
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING THE ALA WAI WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP AND
REQUESTING A REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE BY THE PARTNERSHIP.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is highly vulnerable to natural disasters,
2 including hurricanes, floods, and droughts; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the State and counties are challenged to design,
5 finance, construct, operate, and maintain various water
6 infrastructure, including infrastructure for fresh water, waste
7 water, and stormwater; and
8

9 WHEREAS, Waikiki generates approximately eight percent of
10 Hawaii's gross domestic product, seven percent of the State's
11 employment, and nine percent of state tax revenues; and
12

13 WHEREAS, a one percent annual chance exceedance flood
14 event, or the "one-hundred-year flood", in the Ala Wai
15 watershed, including Waikiki, would affect approximately 1,358
16 acres within the watershed and over 3,000 properties with an
17 estimated \$318,000,000 in structural damages alone; and
18

19 WHEREAS, in March 2006, as much as ten million gallons of
20 raw sewage were dumped into the Ala Wai Canal following the
21 rupture of a sewer line due to heavy rains, and as recently as
22 August 2015, heavy rains caused a major sewage spill, forcing
23 temporary closure of beaches in Waikiki; and
24

25 WHEREAS, as of May 2015, under Act 42, Session Laws of
26 Hawaii 2015, the counties have the authority to establish and
27 charge user fees to create and maintain any stormwater
28 management system or infrastructure; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the economic risk to the Waikiki area from a
31 category 4 hurricane hitting Honolulu could result in an
32 estimated \$30,000,000,000 in economic losses and structural
33 damages; and



1
2 WHEREAS, the state-sponsored United States Army Corps of
3 Engineers Ala Wai Canal Flood Mitigation Project (Ala Wai
4 Project) is only being designed to reduce riverine flood risks
5 from the one hundred-year flood in the Ala Wai watershed,
6 including Waikiki; and
7

8 WHEREAS, in addition to flood risk reduction, the original
9 scope of work for the Ala Wai Project also included ecosystems
10 restoration, water quality enhancements, and other community
11 benefits; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with
14 the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, hosted and invited
15 participation by the public, private, philanthropic, and non-
16 governmental sectors in the January 2015 "Hawai'i Disaster Risk
17 Workshop: Mitigating Catastrophic Disaster Risk and Building
18 Resilience in the Ala Wai Watershed"; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the objectives of this workshop were to:
21

- 22 (1) Raise awareness of natural disaster risk and
23 vulnerability in the Ala Wai watershed, including the
24 economic and social consequences of a natural disaster
25 to Waikiki's residential, tourism, and business
26 communities;
27
- 28 (2) Examine options for mitigating risk and improving
29 community resilience through gray and green
30 infrastructure investments;
31
- 32 (3) Explore the opportunities to transfer disaster risk
33 from the government to private markets and leverage
34 public resources to catalyze private investment in
35 resilience through new partnerships; and
36
- 37 (4) Identify strategies to engage the community to create
38 shared value and build locally appropriate solutions
39 to urban design and ecosystem restoration; and
40

41 WHEREAS, an action agenda was agreed upon moving forward
42 from the workshop into 2015, and the Ala Wai Watershed



1 Partnership (Partnership) coalesced as the working group to
2 further the five steps of the action agenda of the workshop; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the Partnership is a voluntary partnership of
5 state, county, federal, business, and nongovernmental leaders
6 from many sectors, including engineering, planning and design,
7 flood mitigation and stormwater management, coastal hazards and
8 climate change mitigation and adaptation, economic development,
9 business, finance, insurance, social science, extension and
10 education, philanthropy, and others, that is ready to support
11 shared goals of increasing the resilience and sustainability of
12 the Ala Wai watershed and Waikiki; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the Partnership and Ala Wai Project may help
15 demonstrate how, as outlined in President Obama's Climate Action
16 Plan, climate resilience can create shared value for local
17 communities, mitigate the damage resulting from current and
18 future climate-related events, and close the national
19 infrastructure gap by leveraging innovative partnerships; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the Partnership and Ala Wai Project, as a result
22 of Hawaii's social, cultural, and economic connections to small
23 island developing states, may be a model for climate resiliency
24 projects in the Pacific islands, Caribbean, and other regions
25 facing increasing climate-related challenges; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the Partnership and Ala Wai Project could be
28 featured at the United States-hosted 2016 International Union
29 for the Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress in
30 Hawaii as a high-level commitment to support resilient
31 infrastructure investments through innovative financing and
32 public-private partnerships, while also restoring and protecting
33 critical watersheds; and
34

35 WHEREAS, a state commitment to the action agenda of the
36 Partnership will help to:
37

- 38 (1) Ensure progress on the critical flood risk reduction
39 objectives of the Ala Wai Project;
40



- (2) Reintegrate ecosystem restoration, water quality enhancements, and other community benefits into an Ala Wai Project scope;
- (3) Promote public-private partnerships that improve and sustain the ability of local governments to design, finance, construct, operate, and maintain various infrastructure;
- (4) Attract local, regional, national, and global attention to pressing infrastructure investment needs, while providing innovative design and community engagement to enhance resilience and sustainability in Hawaii;
- (5) Strengthen Hawaii's partnerships with federal agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers, United States Environmental Protection Agency, President's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and others; and
- (6) Serve as a model for complex infrastructure investments regionally and nationally; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the House of Representatives concurring, that this body endorses and supports the Ala Wai Watershed Partnership and its integrated approach to increase resilience and sustainability in the Ala Wai watershed and Waikiki through five action steps, which include:

- (1) Continuing the Partnership's efforts to increase awareness about catastrophic natural disaster risk, and facilitate stakeholder engagement in designing, funding, building, and maintaining integrated infrastructure systems that improve the resilience of vulnerable communities in the Ala Wai watershed and Waikiki;

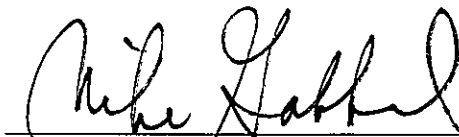
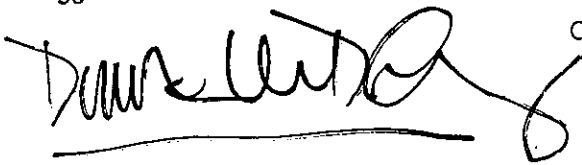
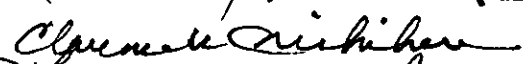
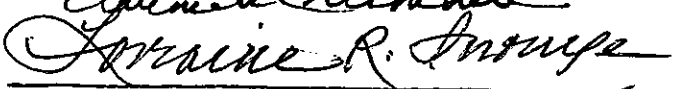


- 1 (2) Investigating insurance, reinsurance, and risk
2 transfer solutions, including parametric insurance, to
3 help mitigate current and future climate risks that
4 place substantial financial and political burdens on
5 the state economy and state and county governments;
6
7 (3) Investigating a community investment vehicle to align
8 public funds and catalyze private investment in
9 designing, building, and maintaining resilient
10 infrastructure;
11
12 (4) Investigating new and innovative financing strategies
13 for climate resilient infrastructure projects in the
14 Ala Wai watershed, including stormwater capture and
15 reuse, water efficiency measures, and insurance
16 premium securitization; and
17
18 (5) Coordinating a prize competition that connects local
19 and world-class urban planners, engineers, and
20 designers with business groups, policy makers, and
21 community leaders in the Ala Wai watershed to design
22 climate resilient infrastructure and support ecosystem
23 restoration; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Ala Wai
26 Watershed Partnership is requested to submit a report on the
27 progress of the Ala Wai Watershed Partnership toward the action
28 steps and in raising financial support for the Partnership to
29 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
30 of the Regular Session of 2017; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Mayor of
34 the City and County of Honolulu; and United States Army Corps of
35 Engineers, Honolulu District.
36
37
38

OFFERED BY:

S.C.R. NO. 46

Jacki Zuber
Will Zuber

