

# CLIMATE ADAPTATION DESIGN PRINCIPLES FOR URBAN HONOLULU



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&  
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The objective of this project was to develop preliminary climate adaptation design guidance for development projects in Honolulu transit-oriented development (TOD) and other urban areas that are vulnerable to sea level rise (SLR). It is intended to provide developers with information and best practices for adapting urban building sites and structures to climate change-related hazards including sea level rise, flooding, heat, and groundwater inundation. This is an initial step toward developing comprehensive climate resilience design guidelines for the City and County of Honolulu ("City"), as called for in Action 14 of the O'ahu Resilience Strategy.

The work included reviewing existing City plans, guidelines, and projects; interviews with City agencies and design professionals; and preparation of two deliverables: a Background Research document on international best practices and local initiatives for resilient design; and a guidance document on Climate Adaptation Design Principles for Urban Honolulu.

The Climate Adaptation Design Principles project exemplifies the proactive, forward-thinking planning approach needed for municipalities to address the significant challenges posed by climate change. With development of TOD areas along the rail corridor a City priority, DPP TOD Division and OCCSR recognized an urgent need and opportunity to ensure that the impacts of climate change are considered in new development. Guidance was also needed to inform updates to regulations, codes, and policies around built environment resilience, which can take years to implement.

The Background Research and Design Principles documents help outline a path forward for the City while also educating the public and development community about climate adaptation science and best practices. The Design Principles can also be referred to in reviewing discretionary permits for planned developments, thereby having an immediate potential effect as the City moves ahead with regulatory updates. Both documents are available for download at [www.honolulu.gov/tod](http://www.honolulu.gov/tod).



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