



March 13, 2019

To: Chair Kaiali'i Kahlele
Vice Chair Gilbert S. C. Keith Agaran
Senate Committee on Water and Land

Chair Glen Wakai
Vice Chair Brian T. Taniguchi
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 1558, HD1**

Hrg: March 13, 2019 at 1:15pm, Conference Room 229, State Capitol

The Hawaii Public Health Association is a group of over 600 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

The Hawai'i Public Health Association (HPHA) **supports HD 1558, HD1**, which requires the Office of Planning to update the Hawai'i 2050 sustainability plan and submit the updated plan to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2021 and every tenth session thereafter. Climate change presents a public health problem, with serious health impacts including; increased respiratory and cardiovascular disease, injuries and premature deaths related to extreme weather events and changes in food distribution and infectious diseases. Key weather and climate drivers of health impacts include increasingly frequent extreme precipitation, intense storms, and changes in precipitation patterns that lead to ecosystem changes and rising sea levels that intensify coastal flooding and storm surge.

It is imperative that the Hawai'i 2050 sustainability plan be updated regularly using the goals and priority guidelines of the state plan and the Hawai'i climate change mitigation and adaptation initiative as guiding principles. This will help to ensure a collective and coherent response to the multifaceted problem presented by climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on important health issues affecting people in Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Townsend Ing

Claire Townsend Ing, DrPH
Legislative Committee Chair