

MAR 04 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAI'I CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION COMMISSION AND THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'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

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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



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1 habitats vital to aquatic organisms and enhancing the overall
2 economy; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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40 WHEREAS, the Kahalu'u Beach Park Conceptual Master Plan
41 recommended the relocation of the pavilion back from the



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1 shoreline to protect the structure from structural damage that
2 may occur from sea level rise and storm surges; now, therefore,

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

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

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairpersons of the
20 Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission,
21 Director of the County of Hawai'i Planning Department, and
22 Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation for the County
23 of Hawai'i.

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OFFERED BY:

