

SCR 46

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE**

**Monday, March 28, 2016
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 46
ENDORISING AND SUPPORTING THE ALA WAI WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP AND
REQUESTING A REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE BY THE PARTNERSHIP**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 46 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
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



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

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Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth In Support of SCR46 Relating to Endorsing and Supporting the Ali Wai Watershed Partnership and Requesting a Report on Progress Made by the Partnership Senate Committee on Water, Land & Agriculture

28 March 2016, 3:00pm, Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports SCR46 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 SCR46 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 SCR46.