
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENDORISING AND SUPPORTING THE ALA WAI WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP AND
REQUESTING A REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE BY THE PARTNERSHIP.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is highly vulnerable to natural disasters,
2 including hurricanes, floods, and droughts; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the State and counties are challenged to design,
5 finance, construct, operate, and maintain various water
6 infrastructure, including infrastructure for fresh water, waste
7 water, and stormwater; and
8

9 WHEREAS, Waikiki generates approximately eight percent of
10 Hawaii's gross domestic product, seven percent of the State's
11 employment, and nine percent of state tax revenues; and
12

13 WHEREAS, a one percent annual chance exceedance flood
14 event, or the "one-hundred-year flood", in the Ala Wai
15 watershed, including Waikiki, would affect approximately 1,358
16 acres within the watershed and over 3,000 properties with an
17 estimated \$318,000,000 in structural damages alone; and
18

19 WHEREAS, in March 2006, as much as ten million gallons of
20 raw sewage were dumped into the Ala Wai Canal following the
21 rupture of a sewer line due to heavy rains, and as recently as
22 August 2015, heavy rains caused a major sewage spill, forcing
23 temporary closure of beaches in Waikiki; and
24

25 WHEREAS, as of May 2015, under Act 42, Session Laws of
26 Hawaii 2015, the counties have the authority to establish and
27 charge user fees to create and maintain any stormwater
28 management system or infrastructure; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the economic risk to the Waikiki area from a
31 category 4 hurricane hitting Honolulu could result in an
32 estimated \$30,000,000,000 in economic losses and structural
33 damages; and



H.C.R. NO. 61

1
2 WHEREAS, the state-sponsored United States Army Corps of
3 Engineers Ala Wai Canal Flood Mitigation Project (Ala Wai
4 Project) is only being designed to reduce riverine flood risks
5 from the one hundred-year flood in the Ala Wai watershed,
6 including Waikiki; and

7
8 WHEREAS, in addition to flood risk reduction, the original
9 scope of work for the Ala Wai Project also included ecosystems
10 restoration, water quality enhancements, and other community
11 benefits; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with
14 the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, hosted and invited
15 participation by the public, private, philanthropic, and non-
16 governmental sectors in the January 2015 "Hawai'i Disaster Risk
17 Workshop: Mitigating Catastrophic Disaster Risk and Building
18 Resilience in the Ala Wai Watershed"; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the objectives of this workshop were to:

- 21
22 (1) Raise awareness of natural disaster risk and
23 vulnerability in the Ala Wai watershed, including the
24 economic and social consequences of a natural disaster
25 to Waikiki's residential, tourism, and business
26 communities;
- 27
28 (2) Examine options for mitigating risk and improving
29 community resilience through gray and green
30 infrastructure investments;
- 31
32 (3) Explore the opportunities to transfer disaster risk
33 from the government to private markets and leverage
34 public resources to catalyze private investment in
35 resilience through new partnerships; and
- 36
37 (4) Identify strategies to engage the community to create
38 shared value and build locally appropriate solutions
39 to urban design and ecosystem restoration; and

40
41 WHEREAS, an action agenda was agreed upon moving forward
42 from the workshop into 2015, and the Ala Wai Watershed



H.C.R. NO. 61

1 Partnership (Partnership) coalesced as the working group to
2 further the five steps of the action agenda of the workshop; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the Partnership is a voluntary partnership of
5 state, county, federal, business, and nongovernmental leaders
6 from many sectors, including engineering, planning and design,
7 flood mitigation and stormwater management, coastal hazards and
8 climate change mitigation and adaptation, economic development,
9 business, finance, insurance, social science, extension and
10 education, philanthropy, and others, that is ready to support
11 shared goals of increasing the resilience and sustainability of
12 the Ala Wai watershed and Waikiki; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the Partnership and Ala Wai Project may help
15 demonstrate how, as outlined in President Obama's Climate Action
16 Plan, climate resilience can create shared value for local
17 communities, mitigate the damage resulting from current and
18 future climate-related events, and close the national
19 infrastructure gap by leveraging innovative partnerships; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the Partnership and Ala Wai Project, as a result
22 of Hawaii's social, cultural, and economic connections to small
23 island developing states, may be a model for climate resiliency
24 projects in the Pacific islands, Caribbean, and other regions
25 facing increasing climate-related challenges; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the Partnership and Ala Wai Project could be
28 featured at the United States-hosted 2016 International Union
29 for the Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress in
30 Hawaii as a high-level commitment to support resilient
31 infrastructure investments through innovative financing and
32 public-private partnerships, while also restoring and protecting
33 critical watersheds; and
34

35 WHEREAS, a state commitment to the action agenda of the
36 Partnership will help to:
37

- 38 (1) Ensure progress on the critical flood risk reduction
39 objectives of the Ala Wai Project;
40



H.C.R. NO. 61

- 1 (2) Reintegrate ecosystem restoration, water quality
2 enhancements, and other community benefits into an Ala
3 Wai Project scope;
4
- 5 (3) Promote public-private partnerships that improve and
6 sustain the ability of local governments to design,
7 finance, construct, operate, and maintain various
8 infrastructure;
9
- 10 (4) Attract local, regional, national, and global
11 attention to pressing infrastructure investment needs,
12 while providing innovative design and community
13 engagement to enhance resilience and sustainability in
14 Hawaii;
15
- 16 (5) Strengthen Hawaii's partnerships with federal
17 agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers,
18 United States Environmental Protection Agency,
19 President's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and
20 Resilience, National Oceanic and Atmospheric
21 Administration, and others; and
22
- 23 (6) Serve as a model for complex infrastructure
24 investments regionally and nationally; now, therefore,
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
28 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that this body endorses
29 and supports the Ala Wai Watershed Partnership and its
30 integrated approach to increase resilience and sustainability in
31 the Ala Wai watershed and Waikiki through five action steps,
32 which include:

- 33
- 34 (1) Continuing the Partnership's efforts to increase
35 awareness about catastrophic natural disaster risk,
36 and facilitate stakeholder engagement in designing,
37 funding, building, and maintaining integrated
38 infrastructure systems that improve the resilience of
39 vulnerable communities in the Ala Wai watershed and
40 Waikiki;
41



H.C.R. NO. 61

- 1 (2) Investigating insurance, reinsurance, and risk
- 2 transfer solutions, including parametric insurance, to
- 3 help mitigate current and future climate risks that
- 4 place substantial financial and political burdens on
- 5 the state economy and state and county governments;
- 6
- 7 (3) Investigating a community investment vehicle to align
- 8 public funds and catalyze private investment in
- 9 designing, building, and maintaining resilient
- 10 infrastructure;
- 11
- 12 (4) Investigating new and innovative financing strategies
- 13 for climate resilient infrastructure projects in the
- 14 Ala Wai watershed, including stormwater capture and
- 15 reuse, water efficiency measures, and insurance
- 16 premium securitization; and
- 17
- 18 (5) Coordinating a prize competition that connects local
- 19 and world-class urban planners, engineers, and
- 20 designers with business groups, policy makers, and
- 21 community leaders in the Ala Wai watershed to design
- 22 climate resilient infrastructure and support ecosystem
- 23 restoration; and
- 24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Ala Wai
 26 Watershed Partnership is requested to submit a report on the
 27 progress of the Ala Wai Watershed Partnership toward the action
 28 steps and in raising financial support for the Partnership to
 29 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
 30 of the Regular Session of 2017; and

31
 32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Mayor of
 34 the City and County of Honolulu; and United States Army Corps of
 35 Engineers, Honolulu District.

36
 37
 38

OFFERED BY: *[Signature]*

[Signature] *[Signature]*
[Signature] *[Signature]*
[Signature] *[Signature]*

