

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



GOV. MSG. NO. 1202

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

May 27, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate,  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura  
Speaker, and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on May 27, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 1137, H.D. 2,  
S.D. 1, C.D. 1

RELATING TO RESTORATION OF BEACH LANDS.  
**ACT 102**

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

on MAY 27 2025

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025  
STATE OF HAWAII

**ACT 102**  
**H.B. NO.** 1137  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1  
C.D. 1

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO RESTORATION OF BEACH LANDS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the  
2 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's leading  
3 authority on climate science, in its Assessment Report 6 (2021)  
4 stated that it has high confidence that global sea level is  
5 committed to rise for centuries to millennia, regardless of  
6 whether humans slow carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

7       The legislature also finds that the state climate change  
8 mitigation and adaptation commission, created by Act 32, Session  
9 Laws of Hawaii 2017, stated in its 2022 report to the  
10 legislature that Hawaii is projected to likely experience  
11 between 3.9 and 5.9 feet of sea level rise by the year 2100.

12 The legislature finds that sea level rise poses a serious and  
13 imminent threat to Hawaii's coastal communities and residents  
14 and to Hawaii's natural resources, primarily beaches and coastal  
15 ecosystems. The legislature recognizes that the State has an  
16 affirmative duty to preserve beaches as a public trust resource  
17 for the people of Hawaii, and that beaches are culturally



1 important and provide natural resilience to sea level rise and  
2 associated coastal flooding.

3 The purpose of this Act is to amend the definition of  
4 "beach restoration" to expand the types of activities the State  
5 recognizes as restorative and beneficial to beach lands in  
6 response to increasing threats of sea level rise and beach loss.

7 SECTION 2. Section 171-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by amending the definition of "beach restoration" to  
9 read as follows:

10 ~~""Beach restoration" means [the placement of sand, with or~~  
11 ~~without stabilizing structures, on an eroded beach from an~~  
12 ~~outside source such as offshore sand deposits, streams,~~  
13 ~~channels or harbor mouths, or an upland sand quarry.]~~ an  
14 activity undertaken to:

- 15 (1) Maintain and improve beaches and dune systems through  
16 management of sand and native dune vegetation;  
17 (2) Place sand on an eroded beach from an approved outside  
18 or adjacent source, with or without stabilizing  
19 structures; or  
20 (3) Remove abandoned remnant materials from beaches and  
21 dunes that pose a risk to public health and coastal



1           ecosystems; provided that emergency erosion protection  
2           structures constructed pursuant to permits issued by  
3           the department and that continue to provide the  
4           protection for which they were permitted shall not be  
5           deemed abandoned remnant materials."

6           SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



H.B. NO. 1137  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1  
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 27th day of May, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green", written in a cursive style.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB No. 1137, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2025  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025.



Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker  
House of Representatives

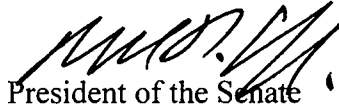


Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I**

Date: April 30, 2025  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate  
of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2025.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate