



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION**  
**COMMISSION**  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of**  
**Anukriti Hittle**  
**Coordinator, Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the House Committees on**  
**WATER, LAND and HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
**and**  
**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Wednesday, February 5, 2020**  
**11:00 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In support of**  
**HOUSE BILL 2702**  
**RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

House Bill 2702 proposes to appropriate funds for a study by DHHL to plan for water flooding, climate change and redevelopment of twenty parcels of land in the Mapunapuna or Shafter Flats area. **On behalf of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) I offer the following comments in support of this measure.**

The Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission “recognizes the urgency of climate threats and the need to act quickly. It promotes ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsible strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean, equitable and resilient.” The Commission, established by Act 32 SLH 2017 to uphold the United States’ pledges under the Paris Agreement, is the coordinating body for policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation for the state. It is a high-level multi-jurisdictional body that guides the priorities of the state’s climate response. Co-chaired by DLNR and Office of Planning, it consists of 20 members—chairs of four legislative committees, and executive department heads at the county and state levels.

At its September 2018 meeting, the Climate Commission agreed to five priority recommendations for countering impacts of sea level rise, including:

“Encourage agencies and non-governmental utility providers to identify and prioritize assets within the 3.2 ft SLR-XA or more as described in the State’s Sea Level Rise report, identify adaptation measures, and to provide a status update on this activity annually to the Climate Commission.”

**Co-Chairs:**  
Chair, DLNR  
Director, Office of Planning

**Commissioners:**  
Chair, Senate AEN  
Chair, Senate WTL  
Chair, House EEP  
Chair, House WTH  
Chairperson, HTA  
Chairperson, DOA  
CEO, OHA  
Chairperson, DHHL  
Director, DBEDT  
Director, DOT  
Director, DOH  
Chairperson, DOE  
Director, C+C DPP  
Director, Maui DP  
Director, Hawai'i DP  
Director, Kaua'i DP  
The Adjutant General  
Manager, CZM

This measure acts on this priority recommendation, and is a crucial component of Hawaii's adaptation to sea level rise impacts on inland property affected by sea level rise.

Studies by local researchers indicate that tidal and sea level rise induced inland flooding represents a greater threat to Honolulu's infrastructure and assets than that caused by direct coastal flooding. In a study by Habel et. al (2019) it was found that less than 3% of sea level rise induced flooding will be caused exclusively by direct coastal flooding, while the remainder is expected to occur by combinations of flood sources including by groundwater inundation and drainage failure. Such flooding is already occurring in the Mapunapuna area during elevated tidal stages, in which floodwaters have been found to be contaminated by harmful pollutants. As sea level continues to rise, inland flooding and associated contamination concerns can be expected to progress in Mapunapuna and other economically valuable parts of Honolulu; so, in keeping with these findings, I believe that the proposed study could provide insights into locally appropriate adaptation solutions, in keeping with the Commission's work and priorities.

However, I defer to DHHL and any other departments directly affected on the feasibility of the actions proposed by this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support of this measure.

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References:

Habel, S.L., Anderson, T., Fletcher, C.H. and Thompson, P.R., 2019, September. COMPOUNDING MECHANISMS OF SEA LEVEL RISE INDUCED FLOODING PRODUCES DOUBLING OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FAILURE IN HONOLULU BY THE 2030S. In *GSA Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, USA-2019*. GSA.

Habel, S.L., 2019. *SEA-LEVEL RISE FLOODING AND RELATED IMPACTS: PRIMARY URBAN CORE, HONOLULU, HAWAI 'I* (Doctoral dissertation, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI 'I AT MĀNOA).

McKenzie, T., Habel, S.L. and Dulai, H., 2019, September. INCREASED COASTAL POLLUTION EXPECTED UNDER FUTURE SEA LEVEL STANDS: CHEMICAL EVIDENCE FOR TIDAL GROUNDWATER INUNDATION OF COASTAL WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE. In *GSA Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, USA-2019*. GSA.

**HB-2702**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 6:59:59 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 11:00:00 AM

<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:

**HB-2702**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 4:07:35 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Is this the land that ALWAYS floods in that area? If so, seems like a good idea....especially if it's where the Rail is passing? We already know that the RAIL is going through enough flood zones.

**HB-2702**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 10:32:11 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
maelani Lee	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

I oppose. DLNR should not have money appropriated to do renovations, repairs or a study in Mapunapuna. Mapunapuna area was a lake and gets flooded during higher tides. We know that already; that area shouldn't have been developed to begin with. That's unnecessary spending towards something that can't be fixed or costs too much money to fix.

**HB-2702**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 7:04:33 PM

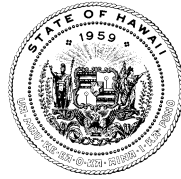
Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rhonda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**LATE**

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
AND ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 5, 2020 AT 11:00AM IN CR 325

**HB 2702 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

February 4, 2020

Aloha Chair Yamane, Chair Lowen, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2702. This bill appropriates funds for a study by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to plan for water flooding, climate change, and redevelopment of twenty parcels of land in the Mapunapuna or Shafter Flats area. DHHL supports this measure as long as it doesn't affect the priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request and asks to make one amendment, the first TMK listed in the bill, 1-1-064:006, should be deleted and replaced with TMK 1-1-064:008.

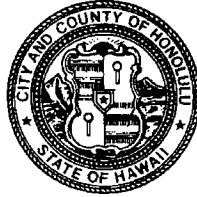
DHHL owns approximately 13.82 acres in the Mapunapuna or Shafter Flats area that is currently being used for warehousing, baseyards, and commercial and office related uses. In general, the Mapunapuna or Shafter Flats area is characterized by a mix of commercial, light and heavy industrial uses. Lands to the north are owned by the State of Hawaii and are being used as industrial base yards and warehouses. The area where DHHL and other State of Hawaii lands are located are subject to flooding coming from the open portion of the Kakoi ditch and roadway runoff accumulates due to the flat terrain. This funding for a study to plan for water flooding, climate change, and redevelopment would go a long way in addressing the future use of these parcels and the adjoining State parcels.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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PHONE: (808) 768-8000 • FAX: (808) 768-6041  
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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



KATHY K. SOKUGAWA  
ACTING DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY F. T. HIU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EUGENE H. TAKAHASHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 5, 2020

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Water, Land,  
and Hawaiian Affairs  
The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Energy  
and Environmental Protection  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**LATE**

Dear Chairs Yamane and Lowen, and Committee Members:

**Subject: House Bill No. 2702  
Relating to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands**

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) **supports** House Bill No. 2702, which would appropriate funds for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to conduct a study to assess and plan for flooding, climate change, and potential redevelopment of 20 parcels of land in the Mapunapuna or Shafter Flats area.

The DPP acknowledges that planning for climate change and rising sea levels is a critical issue for the State now, and into the future. The low-lying Mapunapuna area of Honolulu experiences greater flooding impacts than most areas on Oahu, and can expect to see these problems exacerbated by rising sea levels and groundwater. We understand that leases for many of these parcels will expire in 2022, thus this would be the opportune time to initiate this study.

The DPP supports a long-term perspective on adaptation planning that assesses impacts not only on individual properties, but across affected areas and in the context of infrastructure planning and vulnerabilities. The DPP would therefore support a study across multiple parcels in Mapunapuna as a step toward better understanding adaptation options in the area.



The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Water, Land,  
and Hawaiian Affairs  
The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Energy  
and Environmental Protection  
Hawaii House of Representatives  
House Bill No. 2702  
February 5, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy K. Sokugawa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy K. Sokugawa  
Acting Director