REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Voting Members:

Carol Fukunaga, Chair; Kymberly Marcos Pine, Vice-Chair; Alan Kekoa Texeira, Heidi Tsuneyoshi

Committee Meeting Held October 21, 2020

Honorable Ann H. Kobayashi Chair, City Council City and County of Honolulu

Madam Chair:

Your Committee on Public Infrastructure, Technology and Sustainability, which considered Resolution 20-261 entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO UNDERTAKE MEDIATION WITH INTERESTED PROPERTY OWNERS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THEIR PROPERTIES FOR PUBLIC USE AND EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO ADDRESS ISSUES AND INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGE RELATED TO SLOW-MOVING LANDSLIDES OCCURING IN PALOLO VALLEY ALONG WAIOMAO ROAD, KUAHEA STREET, AND KUAHEA PLACE."

introduced on October 13, 2020, reports as follows:

The purpose of the Resolution is to urge the City Administration to undertake mediation with interested property owners in good faith for the acquisition of their properties for the public use and emergency repairs to address issues and infrastructure damage related to slow-moving landslides occurring in Palolo Valley along Waiomao Road, Kuahea Street, and Kuahea Place.

CITY COUNCIL

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The Director of Design and Construction ("DDC") testified in opposition to the Resolution, explaining that these properties are not currently needed by the City, and that DDC at this time only supports Resolution 20-145 (For Condemnation) Providing For The Acquisition Of Land For Public Use, To Wit: Kuahea Street Area Emergency Repairs, Situate At Waiomao, Palolo Valley, Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii, And Determining And Declaring The Necessity Of The Acquisition Thereof By Eminent Domain.

Four individuals testified in support of the Resolution, citing numerous property damage from the earth movement in the area, resulting in structural destruction to houses, making them unlivable, buckling and cracked streets, sewage leaks, water and electricity outages, and other damages over a number of years. Your Committee also received written testimony in support of the Resolution from 23 individuals, with three other individuals offering comments.

Your Committee is concerned by the lack of information provided by DDC, through its contract with GEOLABS, Inc., hired by the City to conduct annual monitoring in this area. Your Committee finds that previous GEOLAB reports provided invaluable information such as water infiltration, storm drain discharges, pipeline breakages/leaks from its continued monitoring and maintenance of the utility infrastructure. However, GEOLABS or DDC has not submitted any report since 2015. DDC stated that the monitoring reports for 2016-2019 by GEOLABS will be available by the end of the year. If they are available sooner, your Committee requests DDC to provide the annual reports from 2016 to 2019 to the Council.

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Your Committee on Public Infrastructure, Technology and Sustainability is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 20-261 and recommends its adoption. (Ayes: Fukunaga, Pine, Texeira – 3; Noes: None; Excused: Tsuneyoshi – 1.)

Respectfully submitted,

Committee Chair

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