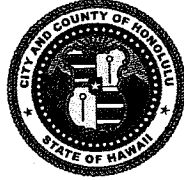


OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR

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

September 6, 2022

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

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Bill 41 (2022), CD1 Relating to Shoreline Setbacks

The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) strongly supports Bill 41 (2022), CD1, which amends the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu Chapter 23, relating to shoreline setbacks, to implement an erosion-rate-based shoreline setback formula.

Bill 41, CD1, in conjunction with City Council's consideration of Bill 42 (2022), advances implementation of the O'ahu Resilience Strategy, which underscores the need to revise our shoreline setback regulations given updated erosion and sea level rise modeling and data that provide more accurate and empowering information for protecting public safety and our shorelines<sup>1</sup>. O'ahu has already lost over five miles of sandy beaches to coastal erosion over the past century<sup>2</sup>. If no action is taken, we can expect additional sea level rise impacts to approximately 5,640 acres of urban-zoned land and 3,800 existing structures into the future<sup>3</sup>.

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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](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, Boicchio, 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/>.

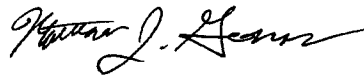
3 Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report. Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. 2017. [https://climateadaptation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/SLR-Report\\_Dec2017.pdf](https://climateadaptation.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/SLR-Report_Dec2017.pdf).

The Honorable Tommy Waters  
Chair and Presiding Officer  
and Members  
September 6, 2022  
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By implementing a shoreline setback range for most properties based on historic erosion rates uniquely applicable to each zoning lot, as well as increasing the minimum shoreline setback in all areas, Bill 41, CD1 takes an important first step at reducing risk to shoreline access and further damage to properties. Paired with consideration of Transfer of Development via Bill 10 (2022), Council is poised to take critical action on coastal adaptation to reduce further intensity of development in an increasingly hazardous setting while creating a mechanism to facilitate the movement of existing development out of harm's way. Current coastal conditions and data tell us that sea level rise is threatening our island way of life now and into the future. Swift adoption and implementation of Bill 41 will be essential for protecting residents, beaches, and our community resiliency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of Bill 41 (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](mailto:resilientoahu@honolulu.gov).

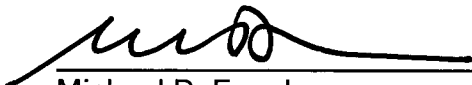
Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Gonser,  
Matthew  
Date: 2022.09.06 14:17:15 -10'00'

Matthew Gonser  
Executive Director and  
Chief Resilience Officer

APPROVED:



Michael D. Formby  
Managing Director