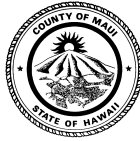


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February 12, 2015

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

The Honorable Laura Thielen, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2015; TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO
SB 500, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to require any environmental assessments and environmental impact statements for certain “major” projects in any coastal lands to include an analysis of projected sea-level rise or fall.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. Adding a new State mandate to an already-lengthy environmental-review process would unnecessarily delay development of affordable housing, public works, and other worthy projects and increase costs for counties.
2. It is uncertain what terms such as “detailed scientifically-based methodology” and “best available information” mean, leading to the likelihood that any benefit from this added requirement would be negligible. The counties are already taking into account sea-level rise or other impacts of climate change in their development reviews.
3. To segregate “major” projects of an as-yet-unspecified threshold for this requirement appears arbitrary.

For the foregoing reasons, I oppose this measure.