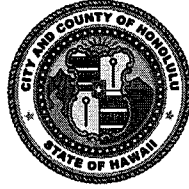


OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 11th FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-2277 • EMAIL: resilientoahu@honolulu.gov • INTERNET: www.resilientoahu.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

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

NICOLA HEDGE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR &
DEPUTY CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

February 6, 2023

The Honorable Esther Kia'āina, Chair
and Members
Committee on Planning and the Economy
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Kia'āina 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 Chapter 25 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH) 2021 to enhance public safety in the Special Management Area (SMA) against existing and increasing coastal hazards. CCSR additionally supports Councilmember Kia'āina's proposed CD2 to Bill 42, CD1.

Over the last century, O'ahu has lost over five miles of beach—one of our most important cultural, natural, and economic resources—due to coastal erosion, shoreline hardening and sea level rise¹. If no actions are taken, given current projections toward the year 2070, we can anticipate additional impacts to approximately 3,800 structures and 5,640 acres of urban-zoned land, and a resulting \$12.9 billion in economic losses² due to sea level rise, high waves, and erosion. Acknowledging these impacts, Act 16, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2020 updated the State Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Law and SMA objectives to additionally protect lots impacted by coastal hazards like storm surge and shoreline erosion, even if not directly on the shoreline. Although implementation of these updated requirements has been ongoing by the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) and the Honolulu City Council since Act 16 took effect in September 2020, Bill 42, CD1 now provides for the necessary amendments to City ordinance to maintain consistency with CZM Law and improve City process and implementation.

1 Fletcher, C.H., et al. 2012. National Assessment of Shoreline Change: Historical Shoreline Changes in the Hawaiian Islands: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2011/1051/>.

2 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.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE 28

P&E

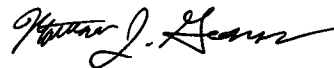
The Honorable Esther Kia 'āina, Chair
and Members
February 6, 2023
Page 2

While incorporating Act 16 requirements, Bill 42, CD1 also takes the opportunity to institutionalize best practices already employed by DPP and the Council in reviewing SMA applications and making recommendations given the latest climate science and sea level rise tools available to applicants and decision-makers. Bill 42, CD1 also modernizes and streamlines our SMA permitting procedures, which is necessary given the higher number of permits needing review as a result of Act 16. Councilmember Kia'āina's proposed CD2 further offers responsive and sensible amendments to bring more time and cost savings to the SMA permitting process without compromising the health and safety of people, structures, or natural resources.

Concurrent with consideration of Bill 41 (2022), CD1, these measures implement policies of every Development and Sustainable Communities Plan adopted since the late 1990s, as well as the City's O'ahu Resilience Strategy, which all recognize the need to modernize our shoreline regulations to reduce risk in the coastal zone³. Bill 42, CD1 is a critical step to ensure the City can continue to protect public health and safety in areas that are already hazardous today and will become increasingly so into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of Councilmember Kia'āina's proposed CD2 to Bill 42, CD1. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 768-2277 or via e-mail at resilientoahu@honolulu.gov.

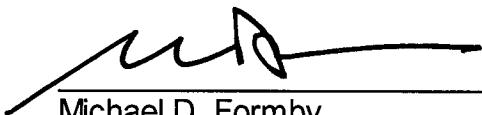
Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Gonser, Matthew
Date: 2023.02.06 17:17:51 -10'00'

Matthew Gonser
Executive Director and
Chief Resilience Officer

APPROVED:



Michael D. Formby
Managing Director

³ 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.