

Testimony for HB1492 on 2/6/2009 9:15:00 AM

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Attachments: 

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for WLO 2/6/2009 9:15:00 AM HB1492

Conference room: 325

Testifier position:

Testifier will be present: No

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Submitted on: 2/5/2009

Comments:

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA
Environmental Center

A UNIT OF THE WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER

RL:2225

HB 1492
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

Public Hearing – February 6, 2009
9:15 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 325

By

Chris Conger, Hawaii Sea Grant
Charles Fletcher, Geology and Geophysics
Dolan Eversole, Hawaii Sea Grant
Peter Rappa, Environmental Center

HB 1492 appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for a study relating to beach erosion at Kailua beach. We emphasize that our testimony on this measure does not represent an official position of the University of Hawaii.

University of Hawaii researchers and extension agents are already involved along with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in examining the causes and extent of erosion at Kailua Beach. There is already planning, coastal research, sea-level calculations, public participation, and inter-agency components built into the DLNR and University of Hawaii Sea Grant project to address the problem.

The study proposed in this bill may be duplicative of ongoing research of erosion at Kailua beach. The funding allocated in support the proposed study could be better spent supporting the present DLNR and Sea Grant effort to address the problem. It is already tasked with long-term solutions/options and providing viable management strategies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Friday, February 06, 2009
9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1492, HB1543, and HB593

By Kailua Neighborhood Board

Last night, the Kailua Neighborhood Board passed a motion by a vote of 13-2-1, to support several legislative initiatives that address erosion at Kailua Beach. The full motion is attached.

The Neighborhood Board has been addressing erosion related issue for several years. Many stem from shoreline hardening activities that have occurred at Lanikai Beach in the last 20 years as erosion claimed much of the beach. The Board has seen the difficulty created by lack of knowledge and reactive planning.

We commend the legislature for taking quick and proactive action to address the rapid erosion at Kailua Beach. Kailua Beach is an incredible natural resource and unique asset to the State. The beach is also one of the few beaches that is totally unarmored. Additional resources for research so we better understand our coastal forces, a unified dialogue to cooperatively implement actions, increased setbacks, and most importantly a moratorium on new construction makai of the interim coastal construction line to determine a new shoreline setback line that takes into consideration current natural processes of accretion and erosion that may be special to Kailua Beach.

We strongly recommend that you pass these measures forward.