

JAN 24 2024

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO KAWEHWEHE BEACH.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the impact of sea  
2 level rise is evident in coastal communities where the beach has  
3 eroded, causing the deterioration of infrastructure and creating  
4 hazardous conditions for both resident and visitor pedestrians.  
5 In certain areas of Waikiki, walkways are narrow, inaccessible  
6 to those who cannot use stairs, and often overtopped by sand and  
7 crashing waves, creating an extremely hazardous condition.

8           The legislature also finds that Waikiki's waterfront has  
9 deteriorated to become discontinuous and dangerous, with a large  
10 segment of the beach, known as the Halekulani beach sector,  
11 inaccessible from the shoreline. The condition of the  
12 waterfront inhibits accessibility between hotels, restaurants,  
13 sailing charters, and other businesses that serve both visitors  
14 and residents.

15           The legislature further finds that the improvement of  
16 public access infrastructure is a way to regenerate connections  
17 and revitalize the businesses in this area of Waikiki. It may



1 also serve as an example of how coastal communities can  
2 incorporate sea level rise and coastal hazards into planning and  
3 adaptation processes moving forward. One of the most innovative  
4 and important aspects of this effort is the proposal to develop  
5 a stakeholder-driven design process by conducting extensive  
6 community engagement; incorporating innovative research on  
7 climate adaptation from the university of Hawaii, including  
8 local design and engineering firms; and collaborating with  
9 numerous stakeholders on a mutually beneficial project.

10 The legislature recognizes that the Waikiki Beach Special  
11 Improvement District Association, university of Hawaii sea grant  
12 program, and Waikiki resilience and sea level rise adaptation  
13 project are recent examples of community engagement and outreach  
14 in Waikiki. These organizations and programs conduct ongoing  
15 community outreach and engagement to build a shared  
16 understanding and vision for the future of Waikiki as an urban  
17 center.

18 The legislature further recognizes that the construction of  
19 a lateral public beach accessway at Kawehewehe beach between  
20 Fort DeRussy beach and Waikiki beach would dovetail with plans  
21 already funded by the legislature through a beach restoration



1 pilot program as well as planned groins that keep the sand in  
2 place as part of the Waikiki beach improvement and maintenance  
3 project.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
5 funds for the capital improvement project to plan, design, and  
6 reconstruct a public access route between Fort DeRussy beach and  
7 Waikiki beach.

8 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue  
9 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$6,300,000 or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof  
11 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2024-2025,  
12 for the following capital improvement project:

13 1. Kawehewehe Beach, Oahu

14 A. Plan, design, and reconstruction  
15 of a public access route between  
16 Fort DeRussy beach and Waikiki  
17 beach.

18	Plans	\$700,000
19	Design	\$250,000
20	Fees	\$250,000
21	Outreach	\$100,000





# S.B. NO. 3354

**Report Title:**

CIP; Kawehewehe Beach; Fort DeRussy Beach; Waikiki Beach; Public Access Route

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for a capital improvement project to plan, design, and reconstruct a public access route between Fort DeRussy Beach and Waikiki Beach.

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

