

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 25 - 234

RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO INSTALL MONITORING DEVICES IN FLOOD INUNDATION ZONES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE DURING WEATHER- AND CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTER EVENTS.

WHEREAS, scientific evidence indicates that global warming and the resulting changes to our climate increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, including hurricanes and subsequent coastal storm surges, flooding due to severe rainfall, and tsunamis; and

WHEREAS, hazard mitigation planning is a process that identifies disaster risks and vulnerabilities and subsequently develops measures and strategies to reduce or eliminate potential loss of life and property damage that can result from extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu ("City") Local Hazard Mitigation Plan ("LHMP"), updated in 2025 by the Department of Emergency Management and the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency, is a requirement to maintain the City's funding eligibility under the Federal Emergency Management Agency grant programs and provides a comprehensive strategy for the City to mitigate long-term natural disaster risks, enhance community resilience, and reduce potential damage to people and property; and

WHEREAS, the City's low-lying coastal areas are particularly vulnerable and can become geographically isolated during extreme weather events due to bridges being washed out or roads being blocked by flooding or debris, leaving communities and emergency personnel with limited transportation routes; and

WHEREAS, the mitigation actions detailed in the LHMP include reinforcing or relocating City roads in coastal eroding regions, incorporating rockfall buffer zones, assessing and hardening City facilities for use as evacuation shelters, collaborating with the State to ensure redundant access for evacuation in high-risk areas, remotely monitoring for scour critical bridges, and supporting capacity building for essential service providers; and



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WHEREAS, according to the Pacific Disaster Center, an applied science, technology, and research center managed by the University of Hawai'i, "traffic cameras provide hyper-local insight into current roadway conditions and how they are affected by extreme weather events and other hazards" and can allow City emergency workers to have more comprehensive information when making decisions during extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, traffic cameras and other monitoring devices provide critical information during disaster events, such as traffic and roadway conditions, the status of affected bridges or rockfall prone areas, the extent of flooding or storm surge, and surveillance of other damage, and their use allows for a more coordinated and effective emergency response; and

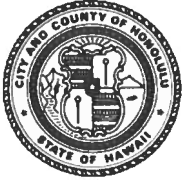
WHEREAS, Ko'olau Loa, North Shore, Wai'anae, Ko'olau Poko, and other areas where communities reside or traverse in low lying areas are among the most vulnerable to damage from extreme weather events in the City; and

WHEREAS, many of these same areas do not have live traffic cameras or other monitoring devices that could provide important planning information in times of natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, of the 276 traffic cameras in the City, only one is located on the North Shore near Pupukea and none are located north of Nanakuli, in Wa'ianae, or in other flood inundation areas of the City; and

WHEREAS, the increasing frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones, rising sea levels, and changing rainfall patterns threaten the City, especially communities in flood inundation zones and coastal areas, and the City needs to act not only to mitigate the impacts of climate change but also provide infrastructure such as cameras and other monitoring devices that can increase public safety and provide valuable information during disaster events; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the City administration to install monitoring devices, including traffic cameras, in coastal inundation zones to improve public safety and emergency response during weather- and climate-related disaster events; and



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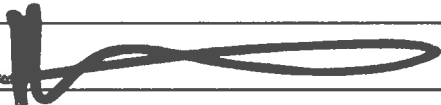
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City administration is requested to work with the State, if necessary, to install monitoring devices, including traffic cameras, as a part of a comprehensive and integrated hazard mitigation strategy to protect people, property, and natural and cultural resources; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Mayor, Managing Director, the Director of Emergency Management, the Director of Transportation Services, and the Chief Resilience Officer and Executive Director of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency.

INTRODUCED BY:



DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

AUG 12 2025

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 25-234

Introduced: 08/12/25 By: MATT WEYER

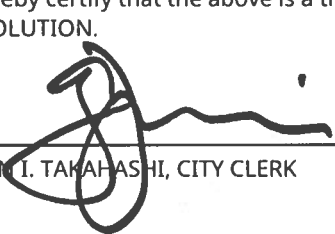
Committee: PUBLIC SAFETY & ECONOMY (PSE)

Title: URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO INSTALL MONITORING DEVICES IN FLOOD INUNDATION ZONES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE DURING WEATHER- AND CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTER EVENTS.

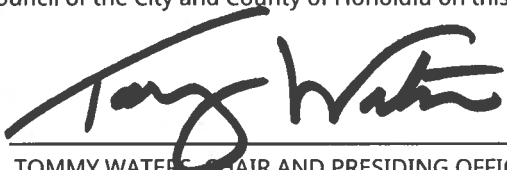
Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

08/12/25	INTRO	Introduced.
08/21/25	PSE	Reported out for adoption.
		CR-299
		5 AYES: KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA
09/03/25	CCL	Committee report and Resolution were adopted.
		9 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WATERS, WEYER

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK



TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER