

County of Maui

# Proclamation

By the authority vested in me as Mayor by the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended, and the Constitution and laws of the State of Hawaii, I, ALAN M. ARAKAWA, Mayor of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, hereby pledge and proclaim as follows:

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of scientists from around the world have declared climate change to be one of the most critical issues facing our global population; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change include, but are not limited to, sea level rise that is contributing to and exacerbating coastal flooding and coastal erosion; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii, as the only U.S. state comprised entirely of islands, is especially vulnerable to impacts of sea level rise with approximately 750 miles of coastline and extensive development in low-lying coastal areas; and

WHEREAS, projections of stronger and more frequent El Nino events and tropical cyclones in waters surrounding Hawaii, combined with accelerated sea level rise, indicate a growing vulnerability to coastal flooding and coastal erosion; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii is already experiencing the impacts of sea level rise such as narrowing beaches and beach loss, bluff erosion, coastal land loss, and wave inundation leading to critical impacts to property, structures, roads and other infrastructure, as well as natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii State Act 83 (2014) established the Hawaii Climate Change Adaptation Initiative which mandated development of the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report (Report); and

WHEREAS, Hawaii State Act 32 (2017) established the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Initiative which adopted the goals of the 2016 Paris Climate Accord and created the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Report, released in December 2017, provides the first state-wide science-based assessment of Hawaii's vulnerability to sea level rise along with recommendations for reducing Hawaii's exposure to such rise and increasing our capacity to adapt; and

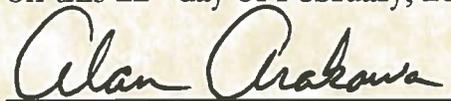
WHEREAS, the Report supplements existing County plans and efforts which include the Maui County Hazard Mitigation Plan, Maui's Countywide Policy Plan, the Maui Island Plan, and Maui's Community Plans;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALAN M. ARAKAWA, Mayor of the County of Maui, do hereby:

1. Acknowledge the growing volume of scientific proof that confirms that climate change is real and the impacts of climate change greatly threaten humans, other species, natural habitats, property, infrastructure, economies, and industry; and
2. Accept the 2017 Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report, and the associated Hawaii Sea Level Rise Data Viewer, as providing a relevant and up-to-date scientific assessment of the State's coastal areas with recommended actions; and
3. Acknowledge the Report's Sea Level Rise Exposure Area (SLR-XA) of 3.2 feet to depict hazards that may occur in the mid to latter half of this century and to be used now for planning purposes; and
4. Intend to place heightened attention on how sea level rise may impact Maui County, its people, communities, investments, culture, history and natural resources; and
5. Direct County Departments to use the Report in their plans, programs and capital improvement decisions, to mitigate impacts to infrastructure and critical facilities triggered by sea level rise, which may include relocation of infrastructure and critical facilities; and
6. Direct the Planning Department to propose revisions for the Maui, Molokai and Lanai Planning Commissions to consider amending their shorelines rules to incorporate sea level rise into the determination of shoreline setbacks; and
7. Urge officials at all levels of government to view climate change and the need for climate adaptation as pressing matters, to take a proactive approach in mitigating impacts caused by sea level rise, and to develop programs to protect the County for future generations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Maui to be affixed hereto.

DONE at Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i,  
on this 22<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018



ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
Mayor, County of Maui

