
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO LEAD COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORKSHOPS REGARDING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NORTH SHORE COASTAL RESILIENCE WORKING GROUP AND SEEK PUBLIC INPUT FROM INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE AND COMMUNITY-DRIVEN COASTAL RESILIENCE PLAN FOR THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU.

1 WHEREAS, the consequences of global climate change have
2 already begun to impact Hawaii, such as by causing beaches and
3 coastal neighborhoods to be affected by extreme erosion and
4 rising sea levels; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and
7 Adaptation Report, published in December 2017, estimates that by
8 the end of the century, climate change will result in the loss
9 of \$19,000,000,000 in land and critical infrastructure, the
10 displacement of nearly twenty thousand residents, and the
11 flooding of six thousand five hundred structures; and

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13 WHEREAS, current responses to rising sea levels have
14 focused largely on shoreline hardening, which exacerbates
15 erosion in order to protect private property interests for the
16 short term; and

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18 WHEREAS, coastal communities and ecosystems deserve
19 comprehensive and long-term strategies that properly respect the
20 power and significance of the ocean; and

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22 WHEREAS, the power of the ocean is on full display on the
23 North Shore of Oahu, where rising sea levels have already
24 reclaimed property; and

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26 WHEREAS, this body recognizes the ongoing efforts of the
27 community-initiated North Shore Coastal Resilience Working Group
28 (Working Group), convened in 2021 by the University of Hawaii



1 Sea Grant College Program and Surfrider Foundation, with support
2 from SSFM International; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the Working Group is a voluntary collaborative
5 effort among a group of twenty-five diverse stakeholders
6 including the State, City and County of Honolulu, beachfront and
7 other residents of the North Shore of Oahu, elected officials,
8 and University of Hawaii faculty; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the goals of the Working Group include:

- 11
12 (1) Discussing and evaluating options related to coastal
13 hazards, including chronic coastal erosion, flooding,
14 climate change, and sea level rise adaptation on the
15 North Shore of Oahu;
16
17 (2) Improving community resilience;
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19 (3) Conserving the natural beach ecosystem, nearshore
20 marine environment, and wildlife habitats; and
21
22 (4) Protecting public access, recreational resources, and
23 water quality; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the geographic focus of the Working Group is the
26 North Shore Planning District, from Kaena Point to Velzyland
27 Beach, with particular emphasis on developing adaptation
28 pathways for coastal erosion "hot spots" at Sunset Beach and
29 Kammies, Mokuleia, and Chuns Reef and Laniakea Beach; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Working Group has met five times since
32 September 2021 and anticipates issuing recommendations in Summer
33 2022, with the possibility of continued work on these issues;
34 and

35
36 WHEREAS, the Working Group may provide innovative policy
37 options for future consideration by the State and City and
38 County of Honolulu and could serve as a model for other
39 communities in Hawaii to follow in responding to regional
40 coastal erosion challenges resulting from climate change and sea
41 level rise; and
42



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1 WHEREAS, the findings of the Working Group must be
 2 strengthened through the lens of Hawaiian knowledge, culture,
 3 and science, which emphasize the reciprocal relationship of
 4 humans and nature; and

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 6 WHEREAS, this body strongly supports the efforts of the
 7 Working Group, welcomes its recommendations for a legislative
 8 response to the urgent issues affecting the North Shore of Oahu,
 9 and looks forward to considering whether the Working Group
 10 provides a model process that may be helpful for other
 11 vulnerable and at-risk coastal areas across Hawaii; now,
 12 therefore,

13
 14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 15 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 16 of 2022, that the City and County of Honolulu is requested to
 17 lead community education workshops regarding the recommendations
 18 of the North Shore Coastal Resilience Working Group and seek
 19 public input from individuals and organizations for the
 20 development of a comprehensive and community-driven coastal
 21 resilience plan for the North Shore of Oahu; and

22
 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the individuals and
 24 organizations from which the City and County of Honolulu is
 25 requested to seek public input include but are not limited to
 26 residents of the North Shore of Oahu, lineal descendants of the
 27 North Shore area of Oahu, Hawaiian civic clubs, 'āina-based
 28 organizations, neighborhood boards, and cultural practitioners;
 29 and

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 31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 32 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of
 33 Honolulu and Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council.

OFFERED BY:



MAR 11 2022

