

Testimony for HB1447 on 2/6/2009 9:15:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2009 3:23 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/6/2009 9:15:00 AM HB1447

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Welch

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

[REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/5/2009

Comments:

Having witnessed discussions at the Kailua Neighborhood board meetings, it is painfully obvious that unified action between State and County levels to create statewide standards for beach access, as well as shoreline management policies.

Mahalo.



Legislative Testimony
HB 1447, RELATING TO SHORELINE MANAGEMENT
House Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources

February 6, 2009

9:15 a.m.

Room: 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **OPPOSES** HB1447, which seeks to establish a shoreline management task force to create uniform statewide management standards of shoreline areas.

OHA notes that Congress declared a national policy in the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) to "restore or enhance the resources of the Nation's coastal zone for this and succeeding generations." The federal CZMA enables Hawai'i and our Office of Planning to ensure that proposed federal activities are consistent with state coastal protections. The federal government acknowledges that because of our proximity to and reliance upon the ocean and its resources, Hawai'i has substantial and significant interest in the protection, management, and development of our coastal resources.

Counties have been delegated the authority to create such things as shoreline setbacks because they have the most authority and expertise to deal with the areas they are most familiar with. OHA sees this bill as contradicting this effort. It is vital that shoreline areas be managed with expertise and that they not utilize a patchwork approach toward shoreline management.

Creating a uniform, statewide set of management standards for shoreline areas above and beyond what has already been established by the CZMA program in Hawai'i may go too far in not allowing those with the best expertise to deal with their localized issues.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to HOLD HB 1447. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony for HB1447 on 2/6/2009 9:15:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

LATE TESTIMONY

Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2009 4:34 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: john@oahusbesthomes.com

Attachments: Aloha Lawmakers.doc (24 KB)

Testimony for WLO 2/6/2009 9:15:00 AM HB1447

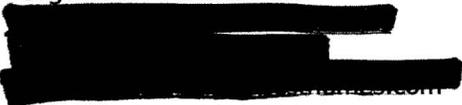
Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: John Stallings

Organization: Individual


Submitted on: 2/5/2009

Comments:

Aloha Lawmakers,

During the past number of years, more and more of Hawaii's beaches, our most precious resource, is be stolen by private landowners. I strongly oppose these practices and encourage you to act quickly to protect the beaches and the accesses to the beaches.

Please vote for the following:

HB1447

HB593

HB1808

Mahal for your Kokua, let's do the right thing for the keiki.

Testimony for HB1447 on 2/6/2009 9:15:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2009 8:36 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: sipolanco@hotmail.com

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for WLO 2/6/2009 9:15:00 AM HB1447

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Susan Polanco de Couet

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/5/2009

Comments:

I support a unified action to create a statewide standard for beach access and a shoreline management policy.

Thank you,
Susan Polanco de Couet



Office
1149 Bethel St., Ste. 415
Honolulu, HI 96813
877.585.2432 toll-free ph/fx

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 37368
Honolulu, HI 96837

www.KAHEA.org
kahea-alliance@hawaii.rr.com

**H.B. 1447 Shoreline Taskforce
Room 325, 9:15 am
February 6, 2009**

Aloha Chairman Ito and members of the House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources,

KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance strongly supports H.B. 1447 to better protect the public's access to the beach and inland recreational areas by establishing a statewide shoreline taskforce and moratorium.

KAHEA is a network of diverse citizens -- kupuna, cultural practitioners, and ocean users -- representing over 6,000 members working to protect the unique natural and cultural resources of Hawaii.

Public Access to the Beach is Crucial to Hawaii's Future

For generations, the people of Hawaii have lived and thrived by the beach. Our unique beaches are a source of health and revitalization for everyone who considers Hawaii home. Ensuring access to the beach is a basic element of maintaining a high quality of life for Hawaii's residents.

Many Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners actively visit the beach at dusk, dawn, and throughout the day as part of traditional and customary practices, including surfing, gathering, and religious observances. As access to the beach becomes more difficult, so too will it become more difficult to perpetuate our unique Hawaiian culture.

Moreover, Hawaii's economy earns more than \$700 million a year from ocean-based recreational activities. According to Hawaii's comprehensive "Ocean Resources Management Plan, 80% of all visitors to Hawaii engage in shore-based activities that generates over \$360 million every year. This has spawned over 1,000 ocean-related tourism companies. Impeding access to the beach undermines this vital, sustainable aspect of our islands economy.

Public Access to the Shoreline is in Jeopardy

Although Hawaii's Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the public's right to access the shoreline and inland recreational areas based on our unique political and cultural history as an independent nation, it is increasingly difficult for people to actually use those rights. Beach-front developments, military installations, private gates, no



Office
1149 Bethel St., Ste. 415
Honolulu, HI 96813
877.585.2432 toll-free ph/fx

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 37368
Honolulu, HI 96837

www.KAHEA.org
kahea-alliance@hawaii.rr.com

trespassing signs, and high parking fees all stand where paths once invited people to the beach.

Beachfront construction is decimating our shorelines, exacerbating erosion, and fueling conflicts between beach-front property owners and the general public. Without direct action now, these threats can only be expected to increase in the future. According to the Department of Business, Tourism, and Economic Development, Hawaii's population is expected to grow 30% over the next 25 years (1.63 million in 2030). Over the last few years, least 17 miles of beach on Oahu and 8 miles of beach on Maui have been lost to shoreline armoring and sea level rise. According to the State of the Beach Report published annually by the Surfrider Foundation, beaches in front of seawalls are 50-70% narrower than natural beaches.

Passing H.B. 1447 will help address shoreline erosion and public access issues

This bill will establish a statewide body with the sole responsibility of researching, understanding, and formulating shoreline protections. With its statewide jurisdiction, this taskforce will overcome the bureaucratic and to date ineffective implementation of shoreline protections. This is not to say the taskforce will develop one-size-fits-all standard for shorelines across the islands, but rather that it will serve as the institution to ensure every shoreline has the protections needed to prevent the problems we are facing today.

Most importantly, this bill provides for a statewide moratorium on shoreline construction to protect those beaches facing imminent threats, while the taskforce conducts its initial review and formulates basic shoreline management standards.

Mahalo,

Marti Townsend
Program Director