



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, March 25, 2019 at 1:15 p.m.

By

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And

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SCR 184/SR 148 – REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE MATTERS RELATED TO THE ALA WAI CANAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT.

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **support** of SCR 184/SR 148. This resolution suggests the formation of a working group to explore matters related to the Ala Wai Canal Flood Risk Management Project, including the facilitation of public meetings and development of proposals for next steps in the project.

The University of Hawai'i Community Design Center (UHCDC) is a teaching practice and outreach initiative led by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa School of Architecture (SOA) that provides a platform for faculty, staff, students, and partnered professionals to collaborate on interdisciplinary applied research, planning, and design projects that serve the public interest. As a hybrid program of education and practice, UHCDC aims to engage the needs of the state and region in all areas related to the quality of built environments.

UHCDC would welcome the opportunity to convene this working group, facilitate community outreach, and gather and visualize information that addresses the engineering problem in context with urban and landscape design components, natural resources, conservation, clean water act compliance, ecosystem performance and restoration, connectivity, community, place and cultural considerations. Given the short time frame, we recommend that the scope be limited to documenting possible design alternatives or modifications rather than developing new proposals or making definitive recommendations. UHCDC would be happy to produce community and stakeholder engagement materials and assist with a report to the Legislature that would help to frame next steps for the working group and project. Appropriate funding would need to be allocated.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.