



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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Statement of  
**LEO R. ASUNCION**  
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

8:55 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**HB 461**  
**RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE.**

Chairs Lowen and Yamane, Vice Chairs Wildberger and Todd, and Members of the House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports HB 461, which would establish a sea level rise relocation program within OP with appropriate staffing to address relocation of public infrastructure and facilities to be funded by a special fund.

OP's Coastal Zone Management Program (OP-CZM) has begun to identify the complexities to relocating critical infrastructure along Hawaii's coastal areas subject to chronic erosion events. OP agrees that it will take a directed effort with sufficient staff resources to identify public infrastructure at risk, plans for relocation where possible, and coordination with other State agencies and the counties to retreat critical infrastructure such as roads, waste water treatment facilities, etc.

While HB 461 is necessary for the State's resilience, OP notes that the proposed measure may not meet requirements for establishing a new special or revolving fund as specified in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 23-11.

Should this measure move forward, OP respectfully requests that HB 461 be revised to be supported under the general fund appropriation process to establish a sea level rise relocation program provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RODERICK K. BECKER  
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
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**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
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MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**

TESTIMONY BY RODERICK K. BECKER  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AND WATER, LAND AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 461

**February 12, 2019**

**8:55 a.m.**

**Room 325**

RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE

House Bill (H.B.) No. 461: establishes the Sea Level Rise Relocation Program, within the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism's Office of Planning, to coordinate the siting and relocation of public infrastructure and facilities within the State in response to sea level rise and related effects of climate change; authorizes an exempt Sea Level Rise Relocation Coordinator position; establishes the Sea Level Rise Relocation Special Fund (SLRRSF); appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 20 and FY 21 to be deposited into the SLRRSF; and appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds from the SLRRSF for FY 20 and FY 21.

As a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought

and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to H.B. No. 461, it is difficult to determine whether the special fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION, AND WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325  
415 South Beretania Street  
8:55 AM**

February 12, 2019

RE: HOUSE BILLS NO. 461 RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE AND NO. 396 RELATING TO COASTAL EROSION PROACTIVE ADAPTATION PLAN

Chairs Lowen and Yamane, Vice Chairs Wildberger and Todd, and members of the committees:

My name is Gladys Quinto-Marrone, CEO of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. Our members build the communities we all call home.

BIA-HAWAII has the following **comments** on H.B. 461, which proposes to establish the Sea Level Rise Relocation Program and the position of Sea Level Rise Relocation Coordinator in the Office of Planning to coordinate mitigation measures, relocation, and site planning for public infrastructure and facilities affected by sea level rise; and, H.B. 396 which proposes to establish a Coastal Erosion Proactive Adaptation Plan Task Force, to be assisted by an Advisory Group, to develop a Coastal Erosion Proactive Adaptation Plan for streamlined and proactive shoreline permitting procedures that better mitigate impacts to Hawaii's coastal zone and lower the costs to public and private permit applicants.

As an island state, we all should be concerned about how climate change and sea level rise are impacting our coastal areas. The proposed bills are intended to create one entity in the State to oversee issues and impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion. While we strongly support the need to centralize this efforts, we also believe that this effort needs to be focused on science, facts and evidence. It also needs to address the reality of how to deal with private property rights. If government prevents a property owner from protecting their property because of the impact it would generate on the adjacent public lands, who should compensate the land owner for their loss?

The legislature should consider a more comprehensive approach to addressing the problem today by doing the following:

1. Formally adopt the maps created by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Commission that identifies areas, now and in the future, that will be impacted by sea level rise. This would allow affected landowners to be informed of the possible designation and raise any concerns they may have through the Administrative Rule-making process used to adopt the maps.



2. Identify those areas around the state that will be subject to high rates of coastal erosion due to sea level rise. Provide funding for condemnation of the private properties impacted and relocation of public infrastructure.

We appreciate the opportunity provide comments on H.B. 461 and H.B. 396.



## HB 461, RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE

FEBRUARY 12, 2019 · HOUSE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND WATER, LAND, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES · CHAIRS REP. NICOLE E. LOWEN AND REP. RYAN YAMANE

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** IMUAlliance supports HB 461, relating to sea level rise, which requires new developments to plan for the impacts of projected sea level rise and prohibits development in areas significantly affected by projected sea level rise.

According to a report produced by the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, global sea levels could rise more than three feet by 2100, with more recent projections showing this occurring as early as 2060. In turn, over the next 30 to 70 years, approximately 6,500 structures and 19,800 people statewide will be exposed to chronic flooding. Additionally, an estimated \$19 billion in economic loss would result from chronic flooding of land and structures located in exposure areas. Finally, approximately 38 miles of coastal roads and 550 cultural sites would be chronically flooded, on top of the 13 miles of beaches that have already been lost on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to erosion fronting shoreline armoring, like seawalls.

As we work to reduce carbon emissions and stave off the worst consequences of climate change, we must begin preparing for the adverse impact of sea level rise on our shores. We are now quantifying the speed at which we must act. We cannot continue to develop the 25,800-acre statewide sea level rise exposure area—one-third of which is designated for urban use—without risking massive structural damage and, potentially, great loss of life.

**HB-461**

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 6:49:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-461**

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 12:33:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We are all going to have to work hard to make sure we are ready for the changes that will happen and are currently happening to our planet due to our use of fossil fuel. Thanks to all the greed and short-sightedness, and the love affair with big polluting CARS AND TRUCKS, my granddaughter will not have a nice safe place to live. We are going to have to make big changes and sacrifices. There will not be a way to mitigate our way out of it, but we should at least try to do everything we can now to reverse what we can, and prepare for what we can not change at this point. Public safety should mandate a stop to shoreline development. It is irresponsible to build infrastructure in areas of inundation from sea-level rise which keeps on changing further inland with each new projection. Mahalo, Laura Gray



**HB-461**

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 8:54:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-461**

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 3:49:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Philip Fernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident of the Big Island. I support HB461 as sea level rise is inevitable and the state must prepare for its impacts. Critical infrastructure are already threatened - such as major highways on Oahu and Maui where even high tides and high surf are already impacting the highways. Single family residences and multi-family residences on the shoreline throughout Hawaii are also threatened. A planned approach to retreating from the shoreline is necessary and the earlier Hawaii plans and implements relocation, the better.

Please support HB461

**LATE**

**HB-461**

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 9:41:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/12/2019 8:55:00 AM

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

Comments:

While the intent of the bill should be applauded, it is unclear what authority or autonomy the Sea Level Rise Relocation Coordinator would have to encourage other government agencies (DLNR, HDOH, HDOT) or infrastructure providers (such as MECO, HECO, HELCO) to relocate out of harms way. It is also unclear what benefit the program or person would provide given that each County already has personnel enacting similar propositions (Sea Grant Extension Agent) or regulations to move out of harms way (Shoreline Setbacks, Flood Permit Programs, etc.). We recommend ensuring the program and position is not duplicative of other planned or existing programs, and that the individual selected for the position has experience in actual land use planning and permitting at the local level.