

RES25-234
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 465

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Sep 3, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Jacob Wiencek	Email: jacob.m.wiencek@pm.me	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 31, 2025 @ 11:17 AM
Testimony: Aloha Councilmembers, Man driven climate change is worsening the natural disaster challenges we face, especially flooding. We have to do more to be ready for future disasters. There is no time to waste. This resolution will help address be more resilient in a fast changing world. I urge the Council to SUPPORT this resolution!		
Name: Zena Grecni	Email: zena.grecni@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2025 @ 07:06 AM

Zena N. Grecni
47-665 Melekula Rd.
Kāneʻohe, HI 96744

9/2/2025

Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Zena Grecni, and I'm a resident of Kahalu'u. I support Resolution 25-234 urging the City Administration to install monitoring devices in flood zones to improve public safety and emergency response during weather- and climate-related disasters.

I'm providing testimony in my personal capacity as a resident. In my professional role as a researcher with Arizona State University and Pacific Research on Island Solutions for Adaptation (Pacific RISA), I manage research that builds capacity for Hawaii and Pacific Island communities adapting to weather-related hazards such as flooding. My team partnered with Kualoa-He'eia Ecumenical Youth (KEY) Project to improve flood assessments and tools for Ko'olaupoko and Ko'olauloa communities that lack the locally tailored information about flood risk needed to fully engage in decision-making about infrastructure and mitigation strategies. Speaking with residents in a series of interviews and community workshops and events, we identified the impacts of past flood events and flood locations.

If implemented, Resolution 25-234 will provide critical real-time information to help residents while also laying an important foundation for improved flood models that capture the true flood extent and impact on infrastructure. Our project focused on coastal flood risk is producing models of flooding in select ahupua'a from Kāneʻohe to Kahuku. To validate models, ensuring that they accurately reflect the conditions at ground level, monitoring with sensors and camera footage at flood locations is essential. Validated flood models can be used to support a variety of functions such as emergency response planning, risk management, and analysis of maintenance and operational costs for infrastructure investments.

Thank you for your attention to this important resolution. Please reach out if you have any questions or would like further information about the research discussed here.

Mahalo nui loa,

Zena N. Grech

Resident, City Council District 3