

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

ROBERT K. MASUDA  
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY 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

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  
WATER AND LAND  
and  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

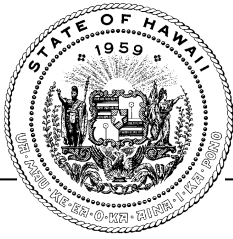
Friday, March 23, 2018  
2:45 pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 177/ SENATE RESOLUTION 106  
REQUESTING THE STATE AND THE COUNTIES TO IMPLEMENT THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HAWAII SEA LEVEL RISE VULNERABILITY AND  
ADPATATION REPORT

Senate Concurrent Resolution 117/Senate Resolution 106 requests that the State and the Counties implement the recommendations of the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report (Report). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these measures.**

The Department has stated in testimony on other measures that it intends to utilize the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Climate Commission) to facilitate implementation of the recommendations of the Report. The Climate Commission accepted the Report in December 2017. The Climate Commission intends to set an aggressive climate mitigation and adaptation agenda over the next 10 months in which we will progress towards our goals of reducing carbon emissions and adapting to sea level rise. The Department envisions accomplishing this through the formation of small informal working group comprised of state and county agencies, the business community, organizations and the public on efforts that must be undertaken to improve our resiliency in the face of sea level rise. Results of these interactions – e.g., 2019 legislative initiatives – will be presented to the Climate Commission for approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.



**OFFICE OF PLANNING  
STATE OF HAWAII**

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824  
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Director, Office of Planning  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER & LAND AND  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
Friday, March 23, 2018  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of  
**SCR 177 / SR 106**  
**REQUESTING THE STATE AND THE COUNTIES TO IMPLEMENT THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HAWAII SEA LEVEL RISE VULNERABILITY AND  
ADAPTATION REPORT.**

Chairs Rhoads and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committees on Water & Land and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

The Office of Planning (OP) respectfully offers comments on SCR 177 / SR 106, which primarily requests (1) the State, the counties, and each of their agencies to implement the recommendations of the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report (SLR Report) adopted December 2017 by the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Climate Commission); (2) OP, Land Use Commission, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Department of Health, and the Climate Commission to each effectuate the specific actions set forth in the SLR Report; and (3) the Office of the Governor to submit a report on the progress of executive agencies in implementing the recommendations of the SLR Report, including any proposed legislation to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior the convening of the Regular Session of 2019.

OP commends SCR 177 / SR 106 for recognizing the magnitude of the problem that is sea level rise (SLR) in the State of Hawaii, the immediate need to address the issue and the many different State agencies and departments and county partners needed to tackle the various concerns surrounding SLR.

However, given the nine major recommendations in the SLR Report<sup>1</sup>, State and county departments and agencies, including OP, will have to devote significant resources, including manpower and funds, to implementing the policy changes stated therein. Without the Legislature and county councils providing additional and necessary resources, it will be difficult to impossible for State and county departments and agencies to fulfill its normally tasked duties and take on the recommendations set forth in the SLR Report.

Consequently, while OP supports the noble intent of SCR 177 / SR 106, it is premature and will unduly burden State and county department and agency resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

---

<sup>1</sup> The nine (9) overarching recommendations in the SLR Report, at pg. xii – xiv, are as follows: (1) support sustainable and resilient land use and community development, including recognizing the SLR exposure area (SLR-XA) with 3.2 feet of SLR as a state-wide vulnerability zone for planning at state, county, and community levels; (2) prioritize smart urban redevelopment outside the SLR-XA with 3.2 feet of SLR and limit exposure within the SLR-XA with 3.2 feet of SLR; (3) incentivize improved flood risk management; (4) enable legacy beaches to persist; (5) preserve Native Hawaiian culture and communities; (6) protect nearshore water quality; (7) develop innovative and sustainable financing and incentives; (8) support research, assessment, and monitoring; and (9) promote collaboration and accountability for adaptation.

**SCR-177**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 9:45:44 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-177**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 5:03:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-177**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 6:36:03 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: