

## City and County of Honolulu

### Bill 041 (22) Relating to Shoreline Setbacks

City Council Hearing September 6, 2022

-----  
Bill 41 proposes to set a base shoreline for new development from 40 to 60 feet and adds increases of 70 times the annual coastal erosion rate, up to a maximum 130-foot setback.

(if the annual coastal erosion rate for a beach is 0.5 foot, the shoreline setback for the property would be 60 feet plus 35 feet — or 0.5 multiplied by 70 — for a total of 95 feet).

-----

#### **CMISLR: Written Testimony in Support**

We support this bill as it is long overdue in acknowledging unstoppable sea level rise that may readily exceed 3-4 feet before the end of this century. However, we strongly recommend that it be implemented upon approval as we believe that you are also aware of the present rush for development within the present very limited setback zones.

Additional focused bills pertaining to truly mitigating the dangers of beach erosion and related sea level rise at least within the NOAA 4-foot sea level rise zone should follow immediately. These must acknowledge the cumulative effects of groundwater inundation, storm drain backflow and “nuisance” flooding caused by occasional storm surges, the twice-a-month new and full moon tides as well as the summer and winter King tides that can turn into destructive, regular flooding events much ahead of even three-foot sea level rise.

Such bills must also address how present and future developments inclusive of required infrastructures can or will be protected, how such plans will be implemented and who will pay for them. If not,

“Sea Level Rise Resiliency” will continue to be largely a buzzword, being kicked down the road like a can.

So, let us all work together for the common goal of true “Sea Level Rise Resiliency” for future generations and restrict construction in such danger zones as they will greatly exceed the still minimum setback zones outlined in Bill 041 (22).

-----