OHA has long recognized the impacts of climate change and sea level rise to our island home.

Our goal is to properly steward all our ‘āina responsibly and in a way that creates the greatest value for our beneficiaries. To meet this goal, we must take into serious consideration the impact climate change and sea level rise will have on our Kaka’ako Makai development. While our properties are near the ocean, they also “sit at higher elevation than the cross streets and main streets that lay mauka of the peninsula.” As a result, climate change and sea level rise are predicted to affect our Kaka’ako Makai parcels in similar ways as many other areas of Honolulu located much further inland.

For example, a 2012 study found that the potential sea level rise (four feet) expected near the end of the century, or early next century, will cause drainage problems due to rainfall, groundwater rising, and ocean water flooding. The areas up mauka near the Neil Blaisdell Center will be impacted as much as our parcels, according to the study. Further modelling shows the McCully area, despite being far away from the ocean, being impacted similarly.

Accordingly, we will plan our developments according to the same best practice design principles that our neighbors up mauka used when they built their residential towers. The 2012 study identified ten design features to minimize future risks due to climate change and sea level rise. We will look to incorporate these mitigation measures into our plans to ensure that our commercial and residential development can serve as a model for managing the effects of climate change.