

MAR 04 2021

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII' I CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION COMMISSION AND THE COUNTY OF HAWAII' I TO COLLABORATE TO IDENTIFY SEA LEVEL RISE AT KAHALU'U BAY AND JOINTLY PURSUE A MASTER PLAN TO RELOCATE THE PAVILION AT KAHALU'U BAY, HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, Hawai'i is already experiencing the impacts of  
2 climate change, including rising sea levels, extreme tides,  
3 accelerated coastal erosion, and stronger, more frequent storms;  
4 and

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6           WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and  
7 Adaptation Commission produced the first Hawai'i sea level rise  
8 vulnerability and adaption report that identified areas that are  
9 susceptible to a sea level rise impacts and urged immediate  
10 preparation to a 3.2-foot increase in sea level by 2060; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, at the State's first annual climate conference  
13 held on January 14, 2019, an expert panel recommended that the  
14 State "consider adopting a community resilience building  
15 planning process to help Hawaii's communities, counties, and  
16 institutions of any scale to identify their top priorities based  
17 on climate change hazards cross-reference to strengths and  
18 vulnerabilities relative to infrastructure, social, and  
19 environmental characteristics"; and

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21           WHEREAS, the first Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and  
22 Adaption Report finds that sea level rise would result in  
23 significant impacts to roads, airports, harbors, electrical and  
24 telecommunications, water/wastewater facilities and conveyance  
25 systems, and other public service and recreation facilities on  
26 the island of Hawai'i; and

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28           WHEREAS, twenty-five percent of Hawai'i island's coastline  
29 consists of beaches that play a critical role in providing  
30 recreation for residents, providing coastal and estuarine  
31 habitats vital to aquatic organisms and enhancing the overall  
32 economy; and



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2 WHEREAS, over the next thirty to seventy years properties  
3 located on or near the island of Hawai'i's shorelines will  
4 increasingly be flooded, eroded, or completely lost to the sea;  
5 and

6  
7 WHEREAS, Kahalu'u Bay is a traditional cultural gathering  
8 site for native Hawaiians, especially for native Hawaiian  
9 communities in the Kahalu'u ahupua'a, and the neighboring ahupua'a  
10 of Keauhou and Kaumalumalu. Kahalu'u Bay is a prime source of  
11 fishing, gathering, and surfing, and multiple archaeological  
12 sites, including ten heiau; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, Kahalu'u Bay District is held in high esteem  
15 because of its high historic and cultural value by the  
16 communities of South Kona and was added to the National Register  
17 of Historic Places on December 27, 1974; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, Kahalu'u Bay is the top visited beach park in  
20 Hawai'i County, recording 437,000 visitors between 2015 and 2016;  
21 and

22  
23 WHEREAS, the Kahalu'u Bay is in the potential area of  
24 chronic flooding with five feet of sea level rise in Kailua-Kona  
25 on Hawai'i island; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, the current pavilion at Kahalu'u Bay is perceived  
28 as the focal gathering point of the Kahalu'u Beach Park; and

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30 WHEREAS, in 2008, the Kahalu'u Beach Park Conceptual Master  
31 Plan sponsored by the Kohala Center and the County of Hawai'i  
32 Planning Department found that the current pavilion is much  
33 closer to the shoreline than when it was originally built and is  
34 subject to continuous wave action, storm damage, and additional  
35 damage due to sea level rise to the current walls, structures,  
36 and facilities; and

37  
38 WHEREAS, the Kahalu'u Beach Park Conceptual Master Plan  
39 recommended the relocation of the pavilion back from the  
40 shoreline to protect the structure from structural damage that  
41 may occur from sea level rise and storm surges; now, therefore,



# S.R. NO. 34

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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
4 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the County  
5 of Hawai'i are requested to collaborate to identify sea level  
6 rise at Kahalu'u Bay and jointly pursue a master plan to relocate  
7 the pavilion at Kahalu'u Bay to avoid further deterioration and  
8 avoid damage from sea level rise; and  
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the master plan for relocating  
11 the pavilion should factor in sea level rise, continuous damage  
12 to the current walls and facilities, and the need to create a  
13 safe environment for the public; and  
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairpersons of the Hawaii  
17 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, Director of  
18 the County of Hawai'i Planning Department, and Director of the  
19 Division of Parks and Recreation for the County of Hawai'i.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

