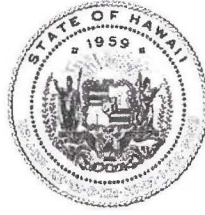


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY
and
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE**

**Friday, April 15, 2016
2:45 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 61, HOUSE DRAFT 1
ENDORISING AND SUPPORTING THE ALA WAI WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP AND
REQUESTING A REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE BY THE PARTNERSHIP**

House Concurrent Resolution 61, House Draft 1 endorses and supports the goals of the Ala Wai Watershed Partnership and its integrated approach to increase resilience and sustainability in the Ala Wai Watershed and Waikiki through five action steps. The measure also requests the Chair of the Ala Wai Partnership to submit a report on its progress and in raising financial support for the Partnership to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department has been collaborating with the Ala Wai Watershed Partnership to seek opportunities to build resilience and sustainability in the Ala Wai watershed and Waikiki. The Department and the United States Army Corps of Engineers are currently studying the feasibility of a flood mitigation project. We also fully support the intent of the Partnership in increasing public awareness, identifying ecosystem restoration strategies, and investigating alternative innovative financing scenarios to address the multifaceted issues within the Ala Wai watershed.

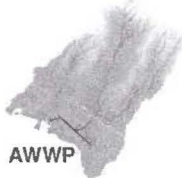
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFERY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



**Testimony of Ala Wai Watershed Partnership
In Support of HCR61 HD1 Relating to Endorsing and Supporting the Ala Wai Watershed
Partnership and Requesting a Report on Progress Made by the Partnership
Senate Committees on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology
& Water, Land, and Agriculture
15 April 2016, 2:45pm, Room 224**

Aloha Chairs Wakai & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Slom & Nishihara, and Members of the committees:

I am pleased, in my role as the Chair of the Ala Wai Watershed Partnership, to express my strong support HCR61 HD1 to endorse the Ala Wai Watershed Partnership and its integrated approach to increase resilience and sustainability in the Ala Wai Watershed and Waikīkī.

Hawai‘i is increasingly vulnerable to catastrophic natural disasters like hurricanes and floods, which could have devastating long-term economic impacts. The impact of a 100-year storm (Iniki- strength) in Waikīkī – which generates 8 percent of Hawai‘i’s GDP, 7 percent of the state’s employment, and 9 percent of state tax revenues – could cause an estimated \$30 billion in economic losses. This represents almost 50% percent of the state’s GDP and over three years of total government spending. The Ala Wai Watershed Partnership formed in January 2015 to catalyze a high-level commitment to design, fund, build and maintain an integrated infrastructure system that improves the resilience of vulnerable communities and restores the ecosystem in the Ala Wai Watershed and Waikīkī.

The Ala Wai Watershed Partnership was established at conference of community leaders from the public and private sectors convened in January 2015 to discuss a catastrophic flood mitigation project being planned by the Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the Department of Land and Natural Resources. This Army Corps/DLNR project is intended by mitigate catastrophic flood that would impact neighborhoods including Waikīkī, Makiki, Pālolo, Mānoa, Mo‘ili‘ili, McCully, and Kapahulu. Waikīkī already experiences localized flooding in streets and parks after rainstorms. As recently as August 2015, heavy rains caused a major sewage spill, forcing the city to temporarily close beaches. Beyond Hawai‘i, Waikīkī is an iconic national landmark and globally recognized tourist destination.

The January 2015 conference concluded that the flood mitigation project being developed by the Army Corps with DLNR needed to be broadened beyond just flood mitigation. It needs to include environmental restoration, water quality improvements, community education and involvement, innovative financing, and partnerships with the private sector. We are encouraged by the continued energy and efforts on this front and thank you for your consideration and support.

Michael P. Hamnett
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Hawai'i Green Growth is a public-private partnership that coordinates across government, non-governmental and cultural organizations, business, academia and philanthropy to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals.

Steering Committee

Deanna Spooner
June Matsumoto
Matt Lynch
Mark Fox
Mike Hamnett
Piia Aarma
Pono Shim
Scott Enright
Scott Seu
Ulalia Woodside
William J. Aila Jr.

Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth In Support of HCR61 HD1 Relating to Endorsing and Supporting the Ali Wai Watershed Partnership and Requesting a Report on Progress Made by the Partnership Senate Committees on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology & Water, Land, and Agriculture 15 April 2016, 2:45pm, Room 224

Aloha Chairs Wakai & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Slom & Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports HCR61 HD1 to endorse the Ala Wai Watershed Partnership and its integrated approach to increase resilience and sustainability in the Ala Wai Watershed and Waikiki.

Hawai'i is increasingly vulnerable to catastrophic natural disasters like hurricanes and floods, which could have devastating long-term economic impacts. The impact of a 100-year storm (Iniki-strength) in Waikiki – which generates 8 percent of Hawai'i's GDP, 7 percent of the state's employment, and 9 percent of state tax revenues – could cause an estimated \$30 billion in economic losses. This represents almost 50% percent of the state's GDP and over three years of total government spending. The Ala Wai Watershed Partnership formed in January 2015 to catalyze a high-level commitment to design, fund, build and maintain an integrated infrastructure system that improves the resilience of vulnerable communities and restores the ecosystem in the Ala Wai Watershed and Waikiki.

HGG public-private partners agreed HCR61 HD1 is an important shared priority to increase community resilience and risk to catastrophic natural disasters. The *Aloha+ Challenge* is a statewide commitment by the State Legislature (SCR69), Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs to achieve six sustainability goals for 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food, natural resources, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, and green jobs and education. Statewide HGG public-private partners are identifying shared measures to track progress and provide accountability with the online *Aloha+ Challenge* Dashboard, while developing an annual policy and action agenda to advance Hawai'i's shared 2030 sustainability goals.

The *Aloha+ Challenge* has been recognized nationally and internationally by the US State Department and Global Island Partnership as a model for locally appropriate implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals. With the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress hosted by Hawai'i in September 2016, this legislative session is an important opportunity for Hawai'i to showcase leadership on sustainable development innovative and resilience.

As a public-private partnership, Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports HCR61 HD1.