

MAR 06 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY TO CONVENE AN
INTERDISCIPLINARY TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK FOR A
SEA LEVEL ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PLAN FOR THE WAIKIKI
DISTRICT.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is experiencing the impacts of climate
2 change, including the effects of sea level rise and coastal
3 erosion, which is of particular concern to the State given our
4 island topography and substantial coastal exposure; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Senate of the Twenty-Ninth Legislature of the
7 State of Hawaii, 2017, created the Hawaii Climate Change
8 Mitigation and Adaptation Commission ("Climate Commission"),
9 which published the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and
10 Adaptation Report in 2017 detailing findings and recommendations
11 for mitigating and adapting to sea-level rise; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu established the
14 Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency
15 ("OCCSR") by City Charter in 2016, to promote community
16 resilience and, among other recommended actions, to preserve
17 natural shorelines and beaches as buffers to protect coastal
18 communities; and
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20 WHEREAS, OCCSR is tasked with tracking climate change
21 science and potential impacts on Oahu's facilities and
22 communities, coordinating actions and policies of the county's
23 departments to increase community preparedness and resilience,
24 supporting resilient infrastructure in response to the impacts
25 of climate change, and integrating sustainable and environmental
26 values into Oahu plans, programs, and policies, in part, through
27 the City's resilience strategy; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Waikiki Special Improvement District is a
30 low-elevation, high-density, urban coastal community and home to
31 approximately thirty thousand residents, hosts approximately
32 five million tourists annually, and generates about thirty
33 percent of the gross domestic product of the State and is
34 vitally important for its residents, visitors, public and



1 private property, and for the economic well-being of the entire
2 State; and

3
4 WHEREAS, research has shown that inundation and flooding of
5 Waikiki related to climate change will occur from multiple
6 sources: storm drain backflow, groundwater inundation, wave run-
7 up and marine hydrostatic (passive) flooding, heavy
8 precipitation, and watershed flooding associated with extreme
9 weather events; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu established the
12 Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Association in 2015
13 to improve the coordination and management of the beach systems
14 in Waikiki, and the Association has been engaged in
15 comprehensive adaptation planning and actively managing
16 Waikiki's beach systems for resilience to projected climate
17 change impacts, including sea-level rise; and

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19 WHEREAS, Waikiki like so many of the other resort
20 communities in the State, is in a sea level rise exposure area
21 and requires a comprehensive adaptation and resilience plan to
22 deal with projected climate change and sea-level rise; and

23
24 WHEREAS, Waikiki can serve as a pilot and demonstration
25 project for other coastal communities that may develop a
26 comprehensive sea-level rise adaptation and community resilience
27 plan for the protection of its residents, visitors, critical
28 infrastructure, and public and private property; and

29
30 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Tourism Authority is charged with
31 managing tourism for the benefit of the State of Hawaii to
32 ensure that the State remains a competitive destination within
33 the global tourism industry, and has the expertise to
34 effectively coordinate the diverse public and private
35 stakeholders in preparing a Waikiki resilience plan; and

36
37 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest not only of the Waikiki
38 District but, as importantly, for other coastal communities, the
39 City and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawaii to support a
40 Waikiki task force in proactively creating a framework for a
41 sea-level rise mitigation and adaptation plan for the Waikiki
42 community; now, therefore,



1
2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
3 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the Hawaii
4 Tourism Authority is requested to convene an interdisciplinary
5 task force to develop a framework for a comprehensive sea level
6 adaptation and resilience plan for the Waikiki Special District;
7 and

8
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
10 include the following members:

- 11
12 (1) The President and Chief Executive Officer of the
13 Hawaii Tourism Authority, or the President's designee,
14 who is requested to serve as the chair of the task
15 force;
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17 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
18 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
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20 (3) The Director of the Office of Planning, or the
21 Director's designee;
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23 (4) The Deputy Director for Water Resource Management, or
24 the Deputy Director's designee;
25
26 (5) The Coordinator of the State Climate Commission, or
27 the Coordinator's designee;
28
29 (6) The Executive Director of the City and County of
30 Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and
31 Resilience, or the Executive Director's designee;
32
33 (7) The President of the Senate, or the President's
34 designee;
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36 (8) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the
37 Speaker's designee;
38
39 (9) The Director of the University of Hawaii Sea Grant
40 College Programs;
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- 1 (10) The Director of the University of Hawaii Community
2 Design Center;
- 3
- 4 (11) The Executive Director of the Land Use Research
5 Foundation, or designee;
- 6
- 7 (12) The President of the Waikiki Beach Special Improvement
8 District Association, or the President's designee;
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- 10 (13) The President of the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism
11 Association, or the President's designee;
- 12
- 13 (14) A representative of the American Hotel and Lodging
14 Association;
- 15
- 16 (15) The Chairperson of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board, or
17 the Chairperson's designee;
- 18
- 19 (16) A representative of Save Our Surf;
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- 21 (17) A representative of the Surfrider Foundation; and
- 22
- 23 (18) The Councilmember of the Honolulu City Council
24 representing Waikiki, or the Councilmember's designee;
25 and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may invite
28 additional organizations or agencies to participate in the task
29 force; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Tourism Authority is
32 requested to provide administrative support for the task force;
33 and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
36 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
37 any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the
38 convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and

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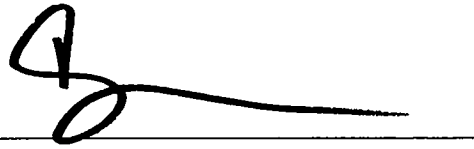
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
42 Land and Natural Resources; Director of the Office of Planning;



1 Deputy Director for Water Resource Management; Coordinator of
 2 the State Climate Commission; Executive Director of the City and
 3 County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and
 4 Resilience; Director of the University of Hawaii Sea Grant
 5 College Programs; Director of the University of Hawaii Community
 6 Design Center; President and Chief Executive Officer of the
 7 Hawaii Tourism Authority; Executive Director of the Land Use
 8 Research Foundation; President of the Waikiki Beach Special
 9 Improvement District Association; President of the Hawaii
 10 Lodging and Tourism Association; President and Chief Executive
 11 Officer of the American Hotel and Lodging Association; the Chair
 12 of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board, Founder of Save Our Surf;
 13 Chapter member of the Surfrider Foundation; and each
 14 Councilmember of the Honolulu City Council.

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OFFERED BY: _____



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