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# SENATE RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii 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, in 2017, the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and  
7 Adaptation Commission produced the first Hawaii Sea Level Rise  
8 Vulnerability and Adaptation Report that identified areas that  
9 are susceptible to a sea level rise impacts and urged immediate  
10 preparation to a 3.2-foot increase in sea level by 2060; and  
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12 WHEREAS, on January 14, 2019, at the State's first annual  
13 climate conference, an expert panel on climate change  
14 recommended that the State "consider adopting a community  
15 resilience building planning process to help Hawaii's  
16 communities, counties, and institutions of any scale to identify  
17 their top priorities based on climate change hazards cross-  
18 reference to strengths and vulnerabilities relative to  
19 infrastructure, social, and environmental characteristics"; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and  
22 Adaptation Report also finds that sea level rise would result  
23 in significant adverse impacts to roads, airports, harbors,  
24 electrical and telecommunications, water/wastewater facilities  
25 and conveyance systems, and other public service and recreation  
26 facilities on the island of Hawaii; and  
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28 WHEREAS, twenty-five percent of the island of Hawaii's  
29 coastlines consists of beaches that play a critical role in  
30 providing recreation for residents, providing coastal and



1 estuarine habitats vital to aquatic organisms, and enhancing the  
2 overall economy; and  
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4 WHEREAS, over the next thirty to seventy years properties  
5 located on or near the island of Hawaii's shorelines will  
6 increasingly be flooded, eroded, or completely lost to the sea;  
7 and  
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9 WHEREAS, Kahaluu Bay is a traditional cultural gathering  
10 site for native Hawaiians, especially for native Hawaiian  
11 communities in the ahupuaa of Kahaluu, Keauhou, and Kaumalumalu;  
12 and  
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14 WHEREAS, Kahaluu Bay is a prime source of fishing,  
15 gathering, and surfing, and multiple archaeological sites,  
16 including ten heiau; and  
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18 WHEREAS, Kahaluu Bay District is held in high esteem  
19 because of its high historic and cultural value by the  
20 communities of South Kona and was added to the National Register  
21 of Historic Places on December 27, 1974; and  
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23 WHEREAS, Kahaluu Bay is the top visited beach park in  
24 Hawaii County, recording 437,000 visitors between 2015 and 2016;  
25 and  
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27 WHEREAS, the Kahaluu Bay is in the potential area of  
28 chronic flooding with five feet of sea level rise in Kailua-  
29 Kona, Hawaii; and  
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31 WHEREAS, the current pavilion at Kahaluu Bay is perceived  
32 as the focal gathering point of the Kahaluu Beach Park; and  
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34 WHEREAS, in 2008, the Kahaluu Beach Park Conceptual Master  
35 Plan sponsored by the Kohala Center and the County of Hawaii  
36 Planning Department found that the current pavilion is much  
37 closer to the shoreline than when it was originally built and is  
38 vulnerable to continuous wave action, storm damage, and  
39 additional damage due to sea level rise to the current walls,  
40 structures, and facilities; and  
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1           WHEREAS, the Kahaluu Beach Park Conceptual Master Plan  
2 recommended the relocation of the pavilion back from the  
3 shoreline to protect the structure from structural damage that  
4 may occur from sea level rise and storm surges; now, therefore,  
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6           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
8 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the County  
9 of Hawaii are requested to collaborate to identify sea level  
10 rise at Kahaluu Bay and jointly pursue a master plan to relocate  
11 the pavilion at Kahaluu Bay to avoid further deterioration and  
12 avoid damage from sea level rise; and  
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14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the master plan for relocating  
15 the pavilion should factor in sea level rise, continuous damage  
16 to the current walls and facilities, and the need to create a  
17 safe environment for the public; and  
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19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairpersons of the Hawaii  
21 Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, Director of  
22 the County of Hawaii Planning Department, and Director of the  
23 Division of Parks and Recreation for the County of Hawaii.

