

---

# 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



1 approximately thirty thousand residents. Prior to the  
2 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, Waikiki hosted approximately  
3 five million tourists annually and generated about thirty  
4 percent of the gross domestic product of the State. The  
5 condition of this district is vitally important for its  
6 residents, visitors, public and private property, and for the  
7 economic well-being of the entire State; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, research has shown that inundation and flooding of  
10 Waikiki related to climate change will occur from multiple  
11 sources: storm drain backflow, groundwater inundation, wave  
12 run-up and marine hydrostatic (passive) flooding, heavy  
13 precipitation, and watershed flooding associated with extreme  
14 weather events; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu established the  
17 Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Association in 2015  
18 to improve the coordination and management of the beach systems  
19 in Waikiki, and the Association has been engaged in  
20 comprehensive adaptation planning and actively managing  
21 Waikiki's beach systems for resilience to projected climate  
22 change impacts, including sea-level rise; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, Waikiki like so many of the other resort  
25 communities in the State, is in a sea level rise exposure area  
26 and requires a comprehensive adaptation and resilience plan to  
27 deal with projected climate change and sea-level rise; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, Waikiki can serve as a pilot and demonstration  
30 project for other coastal communities that may develop a  
31 comprehensive sea-level rise adaptation and community resilience  
32 plan for the protection of its residents, visitors, critical  
33 infrastructure, and public and private property; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Office of Planning's Coastal  
36 Zone Management Program is to preserve, protect, and develop the  
37 coastal lands for the benefit of the residents of Hawaii, which  
38 includes ensuring that Hawaii's tourism industry remains a  
39 healthy economic industry. The Office of Planning also has the  
40 expertise to effectively coordinate the diverse public and  
41 private stakeholders in preparing a Waikiki resilience plan; and  
42



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



- 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



1 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
2 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
3 2023; 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.

