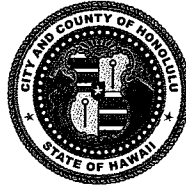


OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR

MATTHEW GONSER, AICP, CFM  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &  
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

August 23, 2022

The Honorable Brandon Elefante, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Zoning and Planning  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Elefante and Councilmembers:

**SUBJECT: Bill 42 (2022) Relating to the Special Management Area**

The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) strongly supports Bill 42 (2022), which updates the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH) Chapter 25 relating to the Special Management Area (SMA) to ensure consistency with recent updates to Hawaii's Revised Statutes Chapter 205A, the State Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, made by Act 16, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020. CCSR additionally supports Councilmember Elefante's Proposed CD1 to Bill 42.

Act 16 amended state CZM policy to reduce residential exposure to climate change risks by incorporating sea level rise and other coastal hazards within its definitions, objectives, and policies. Act 16 also strengthened protections for beaches against shoreline hardening, which accelerates erosion, narrowing, or even elimination of beaches to the extent that they can no longer be used for public recreation or cultural practice. Bill 42 is necessary to update the City's policies and objectives consistent with the state-level amendments and clarify requirements in the SMA in the face of a changing climate.

Over the last century, O'ahu has lost over five miles of beach due to coastal erosion and sea level rise. Given current projections, we can anticipate sea level rise impacts to approximately 3,800 structures and 5,640 acres of urban-zoned land. The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) has been actively evaluating the existing and future risks from sea level rise to our communities—as evidenced by new policies in the O'ahu General Plan Update and other in-process or recently adopted Development and Sustainable Communities Plans—and encourages prospective homebuilders to site their development accordingly through existing SMA permitting procedures. Bill 42 serves to make these policies and procedures clearer for property owners while establishing

MAYOR'S MESSAGE 154  
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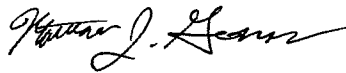
The Honorable Brandon Elefante, Chair  
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additional protections against the risks of known and increasing climate hazards, including waves, storm surge, high tide, and erosion.

Bill 42, along with Bill 41 (2022), advances implementation of Action 29 of the O'ahu Resilience Strategy, which highlights the need to revise City regulations in light of continuously updated information on today's conditions in the coastal zone. However, although Bill 42 is a necessary and empowering first step towards planning and preparing for sea level rise impacts to our shoreline environments and infrastructure, further action will be required to meet the scale of the problem. CCSR looks forward to supporting DPP as the City develops a suite of regulatory, planning, and market-based tools for ensuring safe and resilient shoreline environments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of Councilmember Elefante's Proposed CD1 to Bill 42 (2022). Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 768-2277 or via e-mail at [resilientoahu@honolulu.gov](mailto:resilientoahu@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Gonser,  
Matthew  
Date: 2022.08.23 14:52:29 -10'00'

Matthew Gonser  
Executive Director and  
Chief Resilience Officer

APPROVED:



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Michael D. Formby  
Managing Director