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Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Acting Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Tuesday, March 24, 2015
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HCR 140
**REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LONG-TERM, RISK-BASED
STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO MITIGATE THE POTENTIAL
HARM FROM COASTAL HAZARDS IN URBAN HONOLULU.**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent of HCR 140 and respectfully offers the following comments on the concurrent resolution, which requests the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, and Department of Emergency Management of the City and County of Honolulu to establish a long-term, risk-based strategy and implementation plan to mitigate the potential harm from coastal hazards in urban Honolulu.

1. Hazard mitigation and climate adaptation plans already exist and/or are currently being developed for the State of Hawaii and the City and County of Honolulu.
 - a. State and local governments must have a mitigation plan approved pursuant to Title 44 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 201 as a condition of receiving non-emergency Stafford Act Assistance and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mitigation grants. Current hazard mitigation plans for the State of Hawaii and City and County of Honolulu include the *State of Hawaii Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan – 2013 Update* and the *Multi-Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for the City and County of Honolulu – 2012 Update*.
 - b. The *2013 Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan* (ORMP) includes two management priorities directly related to climate change adaptation: *Management Priority #1 – Appropriate Coastal Development* and *Management Priority #2 – Management of Coastal Hazards*. An Action Team has been formed and is in the process of developing an action plan and associated metrics to implement the goals of the two management priorities.

- c. Act 83, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, established an interagency climate adaptation committee, administratively attached to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, to develop a sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report for Hawaii by December 31, 2017, and authorized the OP to coordinate the development of a statewide climate adaptation plan.

The OP acknowledges that the content and implementation of the existing plans and those under development could be enhanced and better coordinated to more effectively and efficiently address the intent of HCR 140.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.