

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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GOVERNOR

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT &
WATER AND LAND**

Friday, April 1, 2022
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
SCR 175/SR 168
**REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF
RISING SEA LEVELS ON THE STATE'S COASTLINE, INCLUDING BEACHES.**

Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment & Water and Land.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) appreciates the intent of SCR 175/SR 168 and **offers comments**. These resolutions request OPSD to: (i) formulate and implement a statewide policy to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise on Hawaii's coastline, (ii) conduct a comprehensive study on the effects of rising sea levels on the coastlines of each county, including the impact on beach parks under the jurisdiction of the counties, and (iii) submit a report of its findings and recommendations no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023. The OPSD provides the following comments, providing existing policy and project updates that support these resolutions and respectfully suggests that the resolutions may be duplicative of existing efforts and may not be necessary at this time.

OPSD notes that there are existing policies that address mitigation of sea level rise on Hawaii's coastlines. Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 205A, for which OPSD is the lead agency, provides a description of objectives, policies, laws, standards and procedures to guide and regulate public and private uses in the coastal zone management area. These include:

- (HRS § 205A-2) "Protect valuable coastal ecosystems, including reefs, beaches, and coastal dunes, from disruption and minimize adverse impacts on all coastal ecosystems" (HRS § 205A-2b, 4 (a)); and "Protect beaches and coastal dunes for (i) public use and recreation; (ii) the benefit of coastal ecosystems; and (iii) use as natural buffers against coastal hazards." (HRS § 205A-2b, 9 (a)).

- All agencies must adhere to these objectives and policies, within the scope of their authority, as required by HRS § 205A-4 (b).
- Amendments to Chapter 205A, enacted by Act 16, SLH 2020 support statewide beach protection by prohibiting the construction of shoreline hardening structures at sites with beaches.

To guide implementation of these existing policies, OPSD is currently pursuing several collaborative initiatives under the 2020 Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan to strengthen the state’s response to sea level rise impacts:

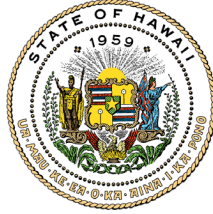
- Regional Shoreline Management Scoping: This project will provide a strategy for utilizing environmental characteristics and conditions to define “regions” for the purposes of rethinking shoreline management across the state, with the intention of facilitating larger-scale, nature-based, comprehensive management strategies, as opposed to the current system which operates at the parcel level and often leads to shoreline hardening.
- Act 178, SLH 2021: This Act charged OPSD in coordination with state agencies with facility management responsibilities, to identify state facilities vulnerable to sea level rise and other natural hazards, and to identify adaptation options. OPSD has completed an exposure assessment identifying vulnerable state facilities to various sea level rise projection scenarios. OPSD is working with a multi-agency Action Team to identify options for conducting more detailed vulnerability assessments for facilities identified in the exposure assessment. The 2021 Annual Report (including exposure assessment findings) can be found here: [Act 178: Relating to sea level rise adaptation \(hawaii.gov\)](#)
- Legal Analysis of Implementing Managed Retreat: This legal and policy analysis is a follow up to OPSD’s 2019 report *Assessing the feasibility of managed retreat strategies in Hawaii*. The analysis will look at existing policies and regulations that support and/or hinder managed retreat and provide suggestions on amendments or new policies & programs that would facilitate managed retreat options. The analysis includes two case studies for a localized analysis. This project is pending federal funding.
- Silver Jackets Program: The Silver Jackets is a multi-agency collaboration between federal (US Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA) and state agencies (OPSD, DLNR-OCCL, HI-EMA, UH Sea Grant). A pending project proposal brings together key agencies for targeted discussions for coordinated decision-making for shoreline management, including beaches.

Regarding the requested comprehensive study, this may be duplicative of existing studies and current projects. For example, the 2017 Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report includes a study of beach loss at the state and county level, including impacts on beach parks. The US Army Corps of Engineers’ Hawaiian Islands National Shoreline Management Study (updated in 2021) includes shoreline change trends for each island. At the

county level, OPSD understands that there are existing initiatives by City & County of Honolulu and Maui County to assess the impacts of sea level rise on their respective beach parks.

Pursuant to HRS § 205-3 (10) the OPSD is already required to submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature and will be pleased to provide status updates on these sea level rise and beach management initiatives and discuss findings and recommendations as requested.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these resolutions.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 175
REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO
FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF RISING SEA
LEVELS ON THE STATE'S COASTLINE, INCLUDING BEACHES.

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT, AND WATER AND LAND

BY

Luke P. Meyers
Administrator, Hawaii'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

APRIL 1, 2022

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran,
and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony providing **COMMENTS** on
Senate Concurrent Resolution 175.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 175 requests the office of Planning and
Sustainable Development to formulate and implement policies to mitigate the
impacts of rising sea levels on the state's coastline, including beaches.

The Hawaii'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) sees substantial
value in having a statewide policy to mitigate the impacts of rising sea levels
on Hawaii's coastline and beaches, as well as better understanding the effects
of rising sea levels on the coastlines, including beaches and beach parks of
each county.

As the resolution progresses, the HI-EMA would recommend that the
resolution incorporate language to align the proposed coastal mitigation
planning with overall statewide hazard mitigation efforts, allowing HI-EMA to
better support the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development with
mitigation policies and projects, and in maximizing federal funding. This would
also be consistent with the hazard mitigation plans that are adopted by each
county and the state and are approved by the Federal Emergency
Management Agency. These existing hazard reduction plans identify activities

that reduce the loss of life, property, and the environment from hazards impacting our communities.

The HI-EMA takes no stance on the reporting requirements, deferring that to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, but the HI-EMA otherwise supports this resolution to the extent that it does not conflict with the Governor's budget priorities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony offering comments on Senate Concurrent Resolution 175.

Luke P. Meyers: Luke.P.Meyers@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300

SCR-175

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 11:55:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Michael Gabbard, Chair, The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, and

The Honorable Senators Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair, Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

RE: Hearing REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF RISING SEA LEVELS ON THE STATE'S COASTLINE, INCLUDING BEACHES.

Friday, April 1, 2022, 1:00 pm

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Nishihara, and members of the Committees:

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition strongly supports SCR175 and SR168!

The effect of sea level rise caused by climate change, including the global melting of ice caps, has been significant for Hawai'i and will be more so in the future. According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the sea level around Hilo Bay has risen by ten inches since 1950, and recently, the speed of sea level rise has accelerated to approximately one inch every four years. Coastal erosion has caused the loss of thirteen miles of beaches around the State, including ten percent of beaches on Oahu. Seventy percent of beaches around the State are currently threatened.

Under this Senate Concurrent Resolution 175 and Senate Resolution 168, the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development will be requested to:

- (1) Formulate and implement a statewide policy to mitigate the impacts of rising sea levels on Hawai'i's coastline, including its beaches;

(2) Conduct a comprehensive study on the effects of rising sea levels on the coastlines, including beaches, of each county, including the impact on beach parks under the jurisdiction of the counties.

Hawai'i needs to plan now on how it will adapt to the rising sea levels! Among other responses, pulling back from the shoreline will be required. Under this Senate Concurrent Resolution 175 and Senate Resolution 168, there will be planning now by the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development that will help mitigate the disruptions that will occur.

Please pass this Senate Concurrent Resolution 175 and Senate Resolution 168!

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition and Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

April 1, 2022 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In SUPPORT of SCR175/SR168: REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF RISING SEA LEVELS ON THE STATE'S COASTLINE, INCLUDING BEACHES

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports** SCR175/SR168, Requesting The Office Of Planning and Sustainable Development to Formulate and Implement Policies to Mitigate the Impacts of Rising Sea Levels on the State's Coastline, Including Beaches.

Sea level rise is already with us, and the rate of sea level rise is projected to increase with time. Sea level rise exacerbates the loss of beaches which have already occurred due to the widespread use of seawalls, revetments, and other forms of coastal hardening. As recommended by SCR175/SR168, we clearly need policies to mitigate the impacts of rising sea levels on our islands' coastlines, including beaches. The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development is the appropriate agency to develop these policies, in consultation with other state agencies, the counties, stakeholder groups, and the public.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on **SCR175/SR168**.

Mahalo,

Dave Raney
Co-Chair
Sierra Club Climate Adaptation and Restoration Team

SCR-175

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 10:16:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 4/1/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Nui Kākou,

Kimeona Kane, of Waimānalo, Kumu Uhau Humu Pōhaku, Kia‘i Loko, in support of this resolution. Being a hawaiian practitioner of rock weaving, actively restoring several cultural fishponds, I can speak to the impacts of sea level change, coastal erosion and the threats to our resources and practice this has. I would like to also add in a study of sand movements. We see the water impacting the coastlines, but almost nothing is done to study the movement of sand nearshore and off shore. We cannot keep pumping sand from one space to another without fully recognizing the risks. In my community, a coastal community, we are living every day with these realites, our beaches are washing out, our main boat ramp access is not operable and needs to be to ensure our lawai‘a have a means to provide for their families, and we must help the fishpond practitioners who are trying to deal with rising and more violent seas, which have incredible negative impacts to their fishpond walls.

Mahalo nui for your support in trying to get ahead of this issue.

Kimeona