



Coalition to Mitigate the Impacts of Sea Level Rise

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Mayor Rick Blangiardi
City and County of Honolulu
530 S. King Street #300
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Dear Mayor Blangiardi:

While you may have your hands full with managing crisis after crisis, please take time to refer to the attached handout from the *Coalition to Mitigate the Impacts of Sea-Level-Rise*, as it provides a much-needed wake-up call for 'vitally needed actions' about impending sea-level-rise due to climate change.


Active managed retreat along Oahu's coast will need to start within the next 30 years or by about 2050. This will also include or affect the many high-rises that have been built or are still being built, permitted or proposed within the NOAA four-foot sea-level-rise zone.

Such coastal retreat, while unavoidable, is contrary to the present buzz word of "resiliency" used by so many government agencies inclusive of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency. As you may be aware, it is expected that perhaps up to 15 million people in the U.S. will need to be relocated by 2100, and that our military has contingency plans to assist with such relocation efforts wherever feasible.

While proposals by academic institutions pertaining to "resiliency" such as for Waikiki are perhaps political rays of hope, are they realistic? With global warming now expected to be unstoppable, as it will readily exceed the 1.5° C threshold, we must accept that retreat in most cases is the only meaningful long-term planning option to mitigate major climate change disasters inclusive of accelerated sea-level-rise.

City and County staff responsible for infrastructure maintenance and improvement have stated that adequate infrastructure support cannot be provided thirty years from now for development within the NOAA four-foot sea-level-rise zone. While out-of-state investment fuels such construction and provides well-paying jobs, it has not created 'vitally needed affordable housing' while being largely responsible for the ever-accelerating Real Estate prices and creation of further liability to the State when "Managed Retreat" becomes inevitable. **GIVEN JUST THESE FACTS, why are permits still being issued for construction everywhere, inclusive of high rises, as if climate change and sea-level-rise were a myth?**

For the future of our country, Hawaii, and our children and grandchildren, let us all work together. We are therefore requesting that permitting of new construction in the NOAA four-foot sea-level-rise zone cease now and planning efforts instead focus on more effective infrastructure maintenance and improvement, affordable housing, accelerated replacement of cesspools, as well as truly increasing food self-sufficiency.


Klaus Radtke, Ph.D.
Environmental Scientist
Coalition Member

Cc: City Council Member Andria Tupola, Heidi Tsuneyoshi, Esther Kiaaina, Tommy Waters, Calvin K.Y. Say, Carol Fukunaga, Radiant Cordero, Brandon Elefante, Augusto E. Tulba