
HOUSE 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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31 WHEREAS, by 2100, sea level rise is anticipated to cause
32 flooding of the entire urban rail route; and



1 WHEREAS, with threats of flooding in mind, the Honolulu
2 rail transit project was designed as an elevated system with
3 concrete pillars and raised platforms; and
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5 WHEREAS, paradoxically, the City and County of Honolulu is
6 relying on transit-oriented development to generate additional
7 property tax revenues to fund the maintenance and operations
8 costs of the Honolulu rail transit system, as well as to help
9 alleviate Oahu's affordable housing crisis; and
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11 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu's plan encourages
12 massive development in areas threatened by repeated and
13 devastating flooding as early as thirty years from the present;
14 and
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16 WHEREAS, moving the Honolulu rail transit project inland
17 will save rail and its accompanying development from sea level
18 rise, encourage transit-oriented development for everyday
19 families rather than just those who can afford luxury
20 condominiums in Kakaako, avoid costly mitigating factors, and
21 allow time to reevaluate an expansion of the Honolulu rail
22 transit project to the University of Hawaii at Manoa; now,
23 therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
27 2020, that the City and County of Honolulu is requested to work
28 with the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation to move the
29 Honolulu rail transit project inland due to sea level rise; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of
33 Transportation; Director of Business, Economic Development, and
34 Tourism; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; Chairperson
35 of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation



H.R. NO. 80

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

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OFFERED BY:

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Cynthia Heleu

MAR - 5 2020

