

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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ENFORCEMENT
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
HIGHER EDUCATION

Tuesday, Feb 11, 2025
3:10 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1559
RELATING TO DUNE RESTORATION

Senate Bill 1559 proposes to allocate funds to the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program for dune restoration at Hanakaō'ō Beach Park in the Lahaina District of Maui. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the bill, and offers the following comments.**

The west side of Maui has experienced some of the greatest impacts from coastal erosion in the State. These impacts have been exacerbated by development that is too close to the shoreline, by landscaping with non-native plants that inhibit rather than promote dune growth, and by shoreline hardening that prevents the shoreline from naturally migrating.

While dune restoration cannot stop erosion, it does mitigate many of the impacts. Coastal dunes have softer profiles without the unnatural scarps found in landscaped areas, and coastal areas with native landscaping have been shown to recover faster from significant erosion and avulsion events.

Senate Bill 1559 would appropriate funds for the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant Program to partner with the County of Maui for a dune restoration project at Hanakaō'ō Beach Park. While the Sea Grant program has offered the Department valuable scientific and policy advice on DLNR projects, we are not sure they have the capacity or experience to be project managers themselves. A more fiscally efficient approach might be to appropriate the funds directly to the County, and allow them to seek expert advice from Sea Grant or other programs as needed.

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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 3:10 p.m.

By

Darren T. Lerner, PhD

Director, Sea Grant College Program,
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

And

Michael Bruno, PhD

Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1559 – RELATING TO DUNE RESTORATION

Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) stands in support of SB 1559, which seeks to provide funding to the Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program to partner with the County of Maui in dune restoration at Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park, Maui.

Hawai'i Sea Grant is committed to supporting nature-based methods to improve and restore ecosystem health throughout the state. Through our extension programs we provide technical expertise and guidance to state and county agencies and community based organizations to assist with the planning and implementation of dune restoration projects. The funds appropriated by this measure will support an ongoing partnership with the County of Maui Department of Parks and Recreation focusing on public access and dune restoration to support coastal hazard mitigation and community resilience. Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park is especially important to local users for beach access, as the home site for three canoe clubs, and as a culturally vital place including a cemetery.

Success of the proposed project will be contingent on the support and participation of the Department of Parks and Recreation. While Hawai'i Sea Grant supports this measure and appreciates the opportunity for funding to better support the community, we would like to ensure that this effort is aligned with the priorities of the Department of Parks and Recreation. Additionally, a multi-year funding structure is important to enable acquisition of funds and adequate time for implementation.

In conclusion, we support this bill, provided that its passage does not impact the priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 2:10:50 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kai Nishiki	Testifying for Maui Nui Resiliency Hui	Support	In Person

Comments:

The proposed Hanakao’o Beach Park Dune Restoration 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 climate-related 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.

Hanakao’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 proposed Hanakao'o Beach Park Dune Restoration 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.



February 10, 2025

Committee on Higher Education
Hawai'i State Legislature
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1559, Relating to Dune Restoration
Hearing: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 3:10 PM CR 229 & Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Mercado, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee

Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region strongly supports Senate Bill 1559 which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program for dune restoration at Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park.

Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our oceans, waves and beaches. Through our Climate Action Program we support initiatives that utilize nature to help fight climate change and protect our coastlines. Surfrider partners with Sea Grant Hawai'i and Maui Parks and Recreation Department on multiple dune restoration projects including Haycraft Beach Park and an emergency dune restoration project at Baldwin Beach Park.

Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park is an important gathering place and ocean recreation site for the Maui community and many Surfrider members. Hanaka'ō'ō is also an important pillar of the Hawaiian outrigger canoe community on Maui- home to the three west Maui canoe clubs, island wide regattas in the summer, and Hawaii Canoe Racing Association State Championship where thousands of paddlers gather from across the state.

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.

West Maui is at the forefront of climate-related impacts in Hawai'i. The proposed Hanakaō'ō Beach Park Dune Restoration is a proactive measure to address the serious challenges posed by sea level rise and coastal erosion. This initiative is aligned with Surfrider Foundation priorities, 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.

In summary, Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region strongly supports SB1559, as a prudent measure to protect an invaluable cultural and community site while also providing a model for statewide adaptation planning and proactive coastal management.

Sincerely,

Hanna Lilley
Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**
Before the Senate Committee on
Higher Education

In Consideration of Senate Bill No. 1559
RELATING TO DUNE RESTORATION

To Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and the honorable members of the committee,

We are writing on behalf of Lāhainā Strong, an organization deeply rooted in our community's resilience and advocacy. Originally formed in 2018 following the Hurricane Lane fire in Lahaina and revitalized after the devastating fires of August 8, 2023, Lāhainā Strong has become the largest grassroots, Lahaina-based community organization, with over 35,000 supporters. Our mission is to amplify local voices and champion community-driven solutions, which are more critical than ever as we continue rebuilding and recovering.

Lāhainā Strong, **strongly supports Senate Bill 1559**, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program for dune restoration at Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park. This initiative is crucial for preserving one of the few remaining beaches in West Maui where local families can gather and recreate without the overwhelming pressures of tourism. Hanaka'ō'ō Beach (also known as Canoe Beach) holds deep cultural significance and serves as a vital space for outrigger canoe paddling, a traditional practice that connects our community to our heritage.

The focus on nature-based solutions for dune restoration is one we wholeheartedly endorse. This approach aligns with the values and practices of our ancestors, who relied on 'āina-based stewardship to maintain the balance between the land and the ocean. Dunes provide natural buffers against rising sea levels and high wave events, protecting our shorelines without the need for invasive and destructive methods like dredging, which we do not support under any circumstances.

Investing in dune restoration at Hanaka'ō'ō will offer several key benefits:

1. **Preserving Local Access and Cultural Integrity:**

Hanaka'ō'ō Beach is one of the last beaches where local families and canoe clubs can gather without being displaced by commercial tourism activity. Restoring and protecting the dunes will ensure this space remains accessible to the people of Lahaina for generations to come.

2. **Environmental Resilience:**

Healthy dune ecosystems naturally defend against the impacts of sea level rise, coastal erosion, and storm surges. By investing in restoration efforts, we reduce the need for costly and environmentally harmful artificial solutions in the future.

3. **Hub for Research and Community Engagement:**

We envision Hanaka'ō'ō Beach becoming a center for research and education on sustainable shoreline management. Collaborating with the University of Hawai'i's Sea Grant Program and local experts can provide valuable insights into effective, culturally grounded restoration practices that can serve as a model for other coastal communities in Hawai'i.

It is essential that we continue to prioritize 'āina-based solutions that work in harmony with the environment. The long-term protection of Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park will not only safeguard our natural resources but also strengthen our community's connection to the land and ocean. This is a critical opportunity to demonstrate how traditional Hawaiian practices can inform modern coastal management and resilience efforts.

Lahaina Strong fully supports the appropriation of funds for this initiative and urges you to **pass SB 1559**. Let us work together to protect and restore Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park for the benefit of our environment, our cultural practices, and our local people.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your commitment to our 'āina.

Sincerely,

Lāhainā Strong

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:50:34 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is needed for the community

Mahalo

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:07:48 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—it’s where we gather, practice our culture, and paddle. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families. Now more than ever, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

We urge your support for SB1559 to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:23:38 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ananda Stone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **support of Senate Bill 1559**, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—it’s where we gather, practice our culture, and paddle. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families. Now more than ever, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

I urge your **support for SB1559** to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

Ananda Stone

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:24:57 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
India Cote-Cosme	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—it’s where we gather, practice our culture, and paddle. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families. Now more than ever, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

We urge your support for SB1559 to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery

India Maile Cote-Cosme

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:36:06 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:05:22 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—it’s where we gather, practice our culture, and paddle. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families. Now more than ever, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

We urge your support for SB1559 to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

Shay Chan Hodges

Maui, Hawaii

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:29:59 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aviva Libitsky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1559

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—it’s where we gather, practice our culture, and paddle. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families. Now more than ever, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

We urge your support for SB1559 to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

Aviva Libitsky

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:20:59 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De Andre Makakoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1559

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

Our beaches are not just scenic backdrops; they are **living, breathing parts of our culture, history, and daily lives**. I write in **strong support of Senate Bill 1559**, which funds **dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park**—one of the most important gathering places for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is where we paddle, teach our keiki, and come together as a lāhui. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and a place of deep cultural and personal significance. But like much of our coastline, it is under threat. **Rising seas, stronger storms, and unchecked erosion are endangering the very spaces that hold our history and identity.**

This bill is not just about protecting sand dunes—it’s about protecting our future. **Dune restoration is a proven, natural solution that strengthens our coastline without destroying public access.** It’s a long-term investment in a **resilient shoreline** that will serve generations to come. **Without action, we risk losing this critical space to climate change and poor planning.**

I urge you to pass **SB1559** to ensure that Hanaka‘ō‘ō remains a place for our people—not just today, but for generations ahead.

Mahalo for your time and your commitment to the future of West Maui.

De Andre Makakoa

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 2:03:58 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kara Kiernan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for Senate Bill 1559

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1559, which allocates funds to the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program for dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This initiative is crucial for protecting our coastline against sea level rise and high waves, while ensuring the park remains a safe and welcoming space for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park is more than just a recreational area; it serves as a gathering place where we practice our culture and engage in activities such as paddling. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and holds significant importance for our families. Now, more than ever, it is essential to care for our parks and shorelines to preserve them for future generations.

Dune restoration offers a natural and low-impact method to protect our beach while keeping it accessible for cultural and recreational use. The funding provided by SB1559 will ensure that this work is conducted effectively and sustainably.

I respectfully urge your support for SB1559 to maintain our community’s connection to this cherished place.

Mahalo for your time and dedication to Lahaina’s recovery.

Kara Kiernan

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 2:38:24 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristy Lam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—it’s where we gather, practice our culture, and paddle. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families. Now more than ever, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

We urge your support for SB1559 to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Kristy

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 3:50:29 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1559

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **support of Senate Bill 1559**, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—it’s where we gather, practice our culture, and paddle. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families. Now more than ever, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

We urge your **support for SB1559** to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 5:04:05 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Kau'i Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—it’s where we gather, practice our culture, and paddle. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families. Now more than ever, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

We urge your support for SB1559 to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:12:07 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kazuo Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm in support of Bill SB1559

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:37:25 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Carter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—it’s where we gather, practice our culture, and paddle. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families. Now more than ever, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

We urge your support for SB1559 to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

Paul carter

201 River Rd.

Wailuku, Hawaii

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:43:53 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cardenas Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas (Cards) Pintor

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:48:12 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Surace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1559

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—it’s where we gather, practice our culture, and paddle. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families. Now more than ever, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

We urge your support for SB1559 to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

Sincerely

Deborah Surace

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.

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:57:25 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Winternitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—it’s where we gather, practice our culture, and paddle. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families. Now more than ever, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

I urge you to support SB1559 to protect the Lahaina community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

Elizabeth Winternitz, Kula Maui

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:59:41 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Mcveigh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

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Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

We urge your support for SB1559 to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

Sierra Mcveigh

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:19:56 AM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brissa Christophersen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1559

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **support of Senate Bill 1559**, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families and for the perpetuation of our cultural practices. Growing up in the paddling community, Hanaka‘ō‘ō was a place we would frequent for regattas and family celebrations. Now more than ever with the climate crisis, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

I have undergraduate and graduate degrees related to conservation work (B.S. Conservation and Wildlife Management, Master’s of Environmental Management, Kū‘oko‘a ‘Āina-Based Graduate Certificate) and in addition to being a participating community member in current conservation efforts-- I can attest to how paramount it is to conduct dune restoration here in Hawai‘i. Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use and funding towards this effort will help ensure the work is done right.

The Maui community urges your support for SB1559 to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

Brissa Christophersen

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:10:57 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelcy Durbin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—it’s where we gather, practice our culture, and paddle. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families. Now more than ever, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

We urge your support for SB1559 to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

Kelcy Durbin

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:19:45 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicki Tedesco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—it’s where we gather, practice our culture, and paddle. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families. Now more than ever, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

We urge your support for SB1559 to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

Nicki Tedesco

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:35:06 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

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

Comments:

Our Lahaina family supports funding the proposed dune restoration project at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This project will protect this essential 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.



February 10, 2025

Committee on Higher Education
Hawai'i State Legislature
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1559, Relating to Dune Restoration
Hearing: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 3:10 PM CR 229 & Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Mercado, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee

Surfrider Foundation Maui Chapter strongly supports Senate Bill 1559 which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program for dune restoration at Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park.

As a resident of Lahaina and Chair of the Surfrider Foundation Maui Chapter, I am writing to express support for the proposed Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park Dune Restoration Project.

Our beach parks are part of the county's critical infrastructure and serve as an important gathering place for our community. Now, more than ever, Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park plays a special role in our community. It is home to all the West Maui canoe clubs and one of the most popular beaches for our residents, especially post-fire.

The proposed dune restoration project would protect this essential 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.

The Surfrider Foundation Maui Chapter is involved in dune restorations at Kapuka'ulua (Baldwin Beach) and Kealia Pond as part of our Climate Action Program. We are proud to stand behind this project and support its positive impact on the people of Maui.

Best regards,

Maureen Brock, Ph.D.
Chair | Surfrider Foundation Maui Chapter

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:31:51 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Noelani Ahia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1559

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1559, which funds dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park. This work is important to protect our coastline from sea level rise and high waves while keeping the park a safe and welcoming place for our community.

Hanaka‘ō‘ō is more than just a beach—it’s where we gather, practice our culture, and paddle. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and an essential space for our families. Now more than ever, we need to take care of our parks and shorelines so they remain for future generations.

Dune restoration is a natural, low-impact way to protect our beach while keeping it open for cultural and recreational use. This funding will help ensure the work is done right.

We urge your support for SB1559 to protect our community’s connection to this special place.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to Lahaina’s recovery.

Noelani Ahia

SB-1559

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:48:55 PM

Testimony for HRE on 2/11/2025 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I absolutely support this bill for dune restoration at Canoe beach, west Maui.
A very important place for the community so it's important that it be taken care.

The work that needs to be done needs to be with care and attention.
Mahalo,

Lana Albright