

JAN 26 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BEACH PARK RESTORATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Kahalu'u bay, Hawai'i
2 island is located 4.5 miles south of the town of Kailua-Kona and
3 is situated in a major resort area. While the State has
4 jurisdiction of the bay's shoreline until the high water mark,
5 the county of Hawai'i owns and operates the Kahalu'u beach park
6 facility, which is heavily utilized by both residents and
7 tourists. The legislature further finds that Kahalu'u beach park
8 is the top visited beach park in the county of Hawai'i, recording
9 over four hundred thousand visitors annually.

10 On January 19, 2022, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's
11 school of ocean and earth science and technology announced a
12 seven-year \$50,000,000 commitment from Dr. Priscilla Chan and
13 Mark Zuckerberg, which will support various groups within the
14 Hawai'i institute of marine biology to research the effect of
15 changing ocean conditions, as well as sea-level rise impacts on
16 coastal resilience. The legislature finds that this funding



1 source can supplement interagency efforts that require sea-level
2 rise studies and reports to preserve vulnerable sections of the
3 State's coastline, including at Kahalu'u bay.

4 Kahalu'u bay has historically been regarded as a sacred
5 place to native Hawaiians, adorned with heiau, fishponds, and
6 barrier rock walls that provided for better fishing conditions
7 for hunter-gatherers in the area. Due to its historic nature
8 and popularity among visitors, there have been recent efforts by
9 the county of Hawai'i, in partnership with the Kohala Center's
10 Kahalu'u Bay Education Center, to preserve the beach park for
11 future generations through the promotion of reef-friendly
12 practices. The legislature finds that these efforts have
13 greatly benefited Kahalu'u beach's ecosystem; however, they do
14 not shield the park from the impacts of global warming.

15 The legislature further finds that during the 2021 Regular
16 Session, the Senate adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52,
17 Senate Draft 1, which requested the department of land and
18 natural resources and county of Hawai'i to collaborate to
19 identify sea level rise at Kahalu'u bay to avoid further
20 deterioration and damage caused by rising sea levels. The
21 resulting interagency Kahalu'u bay restoration working group,



1 comprised of state and county officials, as well as community
2 leaders, have been planning for the restoration of Kahalu'u beach
3 park. However, the legislature believes that the group's
4 findings warrant a prioritization of Hawai'i island's overall
5 coastal planning, as well as the need for a sea level rise study
6 and coastal engineering input to help guide the planning
7 process. The legislature further believes that as a public
8 resource with intergovernmental jurisdictions, the restoration
9 of Kahalu'u beach park should be a state and county partnership
10 and can serve as a model for the restoration of other public
11 resources throughout the State.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to provide match
13 grant-in-aid funds to the county of Hawai'i to hire an
14 engineering firm to study, plan, assist, and conduct preliminary
15 design and concept work for a two-phase project to restore the
16 Kahalu'u beach park in the county of Hawai'i.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$75,000 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for a
20 grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii to hire an engineering firm
21 to study, plan, and assist in phase one of the Kahaluu beach



1 park restoration project in the county of Hawaii; provided that
2 no funds shall be made available under this Act unless the
3 county of Hawaii provides matching funds of \$75,000 for the
4 purpose for which this sum is appropriated.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of
6 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$461,379 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for a
10 grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii to hire an engineering firm
11 to conduct preliminary design and concept work, which includes
12 sequencing of events, studies, and plans, to assist in phase two
13 of the Kahaluu beach park restoration project in the county of
14 Hawaii; provided that no funds shall be made available under
15 this Act unless the county of Hawaii provides matching funds of
16 \$461,378 for the purpose for which this sum is appropriated.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of
18 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

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1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

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INTRODUCED BY:



S.B. NO. 3380

Report Title:

County of Hawaii; Beach Restoration; Kahaluu Beach Park;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for a grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii to hire an engineering firm to study, plan, assist, and conduct preliminary design and concept work for a two-phase project to restore the Kahaluu Beach Park in the county of Hawaii. Conditions the appropriation on the county of Hawaii contribution of matching funds.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

