



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 Senate Committees on
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
And
WATER AND LAND

Thursday, March 25, 2021
3:15pm
State Capitol, Via Videoconference/Conference Room 016

In support of
SCR 162/SR 127

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

SCR162/SR127 proposes to request that each executive department identify departmental facilities that may be vulnerable to flooding and other impacts of sea level rise and assess options for mitigating the effects of sea level rise on those facilities. **On behalf of the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) I support this resolution.**

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.

In 2018, as part of its larger statement on adaptation, the Climate Commission issued the following priority for countering impacts of sea level rise, and:

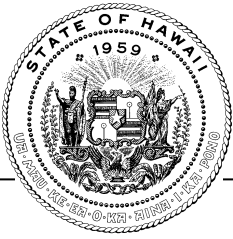
Encourage[d] agencies and non-governmental utility providers to identify and prioritize assets within the 3.2 ft SLR-XA or more as described in the State’s Sea Level Rise report, identify adaptation measures, and to provide a status update on this activity annually to the Climate Commission.

SCR162/SR127 effectively addresses this priority of the Commission.

In December 2017, the Commission accepted the *Hawaii Sea Level Rise Report* and accompanying *Hawaii Sea Level Rise Viewer*. Along with the Report, a newly issued guidance (*Guidance for Using the Sea Level Rise Exposure Area in Local Planning and Permitting Decisions*, Oct 2020) and updated Viewer provide maps of a Sea Level Rise Exposure Area (SLR-XA) incorporating models of passive flooding, shoreline erosion, and annual high wave run-up with 3.2 feet of sea level rise.

Recent science summarized in the Report, Guidance and Viewer points to a likelihood of three feet or more of sea level rise in the second half of this century - within the expected lifespan of most existing and new development. It is critical that agencies and departments move expeditiously to address climate change impacts on public infrastructure. Identifying and prioritizing vulnerabilities to climate change impacts is a necessary first step. To maintain progress on this issue, frequent and regular reporting is essential, as is a point of contact at the staff level to accelerate action.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of this resolution.



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Thursday, March 25, 2021
3:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016, Videoconference

in consideration of
SCR162 / SR127

**REQUESTING THAT EACH EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT IDENTIFY
DEPARTMENTAL FACILITIES THAT MAY BE VULNERABLE TO FLOODING AND
OTHER IMPACTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE AND ASSESS OPTIONS FOR MITIGATING
THE EFFECTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE ON THOSE FACILITIES.**

Chairs Moriwaki and Inouye, Vice Chairs Dela Cruz and Keith-Agaran, and members of Senate Committees on Government Operations and Water and Land.

The Office of Planning (OP) serves as the lead agency of the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, which was approved by the federal government in 1978, as defined in Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 205A.

The OP recognizes the importance for integrating sea level rise into facility and land use planning and **provides comments for SCR162/SR127** which requires each executive branch department to identify existing and planned facilities that may at risk from sea level rise, flooding, and natural hazards; assess its risks and seek to mitigate impacts from sea level rise; and assign staff to work with the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission staff, and offers the following **comments**:

- Pursuant to Act 45, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, the legislature amended OP responsibilities by adding sea level adaptation coordination to its mandate. In order to serve more effectively in this task, we respectfully offer the following amendments for consideration:

Page 5, Lines 9-13, “(b) Each department shall establish staff level points of contact with relevant expertise to build internal capacity and work with Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission staff, and the Office of

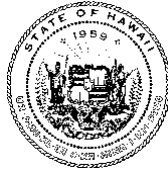
Planning to improve interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation, flooding, and resilience.

Page 5, Lines 14-21, “(c) Each department shall submit a report to the governor, legislature, Office of Planning, and Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission.

We look forward to serving in this role and working with the executive branch on this important subject matter. As responsibilities increase for the OP, we also understand that the OP would need additional capacity to effectively address these significant adaptation needs and would request an increase in fiscal support and positions in upcoming years when there is more availability in the state general fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
COMMITTEES ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
AND
WATER AND LAND

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2021, 3:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 016, STATE CAPITOL

S.C.R. 162 / S.R. 127

REQUESTING THAT EACH EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT IDENTIFY DEPARTMENTAL FACILITIES THAT MAY BE VULNERABLE TO FLOODING AND OTHER IMPACTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE AND ASSESS OPTIONS FOR MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE ON THOSE FACILITIES.

Chairs Moriwaki and Inouye, Vice Chairs Dela Cruz and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony supporting the intent of S.C.R 162, with comments.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports action to mitigate the future impacts of sea level rise, however we currently lack the necessary resources required to fund and administer the research, analysis, and recommendations mandated by this bill for DAGS facilities.

In addition, DAGS recommends one centralized agency, such as the Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission, to provide statewide protocol and guidance to ensure consistency of results as part of more comprehensive mitigation measures and to provide support across all executive branch agencies. This support would include, but not be limited to,

providing resources for education of staff and consultants, identifying regional mitigation measures and recommendations for facilities and infrastructure by regions, and establishing a statewide budget and program for agencies to utilize for the requested assessments and reporting.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

SCR-162

Submitted on: 3/24/2021 1:25:35 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/25/2021 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Kinimaka	Testifying for DAGS	Support	No

Comments:

I am available for comments.

I am also testifying on behalf of DAGS Comptroller Curt Otaguro, standing on written testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/25/2021

Time: 03:15 PM

Location: CR 016 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Government

Operations

Senate Water and Land

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 0162 REQUESTING THAT EACH EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT IDENTIFY DEPARTMENTAL FACILITIES THAT MAY BE VULNERABLE TO FLOODING AND OTHER IMPACTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE AND ASSESS OPTIONS FOR MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE ON THOSE FACILITIES.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) offers comments on SCR 162. The Department appreciates the legislature's guidance to identify and evaluate public school facilities that may be vulnerable to flooding and other impacts of sea level rise. In addition to its ongoing efforts to assess and mitigate the existence of natural threats and disasters, the Department will engage the appropriate stakeholders to further assess the risk to life and property on public school campuses. The Department will submit a report to the Governor, Legislature, and Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission on any findings and recommendations the Department has gathered in the preceding year twenty days prior to the convening of the legislative session with the adoption of this resolution.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Thursday, March 25, 2021, 3:15 pm

Senate Committees on Government Operations and on Water and Land

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 162/SR127 – IDENTIFYING PUBLIC FACILITIES SUBJECT TO SEA LEVEL RISE, ASSESSING OPTIONS FOR MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chairs Sharon Moriwaki and Lorraine Inouye, Vice-Chairs Donovan Dela Cruz and Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees on Government Operations and on Water and Land:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party, through its Committee on Energy and Climate Action, is in strong support of SCR162/SR127, which requires executive agencies to identify facilities to be affected by sea level rise and to assess and report mitigation options.

The most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 6th Assessment Synthesis Report, leading into this November's Paris Agreement meeting in Glasgow, underscores the increasingly accelerated arrival of points of no return. Feedback loops are bringing change more rapidly than was estimated in the past. It is essential that State and county facility managers and planners use the most current maps, lest climate change overtake us before we have truly grasped the seriousness of our plight.

We should expect sea level rise to arrive in more pronounced forms as the years pass, but recognize that the process will not be steady but be "punctuated" by catastrophic ice shelf and glacial collapse, causing more rapid sea level rise. Results will not be instantaneous, but certain. This will be especially apparent with storm surge, as we may see during this coming hurricane season.

Our committee is therefore concerned to push forward the target dates for achieving Hawaii's energy goals. 2045 is likely to be too late, and testimony on this session's bills have been pressuring to move the target dates up to 2035, if not sooner. In any case, our concern is that we may not be able to move fast enough to overcome business-as-usual.

The storm surge during the coming hurricane season will be a measure of our situation. The orderly process of procurement and contracting must be fully prepared with foresight, with funding made available to avoid loss of critical service.

The Caucus recognizes that the facilities in question are not isolated and amenable to spot mitigation but integral to the functioning of their surroundings, which will be subject to the same challenges. The Caucus highly recommends that the resolution reflect this by encouraging coordinated planning among State and county executive agencies, planning agencies, and their private property service areas. Setting the tone for adaptation and mitigation will affect all private property owners and their respective improvements. This is especially true as sea level rise is certain to inundate highly active urban areas, requiring relocation of vast tracts of never-before-imagined vulnerable properties.

The Environmental Caucus appreciates the opportunity to address this issue.

/s/ Charley Ice, Co-Chair, Energy and Climate Action Committee, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party



SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Joint Hearing Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:15 PM Conference Room 016 and
Videoconferencing

**IN SUPPORT OF SCR162 - REQUESTING THAT EACH EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT IDENTIFY
DEPARTMENTAL FACILITIES THAT MAY BE VULNERABLE TO FLOODING AND OTHER IMPACTS OF SEA
LEVEL RISE AND ASSESS OPTIONS FOR MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE ON THOSE
FACILITIES.**

Co-Chairs Morikawa and Inouye, and Co-Vice Chairs Dela Cruz and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the
Committees:

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION –HIROC– was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists,
educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis
facing Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean. We are currently asking the Legislature to pass a handful of very
important bills to save our coral reefs – they are bills relating to sunscreens, cesspools, plastic marine
debris, climate and sea level rise.

We support passage of SCR162 Requesting That Each Executive Department Identify Departmental
Facilities That May Be Vulnerable To Flooding And Other Impacts Of Sea Level Rise And Assess Options
For Mitigating The Effects Of Sea Level Rise On Those Facilities.

This resolution requires each executive branch department to identify existing and planned facilities that
are vulnerable to sea level rise, flooding impacts, and natural hazards; assess options for mitigation
impacts of sea level rise to existing and planned facilities; establish staff level points of contact to
improve interagency coordination for sea level rise adaptation, flooding, and resilience; and submit
annual reports to the governor, legislature, and Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation
commission.

It is essential to accelerate adaptation and mitigation, as rapid change could occur at any time. Also, the
orderly process of procurement and contracting must be fully prepared with foresight, with funding
made available to avoid loss of critical service. The steps set forth in this are very prudent and necessary
given the importance of these public facilities to the health and well-being of the citizens of Hawai'i, and
the risks many of them face from sea level rise.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important resolution.

Dave Raney

On behalf of the Hawai'i Reef Ocean Coalition