

MAR - 6 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY TO CONVENE AN
INTERDISCIPLINARY TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK FOR A
SEA LEVEL ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PLAN FOR THE WAIKIKI
DISTRICT.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is experiencing the impacts of climate
2 change, including the effects of sea level rise and coastal
3 erosion, which is of particular concern to the State given our
4 island topography and substantial coastal exposure; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Senate of the Twenty-Ninth Legislature of the
7 State of Hawaii, 2017, created the Hawaii Climate Change
8 Mitigation and Adaptation Commission ("Climate Commission"),
9 which published the Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and
10 Adaptation Report in 2017 detailing findings and recommendations
11 for mitigating and adapting to sea-level rise; and
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13 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu established the
14 Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency
15 ("OCCSR") by City Charter in 2016, to promote community
16 resilience and, among other recommended actions, to preserve
17 natural shorelines and beaches as buffers to protect coastal
18 communities; and
19

20 WHEREAS, OCCSR is tasked with tracking climate change
21 science and potential impacts on Oahu's facilities and
22 communities, coordinating actions and policies of the county's
23 departments to increase community preparedness and resilience,
24 supporting resilient infrastructure in response to the impacts
25 of climate change, and integrating sustainable and environmental
26 values into Oahu plans, programs, and policies, in part, through
27 the City's resilience strategy; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Waikiki Special Improvement District is a
30 low-elevation, high-density, urban coastal community and home to
31 approximately thirty thousand residents, hosts approximately



1 five million tourists annually, and generates about thirty
2 percent of the gross domestic product of the State and is
3 vitally important for its residents, visitors, public and
4 private property, and for the economic well-being of the entire
5 State; and

6
7 WHEREAS, research has shown that inundation and flooding of
8 Waikiki related to climate change will occur from multiple
9 sources: storm drain backflow, groundwater inundation, wave run-
10 up and marine hydrostatic (passive) flooding, heavy
11 precipitation, and watershed flooding associated with extreme
12 weather events; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu established the
15 Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Association in 2015
16 to improve the coordination and management of the beach systems
17 in Waikiki, and the Association has been engaged in
18 comprehensive adaptation planning and actively managing
19 Waikiki's beach systems for resilience to projected climate
20 change impacts, including sea-level rise; and

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22 WHEREAS, Waikiki like so many of the other resort
23 communities in the State, is in a sea level rise exposure area
24 and requires a comprehensive adaptation and resilience plan to
25 deal with projected climate change and sea-level rise; and

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27 WHEREAS, Waikiki can serve as a pilot and demonstration
28 project for other coastal communities that may develop a
29 comprehensive sea-level rise adaptation and community resilience
30 plan for the protection of its residents, visitors, critical
31 infrastructure, and public and private property; and

32
33 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Tourism Authority is charged with
34 managing tourism for the benefit of the State of Hawaii to
35 ensure that the State remains a competitive destination within
36 the global tourism industry, and has the expertise to
37 effectively coordinate the diverse public and private
38 stakeholders in preparing a Waikiki resilience plan; and

39
40 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest not only of the Waikiki
41 District but, as importantly, for other coastal communities, the
42 City and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawaii to support a



1 Waikiki task force in proactively creating a framework for a
2 sea-level rise mitigation and adaptation plan for the Waikiki
3 community; now, therefore,
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
6 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
7 Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Tourism Authority is
8 requested to convene an interdisciplinary task force to develop
9 a framework for a comprehensive sea level adaptation and
10 resilience plan for the Waikiki Special District; and
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
13 include the following members:
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- 15 (1) The President and Chief Executive Officer of the
16 Hawaii Tourism Authority, or the President's designee,
17 who is requested to serve as the chair of the task
18 force;
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- 20 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
21 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
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- 23 (3) The Director of the Office of Planning, or the
24 Director's designee;
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- 26 (4) The Deputy Director for Water Resource Management, or
27 the Deputy Director's designee;
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- 29 (5) The Coordinator of the State Climate Commission, or
30 the Coordinator's designee;
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- 32 (6) The Executive Director of the City and County of
33 Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and
34 Resilience, or the Executive Director's designee;
35
- 36 (7) The President of the Senate, or the President's
37 designee;
38
- 39 (8) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the
40 Speaker's designee;
41



- 1 (9) The Director of the University of Hawaii Sea Grant
2 College Programs;
- 3
- 4 (10) The Director of the University of Hawaii Community
5 Design Center;
- 6
- 7 (11) The Executive Director of the Land Use Research
8 Foundation, or designee;
- 9
- 10 (12) The President of the Waikiki Beach Special Improvement
11 District Association, or the President's designee;
- 12
- 13 (13) The President of the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism
14 Association, or the President's designee;
- 15
- 16 (14) A representative of the American Hotel and Lodging
17 Association;
- 18
- 19 (15) The Chairperson of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board, or
20 the Chairperson's designee;
- 21
- 22 (16) A representative of Save Our Surf;
- 23
- 24 (17) A representative of the Surfrider Foundation; and
- 25
- 26 (18) The Councilmember of the Honolulu City Council
27 representing Waikiki, or the Councilmember's designee;
28 and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force may invite
31 additional organizations or agencies to participate in the task
32 force; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Tourism Authority is
35 requested to provide administrative support for the task force;
36 and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
39 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
40 any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the
41 convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and


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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 3 Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director of the Office of
 4 Planning; Deputy Director for Water Resource Management;
 5 Coordinator of the State Climate Commission; Executive Director
 6 of the City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change,
 7 Sustainability and Resilience; Director of the University of
 8 Hawaii Sea Grant College Programs; Director of the University of
 9 Hawaii Community Design Center; President and Chief Executive
 10 Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority; Executive Director of
 11 the Land Use Research Foundation; President of the Waikiki Beach
 12 Special Improvement District Association; President of the
 13 Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association; President and Chief
 14 Executive Officer of the American Hotel and Lodging Association;
 15 the Chair of the Waikiki Neighborhood Board, Founder of Save Our
 16 Surf; Chapter member of the Surfrider Foundation; and each
 17 Councilmember of the Honolulu City Council.

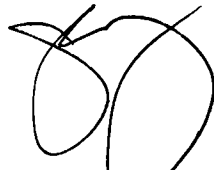
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