



**University of Hawai'i**  
**Consent to Participate in a Research Project**

Suwan Shen, Principal Investigator

*Project title: Assessing the Transportation Adaptation Options to Sea Level Rise for Safety Enhancement in RITI Communities through a Structured Decision-Making Framework*

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Aloha! Researchers at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in the Department of Urban and regional Planning are conducting research on transportation vulnerability and adaptation to sea level rise. Your organization has been identified as a key stakeholder for adaptation and we hope to conduct an interview on this subject.

***What am I being asked to do?***

If you participate in this project, I will meet with you for an interview at a location and time convenient for you.

***Taking part in this study is your choice.***

Your participation in this project is completely voluntary. You may stop participating at any time. If you stop being in the study, there will be no penalty or loss to you.

***Why is this study being done?***

The purpose of the project is to evaluate the transportation vulnerability to sea level rise and build transportation adaptation capacity for coastal communities.

***What will happen if I decide to take part in this study?***

The interview will consist of 10-15 open ended questions. It will about an hour. The interview will include questions like, "Regarding to the Sea-Level Rise and coastal flooding hazards, what are your major concerns? Are there any plans to respond to the SLR and coastal flooding hazards? from your perspective, what contents should be included in these plans? During the planning processes, if people have different perspectives, how to move forward? Any further analysis you think would benefit the development and implementation of the future plan(s)?"

Only you and I will be present during the interview. My supervisor Dr. Suwan Shen or Dr. Ray Chang may attend the interview if you don't mind. With your permission, I will audio-record the interview so that I can later transcribe the interview and analyze the responses. You will be one of about 30 people I will interview for this study.

***What are the risks and benefits of taking part in this study?***

I believe there is little risk to you for participating in this research project. You may become stressed or uncomfortable answering any of the interview questions or discussing topics with me during the interview. If you do become stressed or uncomfortable, you can skip the question or take a break. You can also stop the interview or you can withdraw from the project altogether.

There will be no direct benefit to you for participating in this interview. The results of this project may help improve the transportation adaptation to sea level rise in the community.

***Privacy and Confidentiality:***

I will keep all study data securely encrypted on a password protected computer. Only my University of Hawai'i advisor, the project backup coordinator and I will have access to the information. Other agencies that have legal permission have the right to review research



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records. The University of Hawai'i Human Studies Program has the right to review research records for this study.

After I write a copy of the interviews, I will erase or destroy the audio-recordings. When I report the results of my research project, I will not use your name. I will not use any other personal identifying information that can identify you. I will use pseudonyms (fake names) and report my findings in a way that protects your privacy and confidentiality to the extent allowed by law.

***Future Research Studies:***

Identifiers will be removed from your identifiable private information and after removal of identifiers, the data may be used for future research studies and we will not seek further approval from you for these future studies.

***Questions:***

If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to email me at [dayea@hawaii.edu](mailto:dayea@hawaii.edu). You may also contact my faculty advisor, Suwan Shen, at 8089566868 & [suwans@hawaii.edu](mailto:suwans@hawaii.edu). You may contact the UH Human Studies Program at 808.956.5007 or [uhirb@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhirb@hawaii.edu) to discuss problems, concerns and questions; obtain information; or offer input with an informed individual who is unaffiliated with the specific research protocol. Please visit <http://go.hawaii.edu/jRd> for more information on your rights as a research participant.

If you agree to participate in this project, please sign and date this signature page and return it to: [dayea@hawaii.edu](mailto:dayea@hawaii.edu)

Please keep a copy of the informed consent for your records and reference.

Mahalo!

**Signature(s) for Consent:**

I give permission to join the research project entitled, "*Assessing the Transportation Adaptation Options to Sea Level Rise for Safety Enhancement in RITI Communities through a Structured Decision-Making Framework.*"

Please initial next to either "Yes" or "No" to the following:

- |                              |                             |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | I consent to be audio-recorded for the interview portion of this research. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | My response may be stored and used to support any future research.         |

**Name of Participant (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_



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**Participant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of the Person Obtaining Consent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Mahalo!