

Council Chair
Kelly T. King

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Riki Hokama
Alice L. Lee
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Maria E. Zielinski

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 25, 2019

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair

Handwritten signature of Kelly T. King in black ink.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 461, HD1, RELATING TO SEA LEVEL RISE**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to support and direct the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission to further progress toward addressing the impacts of sea-level rise, to identify critical public infrastructure in impacted areas, and to provide policy direction to the Legislature on strategies for mitigation and adaptation to sea-level rise.

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 support this measure for the following reasons:

1. The State of Hawaii, the only state in the United States composed entirely of islands, is especially vulnerable to impacts of sea-level rise, with approximately 750 miles of coastline and extensive development in low-lying areas.
2. Hawaii is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, extreme tides, accelerated coastal erosion, and stronger, more frequent storms.
3. Even with decisive actions to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, many of the impacts of climate change are inescapable, and must be adapted to.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.