
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT ON THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the northwest-facing
2 shoreline of the north shore of Oahu from Sunset point to Kapo‘o
3 (Sharks Cove) is an iconic beach of primary importance to state
4 residents and visitors from around the world due to its natural
5 beauty, famous surf breaks, recreational opportunities, marine
6 resources, wildlife, and scenic vistas.

7 The legislature further finds that this north shore beach
8 faces an increasing risk of erosion and deterioration from a
9 combination of high-energy waves, winter surf, summer swells,
10 sea-level rise from climate change, coastal erosion, shifting
11 sand, deteriorating coral reefs, and intensive use by
12 individuals accessing the shoreline. Estimates indicate that
13 nearly half of all visitors to Oahu visit the north shore during
14 their stay.

15 The legislature additionally finds that the infrastructure
16 of most of the shoreline beach parks and coastal access areas
17 along the north shore of Oahu is inadequate to handle the high



1 number of residents and visitors who are attracted to these
2 beaches each year, thereby causing additional damage to natural
3 resources.

4 During the past fifteen to twenty years, homes in this area
5 on the north shore of Oahu have been damaged and are at risk
6 from high surf, summer swells, and eroding beaches, which cause
7 significant disruption and calls for both immediate and long-
8 term action by state and county government, beachfront
9 homeowners, beach users, and the community at large. This area
10 of coastline is at severe risk from the lack of overall planning
11 for beach protection, beach access, and shoreline uses.

12 Furthermore, the legislature finds that Hawaii's beaches
13 and coastline constitute part of the public trust, held by the
14 State for the benefit of the people, and the State has a
15 fiduciary duty to affirmatively protect this beach and coastal
16 access. This beach is also a public park of the city and county
17 of Honolulu, which also has an obligation to maintain this beach
18 and coastal access.

19 The legislature finds that the long-term protection of this
20 north shore beach, which is subject to a common wave regime and
21 common beach erosion characteristic, is a matter of statewide



1 concern and requires a comprehensive assessment and plan that
2 recognizes the risks of sea level rise from climate change. The
3 large number of government, business, private, and community
4 entities and individuals involved in the use and enjoyment of
5 this north shore beach would benefit from participating in the
6 development and implementation of a comprehensive beach
7 management plan for this vulnerable area.

8 In 2010, the university of Hawaii sea grant college program
9 successfully produced a beach and dune management program plan
10 for Kailua beach, which provided an extensive analysis of the
11 existing state of that beach and recommended management measures
12 for federal, state, and local government as well as community
13 partners, in response to threats such as sea level rise from
14 climate change. That study serves as a useful prototype for the
15 implementation of a beach management plan for this north shore
16 beach and demonstrates the effectiveness of location-specific
17 beach management policies and practices.

18 In October 2022, the north shore coastal resilience working
19 group, which comprised a diverse group of government and private
20 stakeholders, published a report titled "Adaptive Coastal
21 Management Recommendations, Actions and Strategies". The report



1 documents that long-term erosion is driven by a combination of
2 natural sand movement from large waves, sea level rise over the
3 past century, degradation of natural dune systems from
4 development, and the removal of sand from some beaches by sand
5 mining operations and shoreline armoring.

6 One of the three coastal erosion "hot spots" on the north
7 shore of Oahu identified was the Sunset/Kammies area. One of
8 the key recommendations of the report was to develop a beach and
9 dune management plan for north shore beach parks and accessways.

10 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds
11 to the university of Hawaii sea grant college program to
12 develop, with diverse stakeholder input, a comprehensive,
13 actionable north shore beach management and climate adaptation
14 plan covering the area from Sunset point to Kapo‘o (Sharks Cove)
15 on the north shore of Oahu.

16 SECTION 2. (a) The university of Hawaii sea grant college
17 program shall develop a comprehensive, actionable beach
18 management and climate adaptation plan for the area of the north
19 shore of Oahu from Sunset point to Kapo‘o (Sharks Cove).

20 (b) In developing the beach management and climate
21 adaptation plan, the university of Hawaii sea grant college



1 program shall ensure the inclusion of diverse community input.
2 The plan shall consider innovative means to address beach
3 erosion and the erosion of private beachfront property,
4 protection of recreational access, and preservation of natural
5 beauty and vistas.

6 (c) The beach management and climate adaptation plan shall
7 also consider:

- 8 (1) Long- and short-term planning and climate change
9 scenarios;
- 10 (2) Temporary and emergency erosion management measures;
- 11 (3) Beach and dune management techniques based on sediment
12 transport;
- 13 (4) Shoreline public access and foot-traffic management;
- 14 (5) Beach and dune nourishment;
- 15 (6) Potential relocation of homes, infrastructure, and
16 roadways;
- 17 (7) Land swaps and transfer of development rights;
- 18 (8) Long-term coastal protection and land use strategies;
- 19 (9) Shoreline protection and erosion management;
- 20 (10) Shoreline setbacks, rolling easements, and land
21 acquisition;



- 1 (11) Modification of public parks; and
- 2 (12) Other innovative means to adapt to coastal erosion.

3 (d) The university of Hawaii sea grant college program
 4 shall submit the north shore beach management plan to the
 5 governor and legislature by December 1, 2025.

6 (e) In developing the north shore beach management plan,
 7 the university of Hawaii sea grant college program may accept
 8 private funding to supplement any legislative appropriations;
 9 provided that the donor of the private funding:

- 10 (1) Remains anonymous or expressly releases all control
- 11 over the use of the funding, as long as it is used for
- 12 the purpose of developing the plan; and
- 13 (2) Has no influence over the development of the plan,
- 14 including any of its conclusions or recommendations.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
 18 the university of Hawaii sea grant college program to develop a
 19 north shore beach management plan for the area from Sunset point
 20 to Kapo‘o (Sharks Cove) pursuant to this Act.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of
2 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
4 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
5 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
6 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
7 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
8 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
9 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund
10 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
11 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total
12 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
13 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
14 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by \$ or
15 per cent. The reasons for exceeding the general fund
16 expenditure ceiling are that:

- 17 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
18 serve the public interest; and
- 19 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
20 addressed by this Act.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000;
2 provided that section 3 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,
3 2024.



Report Title:

Beach Management; Climate Adaptation; North Shore of Oahu;
Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Appropriates funds to the university of Hawaii sea grant college program to develop a north shore beach management and climate adaptation plan for the north shore of Oahu from Sunset point to the Kapo'o (Sharks Cove) area. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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