
SENATE CONCURRENT 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

11
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



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

