



# Coalition to Mitigate the Impacts of Sea Level Rise

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Susan Todani, Chairperson  
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**Re: Request that HCDA stop pursuing development within the makai (ocean) and mauka (mountain) areas under its jurisdiction that are located within the four-foot sea level zone as indicated on the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) sea level rise map.**


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 due to sea level rise 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. 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, we are therefore requesting that all public agencies work together in ceasing permitting of new construction in the NOAA four-foot sea level rise zone now, and planning efforts instead are focused on more effective infrastructure maintenance and improvement, truly affordable housing, accelerated replacement of cesspools, as well as effectively increasing food self-sufficiency.

  
Klaus Radtke, Ph.D.  
Environmental Scientist  
Coalition Member