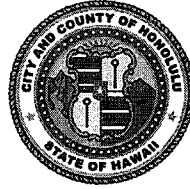


OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR &  
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February 17, 2023

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 42 (2022), CD2 Relating to the Special Management Area**

The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency ("CCSR") strongly supports Bill 42 (2022), CD2, which updates Chapter 25 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 to enhance public safety in the Special Management Area ("SMA") against existing and increasing coastal hazards.

Over the last century, O'ahu has lost over five miles of beach due to coastal erosion, shoreline hardening and sea level rise<sup>1</sup>. If no action is taken, we can anticipate impacts to approximately 3,800 structures and 5,640 acres of urban-zoned land, with a resulting \$12.9 billion in economic losses<sup>2</sup> given current projections toward 2070.

Acknowledging these impacts, Act 16, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, updated the State Coastal Zone Management ("CZM") Act, expanding SMA objectives to additionally protect lots impacted by coastal hazards like storm surge and shoreline erosion, even if not directly on the shoreline. Implementation of these updated requirements has been ongoing by the Department of Planning and Permitting ("DPP") and the Honolulu City Council ("Council") since Act 16 took effect in September 2020. Bill 42, CD2, now provides for the necessary amendments to City ordinance to: (1) maintain consistency with CZM requirements; (2) institutionalize best practices already employed by DPP and the Council in reviewing SMA applications given the latest science and tools available to applicants and decision-makers; and, (3) modernize and streamline SMA permitting

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<sup>1</sup> 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/>.

<sup>2</sup> Haw aii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report. Haw aii 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 Member  
and Members  
February 17, 2023  
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procedures to improve implementation,

Concurrent with Council's consideration of Bill 41 (2022), CD2, these measures implement policies of every City-adopted Development and Sustainable Communities Plan 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 zone<sup>3</sup>. CCSR greatly appreciates Council's commitment and collaboration in advancing these measures critical to ensuring 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 Bill 42 (2022), CD2. 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).

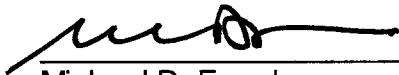
Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Gonser, Matthew  
Date: 2023.02.17 11:38:15 -10'00'

Matthew Gonser  
Executive Director and  
Chief Resilience Officer

APPROVED:



Michael D. Formby  
Managing Director

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<sup>3</sup> 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).