

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS**  
**Honolulu, Hawai'i**

**February 13, 2015**

**Board of Land and  
Natural Resources  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i**

**REGARDING:** Authorization to Contract Qualified Professionals for Coordination of Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee and Development of a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report for the State of Hawaii

**BY:** DLNR, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands

**DESCRIPTION AND NEED:**

The Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) wishes to engage a consultant to provide services for coordination of an Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee (ICAC) and development of a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report (SLR Report) for the State as directed by Act 83 (2014).

In June 2014 the Governor signed into law the *Hawaii Climate Adaptation Initiative Act* (Act 83, 2014). The purpose of Act 83 is to address the effects of climate change to protect the State's economy, health, environment, and way of life. The Bill notes that, "Hawaii is one of the few coastal states that has not adopted a statewide climate adaptation plan, yet is among the most vulnerable." The Bill addresses climate change adaptation by establishing an ICAC under the DLNR to develop a SLR Report that addresses sea level rise impacts statewide. The DLNR and the State Office of Planning (OP) share responsibility for coordinating the ICAC, which will be administratively located within the DLNR.

As directed by Act 83, the ICAC shall include the following members (or their designees):

- Chairs of the standing committees of the legislature with related subject matter jurisdiction;
- Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (co-chair);
- Director of the Office of Planning (co-chair);
- Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;
- Chairperson of the Hawaii Tourism Authority;
- Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
- Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
- Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission;
- Director of Transportation;
- Director of Health;
- Adjunct General;

- Chairperson of the Board of Education;
- Directors of the County Planning Departments;
- Manager of the Coastal Zone Management Program;

In addition, the chairs of the committee may request the participation or input of members of the public; experts in the field; and county, state, or federal officials necessary for the formulation of the report.

OCCL has taken the lead in coordinating development of the SLR Report, which will serve as a framework for addressing other climate-related threats and climate change adaptation priorities, ultimately leading to a Statewide Climate Adaptation Plan, which will be prepared by OP.

In developing the SLR Report, the ICAC with facilitation from the consultant shall solicit public views and concerns, and coordinate with various county, state, and federal agencies involved in ongoing climate change adaptation planning initiatives. The ICAC will meet on a regular basis (e.g., quarterly) with an initial “kick-off” meeting likely in May or June, 2015.

As directed by Act 83, the SLR Report, shall be completed by December, 2017 and include:

- Identification of major areas of sea level rise impacts;
- Identification of expected impacts based on the latest scientific research;
- Identification of socio-economic ramifications of sea level rise;
- Identification of applicable federal laws, policies, or programs that impact affected areas; and
- Recommendations for planning, management, and adaptation to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to sea level rise.

The project will also expand upon existing collaborations with the University of Hawaii School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (UH SOEST) and University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program (UH Sea Grant). The DLNR-OCCL, has contracted with UH SOEST, through an existing “Coastal Lands Data Program” agreement, to develop erosion and inundation hazard maps and GIS-based planning tools to spatially identify areas of sea level impacts. The maps will provide a basis for further analysis of vulnerabilities, socio-economic ramifications, and recommendations for planning, management and adaptation to sea level rise hazards.

#### **PROPOSED ACTION:**

The DLNR seeks consultant services to coordinate the ICAC and complete the State SLR Report. OCCL would like to allocate up to \$400,000 in general funds provided to DLNR under Act 83 to pay for the consultant services.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the Board of Land and Natural Resources authorize the contracting of the work indicated and authorize the Chairperson to sign the necessary documents pertaining to the project, subject to the Governor’s approval, and review and approval as to form by the Department of the Attorney General.

2. Recommend that the Board authorize the Chairperson, subject to review and approval as to form by the Department of the Attorney General, to enter into supplemental contracts to address unforeseen conditions and to sign the necessary documents to implement the additional work with the consultant.

Respectfully Submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and flourishes.

---

SAMUEL J. LEMMO, Administrator  
Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Chang', written over a horizontal line.

---

CARTY S. CHANG, Acting Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources