



## ROH Chapter 2, Section 2-\_\_ .13 Climate change adaptation

### A “One Water” Policy for Honolulu

#### *What is “One Water”?*

- Conceptually, “One Water” aims to create resource and financial efficiencies in the urban water cycle by managing stormwater, wastewater, groundwater, seawater, freshwater, graywater, and recycled water as ‘one resource.’ Infrastructure, including roadways, parks, storm drainage systems, treatment plants, pumping station facilities, and distribution and collection systems, are also part of a one water management system.
- One Water is a management framework that has been successfully implemented in major cities, such as Los Angeles, Milwaukee, San Francisco, and others, to save water, create multi-benefits across agencies, and collectively address climate change impacts.
- One Water is akin to ahupua‘a management and makes sense for the City & County of Honolulu, which has jurisdictional purview over O‘ahu’s resources.

#### *Establishing a One Water policy for Honolulu*

- Ordinance 20-47 (ROH Chap 2, Sect 2- \_\_ .13) establishes a One Water policy as a means for City agencies to tackle climate change adaptation collaboratively.
- The One Water policy came through a year-long effort in partnership with BWS with broad consensus and support across the agencies involved.

#### *Benefits of One Water*

- Successful implementation of the policy will create a cross-agency collaboration to tackle climate change adaptation; tackling climate change-related challenges and impacts collaboratively will create more capacity for agencies, financial efficiencies, and more resilient solutions.
- What we do now to plan for our coastal infrastructure in the next 20-30 years will make the difference in how resilient Honolulu will be to the impacts of sea-level rise by 2050 and beyond.

#### *What is the One Water Panel?*

- The Panel is defined in Ordinance 20-47 to include, but not be limited to, representatives from DPP, DDC, DTS, DFM, ENV, DPR, BWS, and facilitated by OCCSR.
- Establishing an inter-agency One Water Panel aims to collectively address climate change impacts that affect assets and infrastructure across City departments. Through this collaboration, the One Water Panel can build collective capacity towards addressing climate change impacts.



- The Panel will consist of Department Directors and relevant Division Heads or a similar other civil service staff member. A relevant civil service staff member would have organizational authority and has responsibilities in drafting policy or project scopes, CIP development and budget preparation, regulation development, and/or long-range planning, or has the authority to bring in content experts when needed. The relevant Division Heads or staff participating on the Panel will help move forward implementation efforts, and Directors will provide vision for prioritization of collaborative climate change adaptation initiatives.
- As outlined in Ordinance 20-47, the mechanism for engagement will be an inter-agency Memorandum of Understanding detailing collaboration procedures for research and monitoring, policies and procedures, plans and programs, regulations and design standards, capital improvements, and shared and supplemental funding opportunities.

#### *Level of engagement*

- The Panel will meet monthly for one hour. As this Panel becomes operational, it is possible that the Directors will meet quarterly and the working group of relevant Division Heads or staff will continue to meet monthly.
- The full program will be laid out at the first meeting with more specifics about the level of engagement. In order to maintain continuity, it is requested that participation of personnel in each department be consistent.
- Panel meetings will be used as a forum to discuss vision and guidance for initiating policies, regulations, rules, plans, designs, construction, maintenance, and operation of any City infrastructure project under the jurisdiction of the directors. Building on the specifications of Ordinance 20-47, the Panel has the ability to shape this effort into as necessary to build collective capacity in climate change adaptation and reduce duplication of efforts.

#### *2021 Desired Outcomes*

- Confirm and define One Water Panel goals and core values
- Develop and sign an inter-agency Memorandum of Understanding
- Develop a prioritization procedure for climate change adaptation projects

#### *Further Resources*

- Climate Change Commission [Memo](#) and [One Water White Paper](#) adopted July 21, 2020
- [City Council record for Bill 65](#)
- [Ordinance 20-47](#) (see pages 2-4 for definitions and 12-16 for the One Water policy)