

CAR.Committee

From: Tara Owens <taram@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 8:31 AM
To: CAR.Committee
Cc: Michele McLean; Jordan Hart; James Buika; Jeffrey Dack; Kasie M. Takayama; Nicole A. Siegel
Subject: Re: CAR-23 Adding Sustainable Agriculture And Climate Change Solutions To The Maui County General Plan Objectives
Attachments: TaraOwens_CAR23_Response.pdf

Aloha Chair King and Members of the CAR committee:

Please find attached a response to your recent request on CAR-23 following the meeting of September 29, 2020.

Thank you,
Tara

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On Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 2:58 PM CAR.Committee <[CAR.Committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:CAR.Committee@mauicounty.us)> wrote:

Please see attached.

Mahalo,

*Stacey Vinoray*

*Committee Secretary*

*Office of Council Services*

*Maui County Council*

*200 S High Street, 7<sup>th</sup> flr*

*Wailuku, HI 96793*

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School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

October 19, 2020

Council Member Kelly T. King, Chair  
Maui County Council Climate Action and Resilience Committee  
*Via email only:* [CAR.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:CAR.committee@mauicounty.us)

Dear Chair King:

**SUBJECT: ADDING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS TO THE MAUI COUNTY GENERAL PLAN OBJECTIVES (CAR-23)**

Thank you for your October 6, 2020 letter asking for comments on a proposed resolution and a proposed bill to amend the Countywide Policy Plan (CWPP) to expressly incorporate climate change. I understand that the proposed bill would add one new core theme relating to climate change, along with one new goal and three new objectives, each with policies and implementing actions.

The policies and actions related to climate change are important enough to be considered as a new core theme. To that end, I would like to express appreciation of the Council's consideration of the CWPP as a "living document" that can be updated on the basis of the most up-to-date scientific information and awareness of the related planning issues and opportunities.

The following comments focused on Objective 2, relating to sea level rise, are offered for your consideration. It is my understanding that some policies and actions were duplicated from other sections of the CWPP, although they may still have relevance to those topics too. Therefore, without further clarification on the final disposition and/or revision of those items, the comments here are limited to policies and actions identified as "new".

- Objective 2, Policy b. The language in this policy could be more specific as to what is intended by "improve efforts".
- Objective 2, Policy g. Consider excluding groins from this policy. Groins can be a useful tool in the appropriate circumstances, and their function is distinct from seawalls and revetments. Seawalls and revetments are a form of shore-parallel armoring that blocks or significantly inhibits landward movement of the shoreline to protect buildings and

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infrastructure from erosion or coastal hazards. Groins are shore perpendicular structures that can be used to stabilize a sandy beach along an eroding shoreline, most often in association with beach restoration. The State of Hawaii and the County of Maui are currently evaluating projects that propose a combination of beach restoration and groins as an alternative to armoring.

- Objective 2, Implementing action b. In addition to relocation, there may be value in other adaptation options, such as nature-based solutions or elevation, depending on the implementation time frame.
- Consider a policy or implementing action to develop siting and/or design standards to enhance resilience and equity in development projects, including public or affordable housing.
- Consider a policy or implementing action that identifies, evaluates, and develops innovative and sustainable financing to support mitigation and/or adaptation.
- Consider a policy or implementing action that encourages planning for resilience focused rebuilding after a disaster.

I hope this helps to fulfill the committee's request. Please feel free to reach out with questions or additional requests as the legislation evolves.

Sincerely,



Tara M. Owens

Extension Faculty, Coastal Processes and Hazards Specialist  
University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program  
Science and Technical Advisor to the County of Maui Planning Department

cc: Brad Romine, University of Hawaii Sea Grant Extension Faculty  
Michele McLean, County of Maui Planning Director  
Jordan Hart, County of Maui Deputy Planning Director  
Jeffrey Dack, County of Maui Supervising Planner  
Jim Buika, County of Maui Coastal Planner