai'i can avoid a great deal of higher future costs of climate change by careful planning. It makes sense to have a single entity responsible for developing climate resiliency plans.** Based on its experience, **SOEST would appear to be the best single entity in Hawai'i to develop climate resiliency plans.**

**Please pass this bill to establish a Center for Climate Resilient Development in UH SOEST.**

Mahalo!

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



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

**MARCH 19, 2025**

**SB 657, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Coalition Earth **supports** SB 657, SD1, HD1, relating to the Center for Climate Resilient Development, which appropriates funds for the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology within the University of Hawai'i at Manoa to establish and operate a Center for Climate Resilient Development.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding. Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Just two years ago, we witnessed the impact of the climate emergency on our shores. On August 8, 2023, wildfires swept across Maui and killed at least 100 people, making it one of the nation's deadliest natural disasters. The spread of the fires has been attributed to climate change conditions, such as unusually dry landscapes and the confluence of a strong high-pressure system to the north and Hurricane Dora to the south. The wildfires destroyed over 2,200 structures,

including numerous residential buildings, historic landmarks, and school facilities. In September 2023, a report from the United States Department of Commerce estimated the total economic damage of the wildfires to be roughly \$5.5 billion. Investing in renewable energy generation could not be more urgent, given the growing threat of climate catastrophes to our island home.

Therefore, **our state should take steps to accelerate our transition to a clean energy economy and continue our fight against climate change, including by uplifting strategies to reduce direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions, support sustainable development with an emphasis on social equity for all communities, and augment socioeconomic systems to bolster climate resilience and public health.** Under the Trump administration, funding for climate resilience initiatives will likely be severely curtailed, leaving it to state officials to guarantee that our efforts to combat climate change can continue unabated.

Experts at the University of Hawai'i's School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) work with communities to identify sea level rise vulnerabilities, hurricane storm surge models, heat projections, and wildfire hazards. SOEST's sea level rise models are utilized for the mandatory disclosure of sea level rise in real estate transactions and the analysis of sea level rise required by the state's environmental review process. SOEST's climate researchers also perform invaluable analyses of the impact of climate change on our state, as the worst effects of the climate crisis become more likely with each passing year.

As we invest more heavily in green infrastructure, climate readiness, emergency preparedness, and clean energy, it would be beneficial to have a research center to inform public policy and partner with individual communities on projects that address climate change. This is particularly true in light of the need to craft a socially equitable response to the climate emergency, in which our most marginalized populations—who are also those most susceptible to climate threats—are fully included.

*Coalition Earth is a nongovernmental organization that works to preserve the well-being of people and our planet. We champion policies that advance climate resilience, clean energy, public health, and economic fairness for working families. **Contact us at [info@coalitionearth.org](mailto:info@coalitionearth.org).***



**House Committee on Higher Education**

**Testimony on SB 657**

**Relating to the Center for Climate Resilient Development**

**March 19th, 2025**

**2:00 PM**

**Room 309**

The Climate Change and Health Working Group (CCHWG) is a cross-sector collaborative interested in strengthening climate and health resiliency in Hawai'i. CCHWG supports this measure, which establishes the Center for Climate Resilient Development at the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST).

**Testimony of the Hawai'i Climate Change and Health Working Group**

**In Support of SB 657**

**Relating to the Center for Climate Resilient Development**

Aloha Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education,

The Climate Change and Health Working Group strongly supports SB 657 SD1, which proposes the establishment and operation of the Center for Climate Resilient Development at the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST).

As clearly outlined in the bill, climate change is among the most pressing challenges facing Hawai'i and other Pacific Islands. These regions are at the forefront of climate impacts and stand to suffer significant losses from rising sea levels, increased coastal flooding, stronger and more frequent hurricanes, and devastating wildfires. Such events disproportionately affect vulnerable communities, whose livelihoods, identities, ancestries, and ways of life are deeply interconnected with land, water, and natural resources now under threat.

Moreover, climate hazards directly translate into health hazards. Rising sea levels and flooding expose populations to sewage contamination, bacteria, and other pathogens, increasing risks of infection. Wildfires and hurricanes cause immediate morbidity and mortality and continue to endanger vulnerable populations in the subsequent days and weeks. Accessing healthcare or refilling prescriptions becomes significantly challenging amid damaged infrastructure, flooded streets, and mold-infested buildings.

Establishing the Center for Climate Resilient Development at SOEST would address these vulnerabilities and risks using scientifically robust and evidence-based approaches, ensuring that community needs remain central to solutions. Leveraging SOEST's substantial expertise provides an excellent foundation for developing practical, equitable solutions. Additionally, SOEST's commitment to equity ensures vulnerable communities are prioritized, acknowledged, and protected as part of comprehensive climate resilience strategies.

The Climate Change and Health Working Group strongly supports SB 657 SD1, recognizing Hawai'i's critical need for effective, science-based, community-centered, and equitable solutions to climate change.

Mahalo nui for your thoughtful consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,

The Climate Change and Health Working Group

**SB-657-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2025 2:40:17 PM

Testimony for HED on 3/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emma Heidenreich	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB657 – Establishment of a Center for Climate Resilient Development

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB657, which proposes the creation of a Center for Climate Resilient Development at the University of Hawaii’s School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST). This initiative is a crucial step toward ensuring that our community is well-prepared to face the increasingly severe impacts of climate change.

That said, I would like to respectfully point out that the effective date of July 1, 3000, as stated in the bill, seems extraordinarily far in the future. Given the urgency of climate change and the immediate need for action, it would be more practical and realistic to set a much earlier implementation date, such as July 1, 2025, or July 1, 2026. This would ensure that this important initiative moves forward without unnecessary delays.

I strongly urge the committee to consider revising the effective date to reflect the urgency of the issue at hand. We cannot afford to wait nearly 1,000 years to begin tackling the climate challenges that are already impacting our state.

Thank you for considering my testimony, and I support the establishment of the Center for Climate Resilient Development as outlined in SB657.

Sincerely,

Emma Heidenreich

**SB-657-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 2:27:13 PM

Testimony for HED on 3/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anonymous	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an individual citizen and a resident of this world, I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. Our state is positioned to be drastically affected by upcoming climate change due to our position as an isolated island and a community with delicate ecosystems. With water levels set to rise, temperatures to change, and storms such as hurricanes and tsunamis to increase, we must think about the ways that climate change will affect both our current and future generations. I would like to see Hawai'i flourish and have the resilience to make it through whatever change may be coming, as well as mitigate the effects and help our islands continue to become sustainable. This funding and research would allow us to prepare for a better world instead of waiting for a worse one. As climate change and environmental sustainability has become further politicized on a federal level, I feel it is an excellent idea to have state dedicated funding that won't be affected by the whims of whoever is in office every four years. Please consider your children, your children's children, and their future when voting for this bill. Mahalo.

**SB-657-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/18/2025 7:47:23 PM

Testimony for HED on 3/19/2025 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dr. Kioni Dudley	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am Dr, Kioni Dudley. I created a one-hour video titled The New Hurricane Threat for Hawaii which was shown on all local TV stations ten times in September.

I strongly support this bill. I think the SOEST Center for Climate Resilient Development can do much good. It will get many more people active in preparing for hurricanes and other disasters.

Please pass this bill.