

MAR 09 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING TO CONVENE AN
INTERDISCIPLINARY TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK FOR A
SEA LEVEL ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PLAN FOR THE WAIKIKI
DISTRICT.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is experiencing the impacts of climate
2 change, including the effects of sea level rise and coastal
3 erosion, which is of particular concern to the State given our
4 island topography and substantial coastal exposure; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the Senate of the Twenty-Ninth Legislature of the
7 State of Hawaii, 2017, created the Hawaii Climate Change
8 Mitigation and Adaptation Commission ("Climate Commission"),
9 which published the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and
10 Adaptation Report detailing findings and recommendations for
11 mitigating and adapting to sea-level rise; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu established the
14 Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency
15 ("OCCSR") by City Charter in 2016, to promote community
16 resilience and, among other recommended actions, to preserve
17 natural shorelines and beaches as buffers to protect coastal
18 communities; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the OCCSR is tasked with tracking climate change
21 science and potential impacts on Oahu's facilities and
22 communities, coordinating actions and policies of the county's
23 departments to increase community preparedness and resilience,
24 supporting resilient infrastructure in response to the impacts
25 of climate change, and integrating sustainable and environmental
26 values into Oahu plans, programs, and policies, in part, through
27 the City's resilience strategy; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the Waikiki Special Improvement District is a low
30 elevation, high-density, urban coastal community that is home to
31 approximately thirty thousand residents. Prior to the



S.C.R. NO. 75

1 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, Waikiki hosted approximately
2 five million tourists annually and generated about thirty
3 percent of the gross domestic product of the State. The
4 condition of this district is vitally important for its
5 residents, visitors, public and private property, and for the
6 economic well-being of the entire State; and
7

8 WHEREAS, research has shown that inundation and flooding of
9 Waikiki related to climate change will occur from multiple
10 sources: storm drain backflow, groundwater inundation, wave
11 run-up and marine hydrostatic (passive) flooding, heavy
12 precipitation, and watershed flooding associated with extreme
13 weather events; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu established the
16 Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Association in 2015
17 to improve the coordination and management of the beach systems
18 in Waikiki, and the Association has been engaged in
19 comprehensive adaptation planning and actively managing
20 Waikiki's beach systems for resilience to projected climate
21 change impacts, including sea-level rise; and
22

23 WHEREAS, Waikiki like so many of the other resort
24 communities in the State, is in a sea level rise exposure area
25 and requires a comprehensive adaptation and resilience plan to
26 deal with projected climate change and sea-level rise; and
27

28 WHEREAS, Waikiki can serve as a pilot and demonstration
29 project for other coastal communities that may develop a
30 comprehensive sea-level rise adaptation and community resilience
31 plan for the protection of its residents, visitors, critical
32 infrastructure, and public and private property; and
33

34 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Office of Planning's Coastal
35 Zone Management Program is to preserve, protect, and develop the
36 coastal lands for the benefit of the residents of Hawaii, which
37 includes ensuring that Hawaii's tourism industry remains a
38 healthy economic industry. The Office of Planning also has the
39 expertise to effectively coordinate the diverse public and
40 private stakeholders in preparing a Waikiki resilience plan; and
41



S.C.R. NO. 75

1 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest not only of the Waikiki
2 Special District but, other coastal communities, the City and
3 County of Honolulu, and the State of Hawaii to support a Waikiki
4 task force to proactively create a framework for a sea-level
5 rise mitigation and adaptation plan for the Waikiki community;
6 now, therefore,
7

8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-First
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the
10 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of Planning
11 is requested to convene an interdisciplinary task force to
12 develop a framework for a comprehensive sea level adaptation and
13 resilience plan for the Waikiki Special District; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
16 include the following members or their designees:
17

- 18 (1) Director of Planning, who is requested to serve as the
19 chairperson of the task force;
20
- 21 (2) President of the Senate;
22
- 23 (3) Speaker of the House of Representatives;
24
- 25 (4) A representative of the National Oceanic and
26 Atmospheric Administration Office for Coastal
27 Management;
28
- 29 (5) Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
30 Resources;
31
- 32 (6) State Sustainability Coordinator;
33
- 34 (7) Chief Engineer of the Department of Land and Natural
35 Resources, Engineering Division;
36
- 37 (8) Administrator of the Office of Conservation and
38 Coastal Lands;
39
- 40 (9) President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii
41 Tourism Authority;
42



S.C.R. NO. 75

- 1 (10) Director of the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College
2 Programs;
- 3
- 4 (11) Director of the University of Hawaii Community Design
5 Center;
- 6
- 7 (12) Director of the City and County of Honolulu Department
8 of Planning and Permitting;
- 9
- 10 (13) Executive Director of the City and County of Honolulu
11 Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and
12 Resilience;
- 13
- 14 (14) Councilmember of the Honolulu City Council
15 representing Waikiki;
- 16
- 17 (15) President of the Waikiki Beach Special Improvement
18 District Association;
- 19
- 20 (16) Chairperson of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board;
- 21
- 22 (17) Executive Director of the Land Use Research
23 Foundation;
- 24
- 25 (18) President of the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism
26 Association;
- 27
- 28 (19) President of Save Our Surf; and
- 29
- 30 (20) Executive Committee Chairperson of the Surfrider
31 Foundation, Oahu Chapter; and
- 32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may invite
34 additional organizations or agencies to participate in the task
35 force; and

36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is
38 requested to provide administrative support for the task force;
39 and

40

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
42 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including

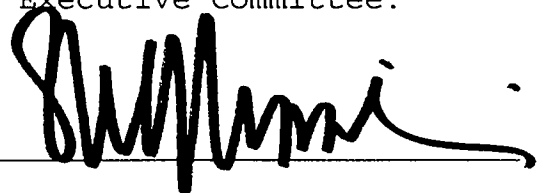


S.C.R. NO. 75

1 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
2 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
3 2022; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
7 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office for
8 Coastal Management; Director of Planning; Chairperson of the
9 Board of Land and Natural Resources; State Sustainability
10 Coordinator; Chief Engineer of the Department of Land and
11 Natural Resources' Engineering Division; Administrator of the
12 Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands; President and Chief
13 Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority; Director of
14 the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program; Director of
15 the University of Hawaii Community Design Center; Director of
16 the City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning and
17 Permitting; Executive Director of the City and County of
18 Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and
19 Resilience; Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council; President
20 of the Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Association;
21 Chairperson of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board; President of the
22 Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association; Executive Director of
23 the Land Use Research Foundation; President of Save Our Surf;
24 and Chairperson of the Surfrider Oahu Executive Committee.
25
26
27

OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Mami', is written over a horizontal line.