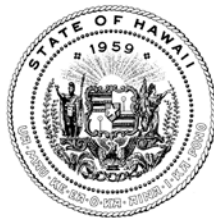


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
WATER & LAND**

**Monday, March 21, 2016  
10:00 A.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 35  
REQUESTING A REEVALUATION OF THE ALA WAI CANAL PROJECT  
DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY WITH  
INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

House Concurrent Resolution 35 requests the United States Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to reevaluate the Ala Wai Canal Project, Oahu, Hawaii Feasibility Study with Integrated Environmental Impact Statement to consider other flood alternatives, including the relocation of berms and detention basins to balance private property rights with public interest considerations. **The Department respectfully opposes this measure.**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), at the request of the State of Hawaii, conducted a feasibility study to assess the risk of flooding in the Ala Wai watershed. The draft report, released in August 2015, developed and evaluated a range of potential alternative plans to address the flood risk and identified a selected plan for implementation. As part of the study process, outside input, from the public and governmental agencies, was solicited. The evaluation system used by the Corps is a rigorous process directed by the Corps' water resources planning program which considers engineering, environmental, economic and social impacts. This evaluation resulted in the recommended plan outlined in the feasibility study.

Directing the Corps to reevaluate its study would delay completion of the study and could jeopardize Federal support but more importantly, would more than likely not result in a different conclusion. Additionally, the Department desires that the Corps complete the EIS as scheduled. Completion of the EIS would facilitate discussion on opportunities for other project goals such as ecosystem restoration and water quality improvement as well as innovative financing options.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

KEKOA KALUHIWA  
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFERY T. PEARSON, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

**LATE**

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Cel. 808-728-0759**

March 21, 2016

**TESTIMONY**

RE: H.C.R. NO. 35  
REQUESTING A REEVALUATION OF THE ALA WAI CANAL PROJECT DRAFT  
FEASIBILITY STUDY WITH INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT.

To Whom It May Concern:

We are submitting testimony in support of this resolution for the reevaluation of the Ala Wai Canal Project because the project includes several flood mitigation measures included the use of huge detention basins which are to be located on both public parks and privately owned lands.

We feel that the DLNR and the USACE is ignoring and turning a blind eye to the hundreds of pages of testimony located on their website and given by their consultant experts who are against the use of detention basins in the upper extremes of the watershed or further up Palolo and Manoa streams. The majority of testimony was to leave the streams untouched and in the natural state.

The majority of testimony was to improve maintenance and cleaning of debris from the streams. The studies show that the October 2004 Manoa Stream flood and the \$85 million in damaged could have been completely avoided if the Woodlawn Bridge was not filled with sediment and if debris had been cleared upstream.

We feel that the DLNR and the USACE did not give adequate notice in a timely manner to all the adjacent landowners, homeowners, residents, and businesses that are affected by this project to give public feedback on the Ala Wai Canal Project. Thousands of residents are not even aware that their property will be affected by this project. Schools like Iolani and Hokulani affecting hundreds of employees and thousands of students were not given adequate notice and time to respond.

We do not believe the neighborhood boards and associations can speak on our behalf unless their property is directly involved, or if they have gone house to house and spoken the residents whose property are adjacent or down stream of these flood mitigation measures.

We feel that unequal treatment was given between stakeholders of the Ala Wai Canal Project. Government agencies, nonprofits, lobbying organizations had years to plan and give feedback for this project whereas everyone else was given as little as a few weeks to submit public feedback.

We do not believe that the DLNR and the USACE should design and target privately owned lands for the locations of their detention basins when there are thousands of acres of publicly owned lands in conservation and preservation available for use and which is responsible for generating most of the flood waters to be detained.

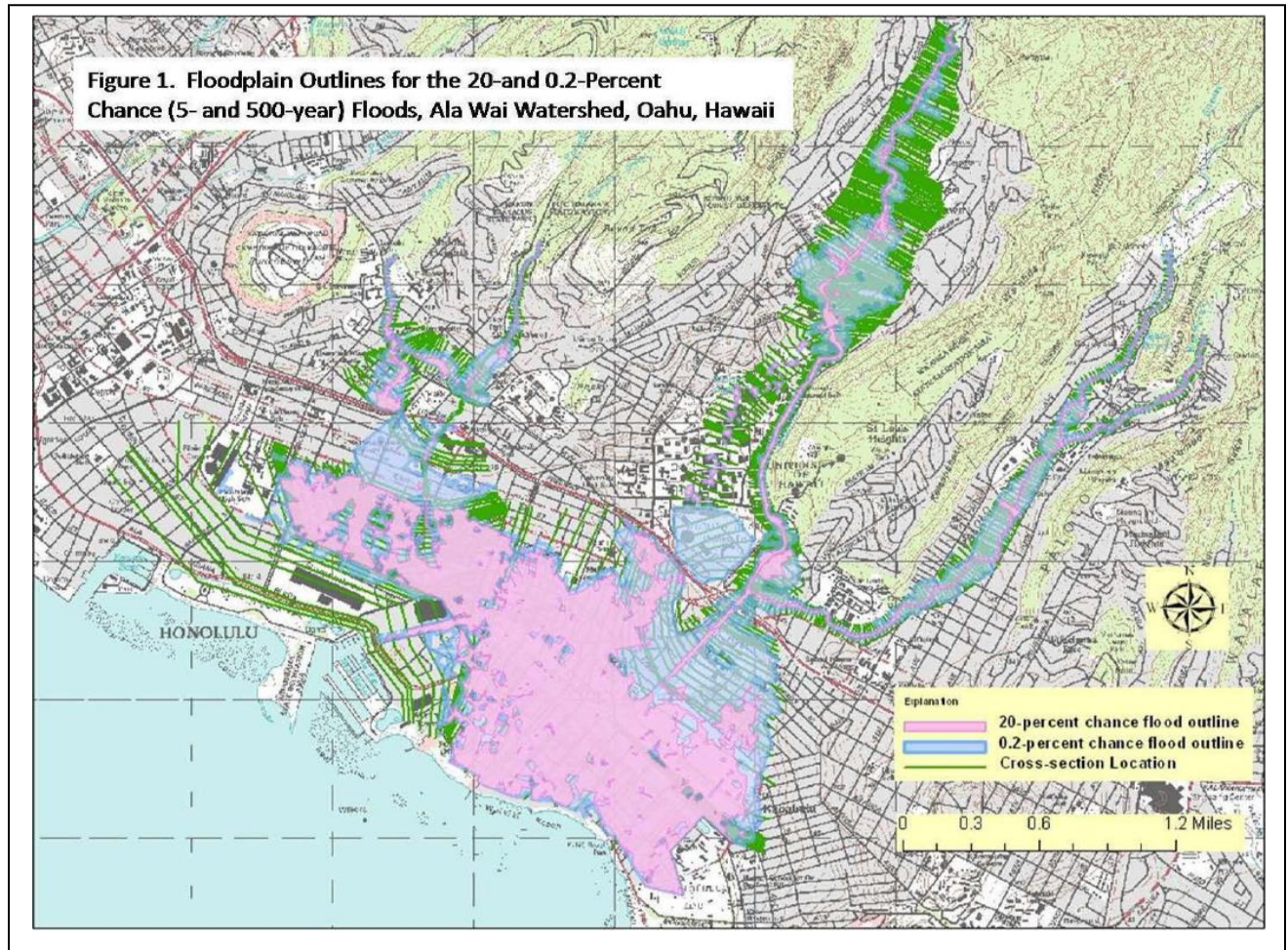
We believe that the methodologies used to calculate the designed storms are inconsistent and formulated on faulty and incomplete storm data. Several distinctly different methodologies are averaged together to come up with a more universal storm measurements. However, this is faulty by design and selectively used by the project development team. Rainfall and stream flow data for decades at a time are missing and several years of data were deemed in error for various stations which brings into question all of the results from all of the stations. There is no evidence that the data collection equipment were certified, calibrated, or periodically checked for accuracy. As a result, the flood projection charts are overly exaggerated.

The Ala Wai Canal Website references the March 2006 storm in which 40 days of consistent rainfall fell within the watershed. It states that “although none of the storm events were very large, the consistent rain resulted in flooding in the Makiki and Moilili neighborhoods.” We believe this statement is a clear example of the invalidity of the hydraulic modeling because the collected data does not predict, compute, or correlate to the flood and damage done to the Makiki and Moilili neighborhoods. The reason is that the modeling formulas do not take into account the level of rainfall ground saturation and probability factors for multiple sequential storms and no measurements are taken for the variable of ground saturation which will affect the ground absorption and runoff rates. This places an unknown variable in all of your storms used to calibrate your modeling rendering all of the results deficient.

We are classified as a major stakeholder and received first notice of this project in the middle of September of 2015. We believe the short cutoff date given for our feedback including the extension to November 9, 2015 was unfair and a severe handicap to us. It was not commensurate to the volume of documents that needed to be reviewed by us and the general public to give an educated response.

We also believe that methods of notices to inform the general public and stakeholders throughout the process by the DLNR and USACE were inadequate and/or selective and done with prejudice and neglected those stakeholders most greatly affected by the Ala Wai Canal Project. Included in those who we believe should have been notified were all adjacent properties, private landowners, stakeholders, and those downstream of any detention basin which could overtop in the event of a storm greater than the designed capacity of the detention basin and would put at risk the lives of those downstream of your planned alternatives

While the report references the November 1965, the November 1967, and Iniki 1992 as times when the Ala Wai Canal overtopped the report fails to mention the damage resulting from the few over topplings. We believe the project cost is grossly underestimated and the benefit overly exaggerated.



The diagram above used by the DLNR and USACE to promote the visual impact of the projected storms. The above diagram is an example of many diagrams that we question that pertain to the flood coverage. The area shaded in pink signifies a 5-year storm. We don't recall ever seeing that kind of flooding in the past 50 years. Apparently, it should be happening every 5-years or so. We sense that all the storm ratings and coverages are overrated and exaggerated and used a scare tactic to gain support.

In summary, we humbly request support for this H.C.R. 35 requesting the USACE to reevaluate the Ala Wai Canal Project Draft Feasibility Study.

Aloha,

Dave and Nola Watase