
A BILL FOR AN ACT

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, stated in its Sixth Assessment
4 Report that the Panel has high confidence that global sea level
5 is expected to rise for centuries to millennia, regardless of
6 whether humans slow carbon emissions into the atmosphere.
7 Additionally, the Hawaii climate change mitigation and
8 adaptation commission, established pursuant to Act 32, Session
9 Laws of Hawaii 2017, stated in its Hawai'i Sea Level Rise
10 Vulnerability and Adaptation Report, updated in 2022, that
11 Hawaii is projected to experience between 3.9 and 5.9 feet of
12 sea level rise by the year 2100.

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



1 trust resource for the people of Hawaii, and that beaches are
2 culturally important and provide natural resilience to sea level
3 rise and associated coastal flooding.

4 The purpose of this Act is to amend the definition of beach
5 restoration used in laws governing the board of land and natural
6 resources' powers to engage in beach restoration by expanding
7 the types of activities the State recognizes as restorative and
8 beneficial to beach lands in response to the increasing threat
9 of sea level rise and beach loss.

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

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

- 18 (1) Maintain and improve eroded beaches and degraded dune
19 systems through management of sand and native
20 vegetation; or



H.B. NO. 1546

Report Title:

Beach Restoration; Activities; Board of Land and Natural Resources

Description:

Amends the definition of "beach restoration" used in laws governing the Board of Land and Natural Resources' powers to engage in beach restoration to include activities undertaken to improve eroded beaches and degraded dune systems and to remove abandoned and remnant manmade materials that pose a risk to the health of the public and ecosystem.

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