JOSH GREEN, M.D. GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĂINA

SYLVIA LUKE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĂINA





DAWN N.S. CHANG CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

> RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION AND CASATAL LANDS CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT ENGINEERING FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE HISTORIC PRESERVATION KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION LAND STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA P.O. BOX 621

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of DAWN N. S. CHANG Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on WATER AND LAND

Friday, March 14, 2025 1:00 p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of HOUSE BILL 1137, HOUSE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO RESTORATION OF BEACH LANDS

House Bill 1137, House Draft 2, proposes to amend the definition of "beach restoration" used to include activities undertaken to improve eroded beaches and degraded dune systems through the management of sand and native vegetation, placement of sand, and activities undertaken to remove abandoned and remnant materials that pose a risk to public and ecosystem health. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports the bill.

The Department administers the beach restoration program for the State via the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL). The beach fund can be used to provide grants to counties, nongovernmental organizations and the University of Hawai'i for the restoration of beach lands.

Currently "beach restoration" by definition is limited to the placement of sand on a beach from outside sources such as streams, harbors, quarries, and offshore sand sources. In recent years community organizations have expressed an interest in conducting related nature-based activities, such as dune restoration, to promote a naturally resilient shoreline.

The Department supports broadening the types of community-supported activities covered by the definition of "beach restoration." Including dune restoration, sand pushing, removal of derelict structures in the definition of "beach restoration" will enable OCCL to support a full suite of nature-based activities proven to enhance the public trust, promote resilience, and encourage community engagement.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM 'ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAI'I

Legislative Testimony Hōʻike Manaʻo I Mua O Ka ʻAhaʻōlelo

> Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Water and Land Friday, March 14, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. By Charles "Chip" Fletcher, PhD Interim Dean School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology And Darren Lerner, PhD Director, Sea Grant College Program And Michael Bruno, PhD Provost University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1137 HD2 - RELATING TO RESTORATION OF BEACH LANDS

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and the Climate Resilience Collaborative (CRC) support House Bill 1137 HD2, which amends the definition of beach restoration to include activities undertaken to maintain and improve eroded beaches and degraded dune systems through the management of sand and native vegetation, placement of sand, and activities undertaken to remove abandoned and remnant materials that pose a risk to public and ecosystem health.

Hawai'i Sea Grant and CRC support this measure because it will enable the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to more effectively maintain and improve beaches and the health of coastal resources and support sustainable climate adaptation statewide. Broadening the definition of beach restoration provides more flexibility to utilize dedicated funds for the best use for beach management and allows for more comprehensive coastal management strategies to be applied statewide. Hawai'i Sea Grant and CRC support the amendments proposed by DLNR to improve this bill.

Hawai'i Sea Grant's mission is to provide integrated research, extension, and education activities that increase understanding and use of ocean and coastal resources of the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands and support the informed personal, policy, and management decisions that are integral to realizing this vision. Hawai'i Sea Grant is part of a national network of 34 university-based programs associated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that promote better understanding, conservation, and use of coastal resources.

CRC is a multi-investigator research project at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa focused on sea level rise adaptation and climate resilience. CRC is updating coastal models that project the impacts of sea level rise.

The research that goes into identifying Hawai'i's exposure to sea level rise and the historical patterns of coastal erosion have been developed by the University of Hawai'i, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology. CRC and Hawai'i Sea Grant are available to provide updated sea level rise data and projections and examples of relevant adaptation to the Committee or any lawmaker upon request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY KE KE'ENA LOLI ANIAU MĀLAMA 'ĀINA A ME KE OLA LOA CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 11th FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813 PHONE: (808) 768-2277 • EMAIL: resilientoahu@honolulu.gov • INTERNET: www.resilientoahu.org

RICK BLANGIARDI MAYOR *MEIA*



BENJAMIN SULLIVAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER PO' O HO' OKŌ & KAHU OLA LOA

KEALOHA FOX DEPUTY DIRECTOR & CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER HOPE PO'O & HOPE KAHU OLA LOA

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025, 1:00 P.M.

STATE OF HAWAI'I SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1137, HD2 RELATING TO RESTORATION OF BEACH LANDS

BY,

BENJAMIN SULLIVAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

The City and County of Honolulu ("City") Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency ("Resilience Office") **supports** HB1137, HD2, which amends the definition of "beach restoration" to include activities undertaken to maintain and improve eroded beaches and degraded dune systems through the management of sand and native vegetation, placement of sand, and activities undertaken to remove abandoned remnant materials that pose a risk to public and ecosystem health.

Over five miles of sandy beach on O'ahu have already been lost to erosion, and 60 percent of O'ahu beaches are in a chronic state of erosion. Future projections of up to 5.84 feet of sea level rise by the end of the century will have significant impacts on coastal properties and environmental resources. *Climate Ready O'ahu*, the City's climate adaptation strategy, recognizes the critical role dune ecosystems play in providing shoreline erosion control and seeks to strengthen partnerships with local community groups to provide additional capacity for local beach restoration.

Expanding the current definition of beach restoration to include additional activities that promote a naturally resilient shoreline will enable broader community participation in restoration efforts by providing more flexibility to utilize dedicated funds for dune restoration and beach cleanups, two common community-driven efforts at the local level on O'ahu that often occur in partnership with the City.

Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Elefante HB1137, HD2 March 14, 2025 Page 2

Mitigating the impacts of sea level rise and coastal flooding on our beaches and coastal communities will require coordination and commitment for generations to come. Increasing support for and collaboration with community organizations for more diverse beach restoration projects is a necessary step towards strengthening our environmental and community resilience.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1137, HD2.





DATE: March 13, 2025

^{TO:} Senator Lorraine Inouye Chair, Committee on Water & Land

> Senator Brandon Elefante Vice Chair, Committee on Water & Land

FROM: Mihoko Ito

RE:

H.B. 1137, HD2 – Relating to Restoration of Beach Lands

Hearing Date: Friday, March 14, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. Conference Room: 229

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

We submit this testimony on behalf of the Association of Apartment Owners of Hololani ("Hololani") in support of H.B. 1137, HD2 with amendments.

This measure amends the definition of "beach restoration" to include activities undertaken to maintain and improve eroded beaches and degraded dune systems through the management of sand and native vegetation, placement of sand, and activities undertaken to remove abandoned remnant materials that pose a risk to public and ecosystem health.

This bill amends the definition of "beach restoration" to broaden its scope beyond placing sand on an eroded beach from an approved outside or adjacent source, with or without stabilizing structures. While we do not oppose the expansion of the beach restoration definition, we would propose an amendment to clarify that the "removal of abandoned remnant remains" in paragraph 3 (page 3, lines 1-2) does not include removal of emergency erosion protection measures were installed pursuant to permits issued by DLNR.

We would propose to amend the bill as follows:

(3) <u>Remove abandoned remnant materials from beaches and dunes that</u> <u>pose a risk to public health and coastal ecosystems, provided that</u> <u>emergency erosion protection structures originally permitted by the</u> <u>department shall not be deemed abandoned.</u>

We appreciate your consideration of this proposed amendment, and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

First Hawaiian Center 999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400 Honolulu, HI 96813 Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Committee Members,

While we support the original intent of HB1137 HD2 to broaden the definition of "beach restoration" to include nature-based solutions such as dune restoration and removal of derelict structures, we **recommend an Amendment to Section 2**

We strongly recommend deleting "*with or*" from Section 2, number 2 of the bill's definition of "beach restoration" to ensure that stabilizing structures are not included as part of the restoration definition. The current language reads:

(2) Place sand on an eroded beach from an approved outside or adjacent source, with or without stabilizing structures; or

By removing "with or", the bill would maintain its focus on true restoration efforts rather than opening the door for permanent hard structures that contradict natural coastal resiliency strategies. This amendment is essential to ensure that beach restoration efforts align with the best available science and established state policies against shoreline armoring.

Section 2, Suggested Amendment:

(2) Place sand on an eroded beach from an approved outside or adjacent source, with or without stabilizing structures; or

If this committee intends to add a Section 3 as was done today, 03/13/25 in the House WAL committee on the companion bill SB1456, we do NOT support this.

We strongly oppose the inclusion of Section 3, which seeks to appropriate state funds for a "sand replenishment and dune replenishment pilot project" at Kahana Bay.

The proposed Kahana Bay T-groin and beach nourishment project is highly controversial within the West Maui community. Many residents and stakeholders have raised serious concerns about the project's long-term feasibility, cost, liability, environment impacts, and its failure to adequately address public access, public benefit, and public parking in the area. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) published in 2021 acknowledged unresolved issues regarding ownership, liability, and financing of the proposed infrastructure, yet no satisfactory resolution has been reached. Additionally, neither the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) nor the County of Maui has agreed to take on ownership or responsibility for the multiple T-groins structures proposed across the bay.

With projected costs ranging from \$26 to \$40 million, this project represents a significant financial burden, with ongoing maintenance and liability concerns that have yet to be fully

addressed. There is no guarantee of long-term success, as the DEIS itself recognizes that beach nourishment alone is unlikely to be sustainable without engineered structures. This type of shoreline armoring conflicts with the state's broader coastal resiliency goals and sets a dangerous precedent for publicly funded hardening of our beaches. The proposed Kahana Bay project remains deeply divisive, and state funds should not be allocated to a project that lacks broad community support, clear governance, and a viable long-term maintenance plan.

Rather than committing taxpayer dollars to a highly contentious and unresolved project, funding should be prioritized for proven nature-based restoration efforts, such as the successful dune restoration initiatives carried out by the County of Maui at many locations where government agencies and community stakeholders have already demonstrated positive outcomes and is proposed in Section 4 for Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park.

If this committee intends to add a Section 4 as was done today, 3/13/25, in the House WAL committee on the companion bill SB1456, we would support this.

Therefore, we strongly support the inclusion of Section 4 with some minor amendments.

Suggested amendments:

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$______or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for a sand restoration dune replenishment pilot restoration project and adaptation pathways planning to be undertaken seaward of at Hanaka'o'o Beach Park on the island of Maui.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to **amend Section 2** to prevent the inclusion of stabilizing structures under the definition of "beach restoration" **remove Section 3** funding for the Kahana Bay proposed project and **amend and support Section 4** for a dune restoration and adaptation pathways planning at Hanaka'o'o Beach Park.

Hanaka'o'o Beach Park is one of the last remaining gathering spaces for our community. It is a place for healing, culture, and recreation, including our cherished wa'a traditions. Protecting this area is vital to preserving Lahaina's connection to its shoreline and ensuring its sustainability for future generations.

This is the only public beach park along Ka'anapali Beach and is home to all the canoe clubs in West Maui and where the State Championships are held when on Maui.

The Hanaka'o'o Beach Park Dune Restoration & Adaptation Pathways Masterplan stands as a proactive measure to address the significant challenges posed by sea level rise and coastal erosion, particularly in West Maui, an area that has been at the forefront of climaterelated impacts in Hawai'i. This initiative is aligned with broader State and County adaptation strategies, the Maui Island Plan, and the West Maui Community Plan, highlighting the commitment to preserving not only the beach and physical infrastructure of the park but also the cultural, subsistence, and recreational values that it supports.

The project's foundation lies in the understanding that beaches and beach parks are vital components of community infrastructure, contributing significantly to the quality of life and health of residents and visitors. The emphasis on dune restoration as a nature-based, low-impact solution reflects a thoughtful approach to balancing environmental sustainability with cultural and recreational needs. By focusing on re-naturalizing the shoreline through vegetation management and dune restoration, the initiative aims to create a resilient system that can protect against coastal hazards like erosion, high waves, and storm surge while ensuring healthy beaches and public access.

Moreover, this project is embedded within a broader framework of adaptation pathways designed to offer flexible, phased responses to the challenges of climate change. Adaptation pathways allow for long-term planning while remaining responsive to evolving environmental conditions. Through this approach, the project integrates measures to address immediate vulnerabilities while setting the stage for future adaptive actions, such as monitoring shoreline changes, enhancing dune stabilization efforts, supporting the landward migration of beaches, and planning for potential managed retreat scenarios if necessary. These pathways ensure the resilience of public infrastructure and ecosystems under various climate scenarios.

The project also underscores the importance of community engagement, education, and interagency collaboration. The discussions and educational sessions held, leading up to the conceptual presentations, demonstrate a commitment to involving the community and stakeholders in shaping the future of their coastal landscape. This collaborative approach not only helps in garnering support and consensus but also ensures that the restoration efforts are grounded in local knowledge and practices.

Hanaka'o'o Beach serves as a critical space for Hawaiian outrigger canoeing and is the home for all West Maui canoe clubs, in addition to cultural practices, and community gatherings, the restoration project also stands as a testament to Hawai'i's legal obligation to preserve and protect traditional and customary practices. Outrigger canoe paddling, the official state sport of Hawai'i, holds significant cultural and historical value, and Hanakao'o Beach plays a pivotal role as the host site for the State Championships when held on Maui.

The preservation and enhancement of this site through adaptation pathways underscore the importance of maintaining both its ecological and cultural integrity while preparing for future challenges posed by environmental changes.

In conclusion, the Hanaka'o'o Beach Dune Restoration & Adaptation Pathways Masterplan represents a forward-thinking and holistic approach to coastal management and community resilience. By leveraging nature-based solutions, emphasizing adaptation pathways, and fostering community involvement, the project aims not only to protect physical and infrastructural assets but also to preserve the cultural, subsistence, and recreational practices that define the character and spirit of West Maui. This initiative serves as a model for adaptive, inclusive, and sustainable coastal management strategies that can be replicated in other vulnerable regions facing similar environmental challenges.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Kai Nishiki & Sarah Freistat Pajimola, Executive Directors,

Maui Nui Resiliency Hui

Council Chair Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore Tasha Kama

Councilmembers Tom Cook Gabe Johnson Tamara Paltin Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez Shane M. Sinenci Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL COUNTY OF MAUI 200 S. HIGH STREET WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793 www.MauiCounty.us

March 7, 2024

Hawaii Climate Commission Honolulu, Hawaii

To Whom It May Concern,

SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED HANAKAO'O BEACH PARK DUNE RESTORATION PROJECT

As a resident of West Maui and a member of the Maui County Council, I am writing to lend my support to the proposed Hanakao'o Beach Park Dune Restoration Project.

Parks, and especially beach parks, are part of the county's critical infrastructure and serve as an important gathering place for our community. Now, more than ever, West Maui needs and cherishes spaces that allow us to gather together and find respite. Hanakao'o Beach Park, in particular, plays a special role in our community. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and one of the most popular beaches for our residents.

The proposed dune restoration project would protect this community asset from erosion while maintaining public access and a healthy beach ecosystem. The project represents more than a chance to minimize the impacts of climate change; it embodies a progressive approach to increasing the resilience of our infrastructure.

I am proud to stand behind this project and look forward to witnessing its positive impact on the people of Maui. Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (808) 270-5504 or <u>tamara.paltin@mauicounty.us</u>.

Mahalo,

Janar a. M. Baltin

TAMARA PALTIN Councilmember

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR. Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA Managing Director

PATRICK S. MCCALL Director

SHANE T. DUDOIT Deputy Director





DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION COUNTY OF MAUI 700 HALI'A NAKOA STREET, UNIT 2 WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAI'I 96793 www.mauicounty.gov

March 8, 2024

Honolulu Climate Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

Since 2020, the County of Maui Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has been working on a plan to address climate change and specifically for sea-level rise at our beach parks. Our department prepared a Park Vulnerability and Adaptation Study in November 2021 with assistance from TetraTech, Inc.

The study described six adaptation strategies, which were elaborated upon in subsequent phases. The overall recommendations for Hanakao'o Beach Park now include restoring its natural shoreline and habitat, relocating the park outside of hazard areas, and revegetating with native plants, shrubs, and grass species.

The grant request, to restore the dune system at Hanakao'o Beach Park, is consistent with the policies and actions in our plan and as a result, we support the application. We look forward to working with the applicants, especially because it maintains public access and existing traditional uses.

Please feel free to contact me at Patrick.S.Mccall@co.maui.hi.us or (808) 270-7230 should you have any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,

PATRICK S. MCCALL Director of Parks and Recreation

c: Shane T. Dudoit, Deputy Director David Yamashita, Planner VI

PSM:DYM:Inm



University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program

2525 Correa Road • HIG 238 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822 • Phone: (808) 956-7031 • http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

March 7, 2023

Hawaii Climate Commission Honolulu, Hawaii

To Whom It May Concern:

The University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program (Hawaii Sea Grant) would like to express support for and commitment to the proposed project to restore dunes in Hanakao'o Beach Park.

Hawaii Sea Grant is one of 33 Sea Grant programs nationwide that comprise a functional network within our nation's universities and colleges. Hawaii Sea Grant's goal is to promote enhanced understanding, conservation and wise use of marine and coastal resources for sustainable coastal economies. We have a twenty-four year long partnership with the County of Maui to provide on-site specialized expertise and technical assistance to support planning, decision making, and outreach related to coastal and climate resilience activities.

In my role as Extension Faculty with Hawaii Sea Grant, and more specifically as the Coastal Dune Restoration Specialist, I and my co-workers assist a variety of stakeholders by providing technical assistance and guidance. We regularly work with coastal property managers interested in using the tools of dune restoration to create productive dune habitat, and restore dunes and the ecosystem services they provide. We work regularly in beach parks throughout the county, and Hanakao'o is an excellent place to conduct dune restoration as it will provide resilience and infrastructure protection from high wave events, as well as moderate and provide a natural buffer against the effects of sea level rise.

Sea Grant will be providing technical guidance, assistance with restoration native plant choices and dune layout and design. We will work closely alongside project managers to ensure a successful restoration project that meets the needs and desires of the local community which includes park users, canoe clubs, lineal descendants of the area and long-time residents.

Please consider this proposal with our enthusiastic support! If it would be helpful to your deliberations, please feel free to reach out with questions to <u>wcrile@hawaii.edu</u> or (808) 357-3689.

Sincerely

Wesley Crile; Extension Faculty, Coastal Dune Restoration Specialist University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program County of Maui Planning Department

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program supports an innovative program of research, education, and extension services directed to the improved understanding and stewardship of coastal and marine resources of the state, region, and nation. Science serving Hawai'i and the Pacific since 1968.



March 11, 2025

Senate Committee on Water and Land Hawai'i State Legislature Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Testimony in <u>SUPPORT</u> of HB1137, Relating to Restoration of Beach Lands Hearing: Friday, March 14, 2025, 1:00 PM CR 229 & Via Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee

Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region strongly supports House Bill 1137 which amends the definition of beach restoration to reflect the types of actions which would improve beach health.

Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots activist network dedicated to the protection of our oceans, waves, and beaches. Through our Coast & Climate initiative and Climate Action Program we center a 'living shoreline' approach to coastal land management prioritizing actions that maintain and improve degraded dune systems including dune planting. We engage the community in dune restoration events and beach cleanups to improve the health of the beaches, many that our members frequent for recreational activities.

The previous definition of beach restoration is too narrow to effectively encompass necessary management activities. The amended definition would allow the Division of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to more comprehensively manage coastal lands including dune planting and vegetation management. The new definition would also strategically increase coastal management capacity by recognizing the important work being done by community groups that care for public lands as restorative to beach resources and allow for partnership on smaller projects.

HB1137 also expands the definition of beach restoration to include the removal of abandoned remnant materials that pose a risk to coastal ecosystems and public health including expired emergency armoring measures and old WWII structures. Hawai'i's beaches are plagued with discarded temporary erosion measures including geotextile erosion skirts and sand burritos. While emergency permits specify a short time period before they need to be removed, oftentimes on account of sand migration and wave action, these erosion measures become covered and are never removed. The lifespan of many of these geo-textile fabrics are long outlived and they degrade- further polluting the ocean, waves, and beaches. The inclusion of

removal of abandoned remnant materials within beach restoration is a vital step to cleaning up our beaches from materials that pose a public health risk to ocean users and the environment.

In summary, Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region strongly supports HB1137 as a common sense amendment to Section 171-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Mahalo for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Hanna Lilley Hawai'i Regional Manager Surfrider Foundation



Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Water and Land Friday, March 14th, 2025 at 1:00 pm By

Rick Egged, President Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District Association

HB 1137 HD2 – RELATING TO RESTORATION OF BEACH LANDS

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and honorable members of the committee:

The Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District Association (WBSIDA) is pleased to provide this testimony in support of HB 1137 HD2, which amends the definition of beach restoration to include activities undertaken to maintain and improve eroded beaches and degraded dune systems through the management of sand and native vegetation, placement of sand, and activities undertaken to remove abandoned and remnant materials that pose a risk to public and ecosystem health.

The WBSIDA supports this measure because it will empower the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to more efficiently maintain and enhance our beaches, strengthen the health of coastal resources, and promote sustainable climate adaptation efforts across the state. Expanding the definition of beach restoration will provide greater flexibility in utilizing dedicated funds for optimal beach management, allowing for the implementation of more comprehensive coastal management strategies statewide including Waikīkī Beach.

Expanding the definition of beach restoration offers significant benefits by allowing the DLNR to address a broader range of coastal challenges. It enables the DLNR to adapt to the changing needs of Hawaii's beaches and shorelines, from mitigating erosion to enhancing natural habitats and addressing the impacts of climate change. With more flexibility in funding and strategy implementation, DLNR can respond more effectively to urgent and evolving coastal concerns, improving the resilience of beaches and protecting vital ecosystems for future generations. This expansion ensures a more holistic approach to coastal management, fostering long-term sustainability for both the environment and local communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-1137-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 4:46:27 PM Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Cadiz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This seems like improved wording of the definition. Beaches and dunes need maintenance just like roads and bridges. We should be advancing beach preservation and restoration even more aggresively!

Thank you

HB-1137-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 2:10:48 PM Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maureen Brock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support House Bill 1137which includes appropriating funds for dune restoration at Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park.

In 2021, County of Maui Department of Parks and Recreation conducted a Beach Park Vulnerability and Adaptation Study with TetraTech, Inc. In that study Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park was highlighted as one of the parks with highest vulnerability, with the park infrastructure and viability in jeopardy and low potential to withstand impacts of sea level rise compared to other parks.