
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO WORK WITH THE
HONOLULU AUTHORITY FOR RAPID TRANSPORTATION TO MOVE THE
HONOLULU RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT INLAND DUE TO SEA LEVEL RISE.

1 WHEREAS, a study by the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation
2 and Adaptation Commission found that the State will begin
3 experiencing significant flooding due to climate change as early
4 as 2030; and

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6 WHEREAS, this flooding is projected to damage
7 infrastructure, harm businesses, and render uninhabitable
8 certain areas of the State; and

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10 WHEREAS, in response to these findings, the Mayor of the
11 City and County of Honolulu issued a formal directive in July
12 2018, requiring each city department and agency to consider
13 climate change mitigation and adaptation as pressing and urgent
14 matters, including protection and preparation of the city's
15 infrastructure, assets, and citizens for any physical and
16 economic impacts of climate change; and

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18 WHEREAS, the last section of the Honolulu rail transit
19 project extends from Middle Street to Ala Moana Center, which is
20 an area of Oahu that is most threatened by sea level rise; and

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22 WHEREAS, in 2030, shortly after the Honolulu rail transit
23 project's anticipated completion date, flooding from Kalihi
24 Street is projected to impact the Middle Street Transit Center;
25 and

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27 WHEREAS, by 2050, more than one foot of sea level rise is
28 projected to begin inundating areas around the planned Kapalama
29 and Kakaako Honolulu rail transit stations; and



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1 WHEREAS, by 2100, sea level rise is anticipated to cause
2 flooding of the entire urban rail route; and

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4 WHEREAS, with threats of flooding in mind, the Honolulu
5 rail transit project was designed as an elevated system with
6 concrete pillars and raised platforms; and

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8 WHEREAS, paradoxically, the City and County of Honolulu is
9 relying on transit-oriented development to generate additional
10 property tax revenues to fund the maintenance and operations
11 costs of the Honolulu rail transit system, as well as to help
12 alleviate Oahu's affordable housing crisis; and

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14 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu's plan encourages
15 massive development in areas threatened by repeated and
16 devastating flooding as early as thirty years from the present;
17 and

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19 WHEREAS, moving the Honolulu rail transit project inland
20 will save rail and its accompanying development from sea level
21 rise, encourage transit-oriented development for everyday
22 families rather than just those who can afford luxury
23 condominiums in Kakaako, avoid costly mitigating factors, and
24 allow time to reevaluate an expansion of the Honolulu rail
25 transit project to the University of Hawaii at Manoa; now,
26 therefore,

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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
29 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
30 2020, the Senate concurring, that the City and County of
31 Honolulu is requested to work with the Honolulu Authority for
32 Rapid Transportation to move the Honolulu rail transit project
33 inland due to sea level rise; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director
37 of Transportation; Director of Business, Economic Development,
38 and Tourism; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu;
39 Chairperson of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation



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1 Board of Directors; and Chief Executive Officer of Honolulu
2 Authority for Rapid Transportation.

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OFFERED BY: *Scott Brown*

Cynthia Threlkeld

MAR - 5 2020

