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MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, February 20, 2020
10:35 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
SB 2683 SD1
RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

The Office of Planning (OP) appreciates the amendments incorporated by the subject-matter committees as provided by the Department of Land and Natural Resources and supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. The OP looks forward to continuing to support the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com



LATE


February 20, 2020

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Manager and Chief Engineer

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Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer 

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
and Members
Committee on Ways and Means
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

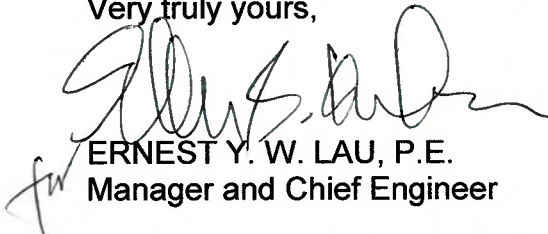
Subject: Senate Bill No. 2683, Senate Draft 1: Relating to Sea Level Rise

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 2683, Senate Draft (SD) 1. This bill directs the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to bring resources to various agencies and departments in the form of best practices, formulate guidance, and provide a coordinating structure and timeframe within which to work; work with partners to operationalize sea level rise exposure areas into county planning and permitting; and work to enhance, uniformize, and support the work of state and county agencies in their development of sea level rise adaptation plans utilizing the sea level rise vulnerability and adaptation report.

The BWS and the Water Research Foundation have completed a tailored collaboration study on the Impacts of Climate Change on Honolulu Water Supplies and Planning Strategies for Mitigation, which includes vulnerability of coastal water distribution infrastructure from the affects of sea level rise. The report identifies the needs and suggests prioritization criteria to raise streets, utilities and private properties through a collaborative One Water Framework that leverages common objectives of infrastructure agencies around the water cycle. The One Water Framework has been successfully applied in major cities in the nation. BWS realizes that a tremendous amount of adaptation work remains and supports the State Legislature's and State agencies efforts to advance sea level rise adaptation on Oahu.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of SB 2683, SD 1.

Very truly yours,


ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer



SB 2683, SD1, RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE

FEBRUARY 20, 2020 · SENATE WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE · CHAIR SEN. DONOVAN DELA CRUZ

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: IMUAlliance supports SB 2683, SD1, relating to sea level rise, which appropriates funds for the climate change mitigation and adaptation commission and coordinator.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding.

Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring, like seawalls.

Furthermore, according to research conducted by Michael B. Gerrard from Columbia Law School, modern-day slavery tends to increase after natural disasters or conflicts where large numbers of people are displaced from their homes. In the decades to come, says Gerrard, **climate change will very likely lead to a significant increase in the number of people who are displaced and, thus vulnerable, to human trafficking.** While the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 established objectives to limit global temperature increases and several international agreements

are aimed at combating modern-day slavery, it is highly uncertain whether they will be adequate to cope with the scale of the problem that is likely to occur as a result of climate change.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

Therefore, our state should take steps to protect Hawai'i's coastal areas, including by identifying vulnerable public infrastructure and creating plans for mitigating and adapting to the imminent and existential threat of sea level rise. For the sake of our keiki, we cannot afford to wait to solidify strategies to preserve our island home for generations to come.

SB-2683-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 6:57:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2020 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: