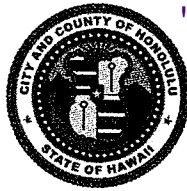


OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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'22SEP06 PM 2:34 CITY CLERK

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

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

September 2, 2022

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Bill 42 (2022), CD1 Relating to the Special Management Area

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

Act 16 incorporated sea level rise and other coastal hazards within CZM policy objectives and 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, CD1 provides the necessary updates to City policies to maintain consistency with the state-level amendments and clarifies requirements in the SMA in the face of a changing climate. In parallel with Bill 41 (2022), CD1, it additionally advances implementation of the O'ahu Resilience Strategy¹, which highlights the need to revise City regulations in light of continuously updated information on today's conditions in the coastal zone.

Over the last century, O'ahu has lost over five miles of beach due to coastal erosion and sea level rise². Given current projections, we can anticipate additional sea

1 City and County of Honolulu O'ahu Resilience Strategy, Action 29: Protect Beaches and Public Safety with Revised Shoreline Management Rules: https://www.resilientoahu.org/s/Ola_Oahu_Resilience_Strategy-lfrm.pdf#page=46.

2 Fletcher, C.H., Romine, B.M., Genz, A.S., Barbee, M.M., Dyer, Matthew, Anderson, T.R., Lim, S.C., Vitousek, Sean, Bochicchio, Christopher, and Richmond, B.M. 2012. National Assessment of Shoreline Change: Historical Shoreline Changes in the Hawaiian Islands: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2011/1051/>.

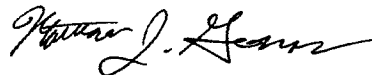
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level rise impacts to approximately 3,800 structures and 5,640 acres of urban-zoned land³.

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) actively evaluates existing and future risks from sea level rise to our communities—as evidenced by new policies in the O'ahu General Plan Update and recently adopted Development and Sustainable Communities Plans—and encourages prospective homebuilders to site their development accordingly through existing SMA permitting procedures. Bill 42, CD1 serves to make these procedures clearer for property owners while establishing additional protections against the risks of known and increasing climate hazards, including waves, storm surge, high tide, and erosion.

Although Bill 42, CD1 is a necessary and empowering first step towards planning and preparing for sea level rise impacts, 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 Bill 42 (2022), CD1. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 768-2277 or via e-mail at resilientoahu@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Gonser,
Matthew

Date: 2022.09.02 10:21:03 -10'00'

Matthew Gonser
Executive Director and
Chief Resilience Officer

APPROVED:



Michael D. Formby
Managing Director

³ Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report. Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. 2017. https://climateadaptation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/SLR-Report_Dec2017.pdf.