



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
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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.

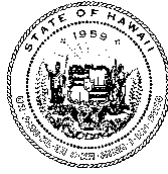
SCR162/SR127 effectively addresses this priority of the Commission.

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.

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.