DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

> **Testimony of SUZANNE D. CASE** Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on WATER AND LAND

Friday, March 18, 2022 1:00 p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of **HOUSE BILL 1669, HOUSE DRAFT 1** RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTION

House Bill 1669, House Draft 1 proposes to require the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to establish a pilot program to develop a Waikiki adaptation and resilience plan to address climate change and sea level impacts in the Waikiki special district. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the bill.

The proposed project would build off the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission's 2017 report, Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report. This report has been extremely valuable in the Department's mission to protect the State's natural and cultural resources and has guided many of our decisions over the past five years.

This bill will take the macro-level recommendations contained in the commission's report, along with other studies, to create a community-level adaptation and resilience plan for Waikiki under the leadership of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development. The Department believes that a successful pilot project will provide a useful model for other coastal communities in the State that are facing serious threats from sea level rise.

In order to ensure the success of the project, the Department would request that the Committee consider including an implementation strategy as a component of the plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA

M. KALEO MANUEL

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



STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS

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

Telephone: (808) 587-2846 Fax: (808) 587-2824 Web: https://planning.hawaii.gov/

Statement of MARY ALICE EVANS

Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Friday, March 18, 2022 1:00 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of
HB 1669 HD1
RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION.

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) commends the legislature for its continued recognition of sea level rise as part of the climate emergency. Waikiki is a significant asset to the State and has unique challenges and opportunities relating to coastal erosion and sea level rise. The OPSD supports the intent of **HB 1669 HD1** and provides the following comments:

For consistency with the amendments made by the House Committee on Water and Land, the OPSD offers the following proposed amendment in Section 1 of the proposed measure where deletions are bracketed and stricken:

Page 3, Line 16 "pilot project where [a working group convened by] the office of"

The OPSD requests that this committee consider the requests documented in House Committee Report HSCR279-22 from the House Committees on Water and Land & Energy and Environmental Protection acknowledging that OPSD would require appropriate resources, to include a dedicated position (Exempt, 1.0 FTE, Salary ~\$81,744), to lead, manage, and procure consultant services to carry out the activities in this measure. To ensure activities identified within the Waikiki Adaptation and Resilience Plan are carried out accordingly, this position would provide sustained staff support to monitor and coordinate agencies towards plan implementation.

The OPSD recognizes that this scale of planning is typically county-led and therefore the OPSD would work closely on the City and County of Honolulu to ensure that the outcomes

funded by this proposed measure are complementary to and consistent with county planning efforts without being duplicative of any activities currently being undertaken at the county level.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1669, HD 1, RELATING TO SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

BY

Luke P. Meyers Administrator, Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

MARCH 18, 2022

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony providing **COMMENTS** on House Bill 1669, HD 1.

House Bill 1669, HD 1 requires the office of planning and sustainable development to establish a pilot program to develop a Waikiki adaptation and resilience plan to address climate change and sea level impacts in the Waikiki special district. Requires reports to the legislature. Makes an appropriation.

The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) sees substantial value in creating additional tools such as this pilot project which communities may use to enhance hazard mitigation strategies to prepare and pay for the impacts of sea level rise, groundwater inundation, and coastal erosion relating to climate change.

As the bill progresses, the HI-EMA would recommend that the bill incorporate language to align the local hazard mitigation planning with statewide hazard mitigation efforts, allowing HI-EMA to better support the district in maximizing the impact of mitigation projects and in maximizing federal funding. This would also be consistent with the hazard mitigation plans that are adopted by each county and the state and are approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. These hazard reduction documents identify activities that reduce the loss of life, property, and the environment from hazards impacting our coastal communities.

The HI-EMA takes no stance on the reporting requirements, deferring that to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, but the HI-EMA otherwise supports this bill provided that the appropriation does not conflict with the Governor's budget priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony offering comments on House Bill 1669, HD 1.

Luke P. Meyers: <u>Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov</u>; 808-733-4300

Testimony Presented to the Senate Committee on Water and Land Friday, March 18, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

e I. Syrmos Vice Presider

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation University of Hawai'i System

HB 1669 HD1 – RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION.

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 1669 HD1 which requires the State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to establish a pilot program that will develop a Waikīkī adaptation and resilience plan to address the projected impacts of climate change and sea level rise in the Waikīkī special district.

Hawai'i Sea Grant and the Climate Resiliency Initiative (formerly the Coastal Geology Group), both based in UH Mānoa's heralded School of Ocean and Earth Sciences, provide excellent research, education and policy efforts in this domain. Combined with working, technical solutions from the UH Mānoa College of Engineering's Coastal Erosion Shoreline Team in geotechnics, transportation, infrastructure and shoreline hardening, UH is well-suited to be a contributing member of this important pilot program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAI'I EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

P.O. BOX 150 HONOLULU. HAWAI'I 96810-0150 CRAIG K. HIRAI

GLORIA CHANG DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1669, H.D. 1

March 18, 2022 1:00 p.m. Room 229 and Videoconference

RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1669, H.D. 1, requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to establish a pilot program to develop a Waikiki adaptation and resilience plan (WARP) to address climate change and sea level impacts in the Waikiki special district and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 for the development of the WARP.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

 Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET HONOLULU, HI 96843 www.boardofwatersupply.com



RICK BLANGIARDI, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair KAPUA SPROAT, Vice Chair RAY C. SOON MAX J. SWORD NA`ALEHU ANTHONY

JADE T. BUTAY, Ex-Officio DAWN B. SZEWCZYK, P.E., Ex-Officio

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E. Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E. Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair and Members Committee on Water and Land The Senate Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Inouye and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1669, HD1: Relating to Sea Level Rise Adaptation

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 1669, House Draft (HD) 1 relating to sea level rise adaptation, which requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to establish a pilot project to develop a Waikiki adaptation and resilience plan to address climate change and sea level impacts in the Waikiki special district.

The BWS is actively working with the City's Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency Office and the City's One Water Panel to address sea level rise adaptation from climate change. The BWS recognizes that sea level rise and coastal erosion will impact the water distribution system in low lying and coastal areas and adaptation measures need to be prioritized and implemented. BWS has already experienced difficulty in repairing main breaks along Ala Wai Boulevard, Ala Moana Boulevard and Nimitz Highway having to wait for low tide to complete pipe repairs. We anticipate sea level rise exacerbating water system maintenance and repair in the decades to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1669, HD1.

Very truly yours,

ERNESTY.W. LAU, P.E. Manager and Chief Engineer



SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

March 18, 2022 1:00 PM Conference Room 229

In SUPPORT of HB1669 HD1: Relating to Sea Level Rise Adaptation

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Water and Land Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB1669 HD1** Relating to Sea Level Rise Adaptation.

HB1669 HD1 recognizes the need for community-specific and community-driven adaptation plans to deal with sea level rise and other climate threats. It calls for, and would fund, a pilot project to develop a Waikīkī adaptation and resilience plan that would not only protect an economic engine of Hawai'i, but also serve as a model for development of adaptation plans elsewhere throughout the islands.

While Waikīkī is a very important area, generating much economic activity, Climate Equity principles require development of similar adaptation and resilience plans for frontline communities including Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Island communities. HB1672 HD1, scheduled for a hearing on March 22, may help to address this need by authorizing counties to create special improvement districts for purposes including climate-change related natural hazard mitigation.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB1669 HD1.



/AIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BLVD. SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817 PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: http://www.honolulu.gov

March 17, 2022

Senate Committee on Water and Land

House Bill 1669

Aloha Chair Inouye and Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in Favor of the Concept of House Bill 1669.

The Residents of Waikiki are highly concerned about the future of sea rise and climate change.

We support the efforts of the Waikiki Beach Special Improvement Association and the Waikiki Improvement Association to take early steps to address sea rise and climate change as a partner in Waikiki.

This legislation will help our community prepare for the future and may help prevent damage to our community.

We support the concept of this bill and related SB2724.

Mahalo again,

Robert Finley Chair



Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:43:27 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members: Please support HB1669. Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony. Andrea Quinn Kihei, Maui

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 6:46:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a long-term resident of Waikiki, I FULLY SUPPORT the passage of HB1669.

It is never too early to address climate change; there is a lot that needs to be done about it now.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this bill.

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 6:49:49 PM

Testimony for WTL on $3/18/2022\ 1:00:00\ PM$

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB1669 HD1.

There is no time like the present to do something about climate change.

We don't want future generations to wonder why we didn't when we should have.

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:06:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on $3/18/2022\ 1:00:00\ PM$

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is not Climet Change it is just a fact that the Sand goes out and if it does not come back in there is Erosion bin going on for Centuries its about Time you Donkeys Look this up and Stop spreding lies!



Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Water and Land March 18, 2022 at 1:00pm Senate Capitol (Via Video conference)

Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District Association By Rick Egged, President

HB1669 HD1- RELATING TO SEA-LEVEL RISE ADAPTATION

Chairs Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committees:

The Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District Association (WBSIDA) strongly supports House Bill (HB1669 HD1). This bill requires the State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) to convene a working group to develop a Waikīkī resilience plan to address climate change and sea level impacts in the Waikīkī special district. This effort is an important step towards the development of an adaptation and resilience strategy for Waikīkī and will serve as framework and demonstration for other communities in Hawai'i.

The Hawaii State Legislature has correctly recognized that Hawaii is experiencing the impacts of climate change and coastal hazards including the effects of sea level rise and coastal erosion. These threats include; coastal hazards and climate change impacts including the effects of increased frequency and severity of storms and drought, sea level rise, groundwater inundation and coastal erosion. Sea-level rise induced ground water inundation is of particular concern to low elevation regions like Waikīkī given the contribution to our economy, dense urban development and substantial coastal exposure to hazards. The intent of this bill is to develop a proactive resilience plan to prioritize actions that protect, preserve, and where desirable, create, restore or improve the quality of the environment and the associated community benefits.

As described by the City and State Climate Change Commission, it is increasingly likely that we will experience 3 feet or more of sea level rise by the middle to end of this century, depending on the greenhouse gas emission scenario. Six feet or more of sea level rise by 2100 is plausible under some scenarios. High tide flooding will affect low-lying coastal areas like Waikīkī decades before global mean sea level reaches these benchmarks. The Honolulu Climate Commission recommends using the 3.2 ft Sea Level Rise Exposure Area as a hazard overlay to prepare for and adapt to sea level rise impacts. This is the type of actionable information that can be used by such a task force to anticipate and plan for predicted impacts to Waikīkī.

Waikīkī is a globally recognized icon of Hawai'i and is the state's largest tourist destination. Waikīkī generates approximately 42% of the state's visitor industry revenue and is responsible for 8% (\$5 billion) of the Gross State Product¹. Beaches are a primary attraction for visitors to Waikīkī and perhaps the first line of defense against sea-level rise. It has been estimated that Waikīkī Beach accounts for over \$2 billion in annual income for the local economy². The beaches and myriad of world-renown surf breaks and reef ecosystem located offshore are valuable natural resources that support the environment, culture and lifestyle of Hawai'i, and the idyllic image of Waikīkī. It is critically important to facilitate the ability to maintain these important natural resources along with maintaining the associated resilient development for the inherent economic, social, cultural and environmental value they provide to residents and visitors alike.

Policies related to coastal resilience in Hawai'i have centered on the possible impact of sea-level rise on the active beach system and the built environment. As part of the development of new resilience policies, it is important to recognize and evaluate possible adaptation strategies with a strong understanding of the challenges, limitations and opportunities associated with some adaptive planning and design approaches for Waikīkī. The role and influence of the impacts of groundwater inundation is one example of the type of predicted impact that significantly affects land use and urban design. Similarly, due to the unique history and economy of Waikīkī there may be solutions and design approaches that are particularly well-suited for a high-density urban environment like Waikīkī that should be assessed and evaluated by the task force.

The effort to develop a resilience plan and specific resilient design guidelines for Waikīkī is consistent and supportive of the City and County of Honolulu's (CCH) O'ahu Resilience Strategy. The O'ahu Resilience Strategy (ORS) is part of the CCH's effort to develop strategies for resilience as part of the international 100 Resilient Cities network organized and hosted by the Rockefeller Foundation. One of the 44 Resilience Actions identified in the ORS is Action 14: *Establish Future Conditions Climate Resilience Design Guidelines*. This action is among many in the ORS that a task force can and should evaluate and serve as a proactive advisory guideline for climate resilience. The purpose of the Action 14 guideline is to provide step-by-step instructions on how to incorporate climate and hazard considerations into the design of City and private facilities and infrastructure but can also serve a pilot for adaptation for private development.

Waikiki Special District Guidelines (WSD)³.

Waikīkī is subject to a Special District that controls certain land uses and zoning restrictions. The purpose of a special district is to provide a means by which certain areas in the community in need of restoration, preservation, redevelopment or rejuvenation may

¹ http://www.waikikibid.org/

² Waikīkī Improvement Association (2018) Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikiki Beach, Final Report.

³ (Revised Ordinance of Honolulu Chapter 21 Section 9. Special District Regulations)

be designated as special districts to guide development to protect and/or enhance the physical and visual aspects of an area for the benefit of the community as a whole. The Waikīkī Special District Objectives contain a total of fourteen district objectives listed including promoting the Hawaiian sense of place, guiding development with optimum benefits to the community and retaining residential sector among the objectives. There is currently no specific mention of climate change, hazards, sustainability or resilience anywhere in the Waikīkī Special District Guidelines. With recent interest in revising and updating the WSD guidelines there is an opportunity for the Waikīkī Resilience Task Force to assist in the development of the revised guidelines utilizing new urban planning and architectural design concepts such as those presented here including the Waikīkī Design Flood Elevation guidelines as one example.

The University of Hawai'i, through a collaborative research project with the School of Architecture, SOEST and Sea Grant have initiated a study on long-term visioning and climate adaptation of the buildings and landscapes in Waikīkī through a series of architectural design charrettes. The research addresses the design problem of "in-place" adaptation of a coastal urban area to flooding as sea level rises in Waikīkī and is largely based on research of other U.S. municipalities efforts to adapt to sea-level rise. This research is an essential component to implementing these land use changes over time and the type of information the Resilience Task Force could evaluate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Association (WBSIDA) is dedicated to enhancing the resilience of Waikīkī by ensuring the coordinated management and long-term sustainability of Waikiki Beach and nearshore waters.

https://www.wbsida.org/

Senator Lorraine Inouye
Chair of the Water and Land Committee
State of Hawai'i 2022 Legislative

RE: Proposed Amending of HB 1669HD1

government's library. 100 years have gone by and the Ala Wai Canal walls have stayed as they were built, 20 feet of cut earth with a 5 feet loose rock wall on top that is grouted on the canal side. This Plans and master plans are good when there is a lot of time. Over and over studies are made for the floods has lost its water capacity by an estimated 50% because of built up sludge and sewage from Valleys to be built out. During this time, the canal created to protect Waikiki from the mountain river allowed the Waikiki Resort District and the residential neighborhoods of Manoa, Palolo and Makiki the many storms over the years.

to first base within the next 5 years, will allow the Army Corps and Other Solutions to utilize the canal. increases its temperature by 1.5 degrees between 2030 to 2050. Emergency action is needed for engineers to start on sheet pile walls for the canal to restore the water depth back to 25 feet. Getting Climate Change is now upon Hawaii and will bring extreme weather/flooding of Waikiki as the earth

Sincerely Yours,

Marshall Hung, retired affordable housing developer

Art Ushijima, retired Pres/ CEO of The Queen's Health Systems

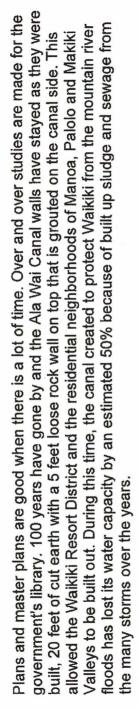
Ken Hayashida, CEO of KAI Hawaii

Bill Wilson, former CEO of Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co.

BU NOT

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz Chair of the Ways and Means Committee State of Hawai'i 2022 Legislative

RE: Proposed Amending of HB 1669HD1



to first base within the next 5 years, will allow the Army Corps and Other Solutions to utilize the canal. engineers to start on sheet pile walls for the canal to restore the water depth back to 25 feet. Getting Climate Change is now upon Hawaii and will bring extreme weather/flooding of Waikiki as the earth increases its temperature by 1.5 degrees between 2030 to 2050. Emergency action is needed for

Sincerely Yours,

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