
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A REEVALUATION OF THE ALA WAI CANAL PROJECT DRAFT
FEASIBILITY STUDY WITH INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
2 and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) are
3 proposing to undertake the Ala Wai Canal Project (Project) that
4 would reduce riverine flood risks in the Ala Wai Watershed; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the Ala Wai Watershed, which is located on the
7 southeastern side of the island of Oahu, includes Makiki, Manoa,
8 and Palolo streams, all of which drain to the two-mile-long Ala
9 Wai Canal; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the Ala Wai Canal was constructed in the 1920s to
12 drain extensive coastal wetlands to make way for the development
13 of the Waikiki District, and, over the years, overtopping of the
14 Ala Wai Canal resulted in property damage and created health and
15 safety risks to the community; and
16

17 WHEREAS, overtopping of Ala Wai Canal has caused flooding
18 in parts of Waikiki, particularly when storms hit in 1965, 1967,
19 1992, 2004, and 2006; and
20

21 WHEREAS, in August of 2015, USACE presented its findings in
22 the draft report, "Ala Wai Canal Project, O'ahu, Hawai'i
23 Feasibility Study with Integrated Environmental Impact
24 Statement" (Draft Report); and
25

26 WHEREAS, the Draft Report relied on analyses showing that
27 the one percent annual chance exceedance (ACE) floodplain
28 extends over approximately 1,358 acres of the watershed, and
29 modeling results indicate that the one-percent ACE flood would



1 result in damage to more than 3,000 structures, with
2 approximately \$318,000,000 in structural damage alone; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the tentatively selected plan proposes improving
5 the flood warning system and constructing six in-stream debris
6 and detention basins in the upper reaches of Makiki, Manoa, and
7 Palolo streams, a standalone debris catchment feature, three
8 multi-purpose detention areas in open spaces through the
9 developed watershed, and concrete floodwalls along one or both
10 sides of approximately 1.9 miles of the Ala Wai Canal; and
11

12 WHEREAS, the Draft Report identifies 17 sites, several of
13 which are owned by private landowners, on a total of about 18
14 acres within the Ala Wai Watershed that could be used for
15 construction of flood risk management structures to mitigate the
16 potential environmental impacts of the Project; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the complexity of the Draft Report and the breadth
19 of the Project as they relate to the Project's impact on
20 communities and residents warrant a re-evaluation of the
21 tentatively selected plan, which includes condemnation of
22 private landowners' properties, to:
23

- 24 (1) Better assess the quality of the information
25 presented, and uncertainty and probability of
26 predictions;
27
28 (2) Consider other alternatives that place more emphasis
29 on using public property rather than private landowner
30 property to balance private property rights of those
31 affected, with public interest considerations; and
32
33 (3) Provide greater time for public review, feedback, and
34 participation on the Project;
35

36 now, therefore,
37

38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
39 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
40 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Ala Wai Canal
41 Project Draft Feasibility Study with Integrated Environmental
42 Impact Statement be reevaluated; and



H.C.R. NO. 35

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the reevaluation of the Draft
2 Report consider pursuing other flood alternatives, including the
3 relocation of berms and detention basins to balance private
4 property rights with public interest considerations; and
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commander and
8 District Engineer of the United States Army Corps of Engineers,
9 Honolulu District; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
10 Resources; and Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.
11
12
13

OFFERED BY:

Calvin K. Lee
B. L. K. Lee
James W. Lee

FEB - 3 2016

