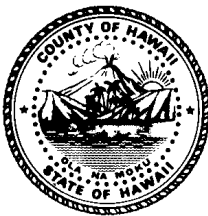


Dr. Holeka Goro Inaba
Council Member, District 8, N. Kona



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

April 12, 2022

Committee on Water & Land	Committee on Corrections, Military & Veterans
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair	Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair
Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair	Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Re: **Support** for SCR174 - SUPPORTING THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I'S
EFFORTS TO PURSUE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE
RESTORATION OF KAHALU'U BAY IN HAWAI'I ISLAND.
Videoconference Hearing: April 14, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the above referenced Committees,

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8 in North Kona, I express support for the above referenced resolution, and submit a brief testimony as follows:

We are in favor of this resolution that would support Hawai'i County's efforts to pursue funding by the United States Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program for the restoration of Kahalu'u Bay on Hawai'i Island.

Kahalu'u Bay has historically been regarded as a sacred place to native Hawaiians, adorned with heiau, fishponds, and barrier rocks walls that provide for better fishing conditions for hunter-gathers in the area, and it is necessary that any and all efforts be made to preserve the beach park for future generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting SCR174.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Holeka Goro Inaba".

DR. HOLEKA GORO INABA, Council Member
District 8, North Kona

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Maurice C. Messina
Director

Michelle Malia Hiraishi
Deputy Director

County of Hawai`i

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

101 Pauahi Street, Suite 6 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

(808) 961-8311 • Fax (808) 961-8411

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<http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/parks-and-recreation/>

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 174

**SUPPORTING THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I'S EFFORTS TO PURSUE UNITED STATES
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM FUNDING
FOR THE RESTORATION OF KAHALU'U BAY IN HAWAI'I ISLAND.**

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS, MILITARY, & VETERANS

Rep. Takashi Ohno, Chair

Rep. Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Thursday, April 14, 2022, 8:30 am

Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

Honorable Chair Tarnas, Honorable Vice Chair Branco, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land; Honorable Chair Ohno, Honorable Vice Chair Ganaden, and Members of the Committee on Corrections, Military, & Veterans, the Hawaii County Department of Parks and Recreation submits the following in SUPPORT of SCR 174.

This Resolution supports the County of Hawai'i's efforts to pursue United States Army Corps of Engineers continuing authorities program funding for the restoration of Kahalu'u Bay in Hawai'i Island.

The Hawaii County Department of Parks and Recreation (hereinafter, "DPR") currently manages and has the maintenance responsibility for thirty beach parks in the County of Hawaii (hereinafter, "COH"). Kahalu'u Beach Park is the most visited beach park in the COH, and hosts upwards of four hundred thousand visitors annually.

During the 2021 Regular Session, the Senate adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52, Senate Draft 1, which requested the Department of Land and Natural Resources and COH to collaborate to identify sea level rise at Kahaluu Bay to avoid further deterioration and damage caused by rising sea levels. The resulting interagency Kahaluu Bay restoration working group, comprised of State and County officials, as well as community leaders, have been planning for

the restoration of Kahalu‘u Beach Park. The group's findings warrant a prioritization of Hawai‘i island's overall coastal planning, as well as the need for a sea level rise study and coastal engineering input to help guide the planning process.

Due to its low-lying state, Kahalu‘u Beach Park must be frequently closed during high surf events and was the only COH Beach Park on Hawai‘i Island that required closure for numerous days to conduct debris clean-up from the recent Tonga tsunami. This opportunity to pursue United State Army Corps of Engineers' continuing authorities program funding is critical to the restoration of Kahalu‘u Beach Park on Hawai‘i Island and would help us work toward the restoration of a sacred place for future generations.

For the foregoing reasons, the Hawai‘i County Department of Parks and Recreation SUPPORTS the passage of SCR 174. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

SCR-174

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 4:56:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/14/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Bishop	Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly supports this measure that is critical to the restoration of Kahalu'u Bay!

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay



RE: SCR 174 SUPPORTING THE COUNTY OF HAWAII'S EFFORTS TO PURSUE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE RESTORATION OF KAHALU'U BAY ON HAWAII ISLAND

Thursday, April 14, 2022, by videoconference

Position: **Strongly Support SCR 174**

Aloha Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair; Honorable Representative Patrick Pihana Branco Vice-Chair, and the members of the Water & Land Committee

I am the director of the Kahalu'u Bay Education Center, a program of The Kohala Center (KBEC/TKC). KBEC collaborates with the County of Hawai'i, the Federal Government, and the State of Hawai'i to revive and revitalize Kahalu'u Beach and Bay Park. The Park is the most popular visitor destination in west Hawai'i Island, hosting 400,000 users a year due to ease of access and marine life diversity. Kahalu'u Beach Park and Bay facilities are eroding from storm surges and sea-level rise while the marine life is threatened by both human interactions through trampling, sunscreen exposure, and waste disposal and by ocean acidification, ocean heating, and other climate change effects.

KBEC/TKC has taken a leadership role in the care of the Bay, offering a unique visitor experience that teaches respect for natural and cultural resources through education, public outreach, and research. We believe that to make wise conservation and development investment decisions, we need current information about the forces affecting the bay's marine structure, how those forces are affecting the terrestrial landscape now, and how they are likely to do so in the future. With good data and a carefully crafted master plan, existing educational and stewardship activities can be most effective while future developments to the park facilities and regulations about park and bay use can maximize the potential for conservation, restoration and recreation. It is in our best interest to mālama this precious wahi pana (sacred, cherished place) because this reef ecosystem is both a key spawning ground for marine life and a regional economic asset.

To sustain Kahalu'u Bay as a gathering place and marine resource for future generations and to implement and expand pono practices, a strategic preservation plan is critical. In September 2021, KBEC/TKC and Sea Engineering LLC completed a Kahalu'u Beach and Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment Sea Level Rise (SLR) Report. This analysis considered how ocean trends affect the nearshore environment in the face of climate change. The report included recommendations for the restoration of the park. In December 2021, KBEC and Senator Kanuha's office formed a Kahalu'u Bay Working Group with members from State Planning, Army Corp of Engineers, County of Hawai'i Parks, and the Coastal Zone Management Program to work on the next steps for the restoration of the park.

This opportunity to pursue United State Army Corps of Engineers' Continuing Authorities Program funding is critical to the restoration of Kahalu'u Beach and Bay Park on Hawai'i Island.

The Kahalu'u Bay Education Center/Kohala Center **humbly request your strong support and the passage of SCR 174.**

Mahalo nui loa,
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy
Director
Kahalu'u Bay Education Center

SCR-174

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 10:54:52 AM

Testimony for WAL on 4/14/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition strongly supports the concurrent resolution SCR 174! Funding to protect corals is critical to their survival in these times of stress from warming oceans!

The purpose and intent of this measure is to support the County of Hawaii's efforts to pursue United States Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities program funding for the restoration of Kahalu'u Bay on Hawaii Island.

The Kahalu'u Beach and Bay Park is the most popular visitor destination in west Hawai'i Island, hosting 400,000 users a year due to ease of access and marine life diversity. However, the Kahalu'u Beach Park and Bay facilities are eroding from storm surges and sea-level rise. Its marine life is threatened by both human interactions through trampling, sunscreen exposure, and waste disposal, and by over-fishing, ocean acidification, ocean heating, and other climate change effects.

This measure will protect the Kahalu'u Beach and Bay Park by supporting the County of Hawaii's efforts to pursue United States Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities program funding for the restoration of Kahalu'u Bay on Hawaii Island. Pursuit of United States Army Corps of Engineers' Continuing Authorities Program funding is critical to the restoration of Kahalu'u Beach and Bay Park on Hawai'i Island.

Please pass SCR174!

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

SCR-174

Submitted on: 4/13/2022 6:46:40 AM

Testimony for WAL on 4/14/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise E Antolini	Malama Pupukea-Waimea	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support SCR174 to further efforts to protect Kahalu'u Beach Park and Bay.

Although we are on O'ahu, Malama Pupukea-Waimea shares a common interest with Kahalu'u Beach Park because Pupukea MLCD and Kahalu'u are similarly important, shallow nearshore marine managed areas that face very similar challenges posed by climate change, sea level rise, and over-tourism.

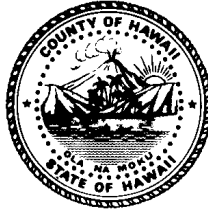
Thank you for passing this resolution to assist in adaptation planning efforts.

Denise Antolini

President, Malama Pupukea-Waimea, O'ahu

ple

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



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EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740*

April 13, 2022

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS

COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

ON SCR174, RELATING TO SUPPORTING THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I'S EFFORTS TO PURSUE
UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM
FUNDING FOR THE RESTORATION OF KAHALU'U BAY IN HAWAI'I ISLAND

Committee on Water and Land

Thursday, April 14, 2022 8:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to SUPPORT SCR174. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management Committee.

Kahalu'u Bay has historically been regarded as a sacred place to native Hawaiians, adorned with heiau, fishponds, and barrier rock walls that provided for better fishing conditions for hunter-gatherers in the area. Because of its historic nature and popularity among visitors, there have been recent efforts by the County of Hawai'i, in partnership with the Kohala Center's Kahalu'u Bay Education Center, to preserve the beach park for future generations through the promotion of reef-friendly practices.

Kahalu'u Bay Restoration Working Group, comprised of state and county officials and community leaders, planned for the restoration of the Kahalu'u Beach Park, the Kahalu'u Bay Restoration Working Group's findings warrant a prioritization of Hawai'i Island's overall coastal planning, as well as the need for a sea level rise study and coastal engineering input to help guide the planning process.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Water and Land to Support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council