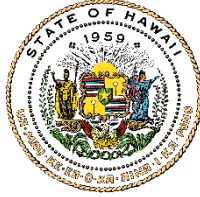


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, April 3, 2024
10:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 221 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2248, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT ON THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU

House Bill 2248, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program to develop a beach management plan for the North Shore of O'ahu from Sunset Point to the Kapo'o (Sharks Cove) area. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the FY 2025 Executive Supplemental Budget Request.**

The Department supports proactive adaptation planning for the impacts of coastal erosion and sea level rise. The development of a dune and beach management plan follows up on the 2022 findings of the North Shore Coastal Resilience Working Group, which was comprised of beach advocates, community members, government officials, and representatives of the University of Hawai'i. Proactive planning for beach management and long-term adaptation to coastal hazards aligns with recommendations in the 2022 Update to the Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Plan.

A beach management plan for O'ahu's North Shore presents the opportunity to focus on the ecological health of an iconic beach, and on the preservation of the State's public trust resources by addressing the inevitability of beach migration. The Department appreciates that the management plan will outline concrete adaptation and implementation strategies and believes that the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program possesses the requisite understanding of both beach processes and of human activity in the area to develop an effective plan.

The Department hopes that a successful plan can provide a template for other communities in Hawai'i that are facing the effects of coastal erosion and sea level rise.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

By

Charles "Chip" Fletcher, PhD
Interim Dean

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

And

Darren T. Lerner, PhD
Director, Sea Grant College Program

And

Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2248 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT ON THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and the Climate Resilience Collaborative (CRC) support House Bill 2248 HD1 SD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program to develop a north shore beach management plan for the north shore of O'ahu from Sunset point to the Kapo'o (Sharks Cove) area.

It is important that the Ways and Means committee recognizes that although a unit of the University of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Sea Grant's extension and technical and project support functions are fully funded by extramural funds not through funds appropriated by the legislature. This is the reason why appropriated funds are needed in order to support new research and planning efforts such as those detailed in this measure.

Hawai'i Sea Grant realizes there may not be sufficient state funding to support the full objectives of this measure to produce a comprehensive climate adaptation plan, beach and dune management plan, pilot restoration projects and robust community outreach and engagement. With this limitation in mind, it is recommended that the deliverables of this measure be scaled commensurate to the appropriate funding level. Hawai'i Sea Grant can provide estimated costs and a simple summary of potential deliverables and project outcomes to support informed decision-making on this measure.

Hawai'i Sea Grant has developed similar beach and dune management plans for Maui County, Kailua Beach Park, O'ahu and the Hawai'i Dune Restoration Manual as recent examples of similar work.

A common element of coastal management planning involves the evaluation and assessment of climate adaptation pathways, triggers and implementation strategies. This is an important component of any coastal planning effort and has been an important component of this bill as it would serve to provide professional merit as a comprehensive climate adaptation plan rather than just a beach management plan, as funding is available.

Recent community-oriented working group activity strongly supports the goals and objectives of this measure. [The North Shore Coastal Resilience Working Group](#) (NSCRWG) was launched by the Surfrider Foundation, Surfrider's O'ahu Chapter, the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College, and consulting firm SSFM International to proactively address accelerated beach loss and improve community resilience on the North Shore. In 2021 and 2022, the NSCRWG facilitated meaningful, community-driven discussions related to the future of coastal management on the North Shore. The Working Group released a report detailing critical concerns and recommendations for immediate action.

The NSCRWG report details three priority areas of concern as erosion hotspots, including; Rocky Point - Sunset Beach, Laniākea - Chun's, and Mokolē'ia, with identified key strategies including the development of a beach and dune management plan and pilot restoration projects.

This measure, if passed, can serve as an important coastal management, adaptation planning and community engagement model for other coastal communities struggling with coastal hazards and sea level rise and can facilitate improved community-focused coastal planning statewide.

CRC is a multi-investigator research project at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa focused on sea level rise adaptation and climate resilience. CRC is updating coastal models that project the impacts of sea level rise.

Hawai'i Sea Grant's mission is to provide integrated research, extension, and education activities that increase understanding and use of ocean and coastal resources of the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands and support the informed personal, policy, and management decisions that are integral to realizing this vision. Hawai'i Sea Grant is part of a national network of 34 university-based programs associated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that promote better understanding, conservation, and use of coastal resources.

The research that goes into identifying Hawai'i's exposure to sea level rise is coming out of the University of Hawai'i School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology. To maintain our understanding of sea level threats based on the latest science, these researchers need ongoing financial support from the State. CRC would be happy to provide updated sea level rise data and projections to the Committee or any lawmaker upon request.

CRC and Hawai'i Sea Grant support House Bill 2248 HD1 SD1, provided its adoption does not impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 10:30 A.M.

State of Hawai'i

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

**TESTIMONY OF BERNIE BAYS IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2248
RELATING TO A BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN ON THE NORTH SHORE OF
OAHU**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members:

I represent the Shoreline Preservation Coalition and my firm is also legal counsel for several clients who own homes on the stretch of beach between Sunset Point and Sharks Cove. I have been a practicing real estate, land use, and zoning law as an attorney in Hawaii for more than 50 years. I offer this testimony in **strong support** of House Bill 2248.

We need a comprehensive and actionable beach management plan for this iconic stretch of beach. Each year we see the negative impacts of coastal erosion on this iconic beach. However, we have not been able to develop and implement an effective beach management plan. The current situation is unworkable—at times the public is not able to enjoy the beach; and property owners are left to develop their own ineffective and undesirable fixes in order to save their homes.

A consensus among diverse stakeholders supports this Bill. Solutions cannot be effectively developed on a parcel-by-parcel basis. A comprehensive plan needs to be developed to preserve this beautiful and famous beach that is enjoyed by both locals and tourists.

HB 2238 will develop that comprehensive plan and will carry forward the work of the North Shore Coastal Resilience Working Group. The Working Group's "Adaptive Coastal Management Recommendations, Actions and Strategies" Report, released in October 2022, identified several "critical concerns," including:

- Absence of a comprehensive coastal erosion strategy and long-term vision for the North Shore;
- Damaged and limited public beach access due to erosion, beach loss, and inappropriate response measures;
- Lack of options and transparent, publicly-shared guidelines for homeowners impacted by shoreline erosion; and
- Lack of a cohesive policy framework and financing mechanisms for managed retreat.

The Report noted that “Working Group members overwhelmingly agreed on the importance of identifying adaptation options, including exploring short-term solutions like sand management and dune restoration,” and recommended that elected and agency officials develop a beach management plan. This Bill provides for the development of such a beach management plan.

The House Bill initially provided that \$3,000,000 be budgeted for this study. However, by working with Dolan Eversole at the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College, the cost of the study has been reduced to \$1,000,000.

We ask that this appropriation be effective July 1, 2024. We have waited much too long to begin this important study.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 2248.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernie Bays". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bernie Bays



LATE

4/2/2024

Ways and Means Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

Position: Support HB2248 - North Shore beach management and climate adaptation plan

The Surfrider Foundation, Hawai'i region, is testifying in **strong support of HB2248**, relating to the creation of a North Shore beach management plan.

From 2021-2022, the Surfrider Foundation, O'ahu Chapter, SeaGrant, and SSFM International convened the North Shore Coastal Resilience Working Group (NSCRWG),¹ a group of stakeholders on the North Shore, to discuss the imminent threats of sea level rise and proposed solutions. Of our 6 recommendations, two specifically discussed the immediate need to develop a beach management and adaptation plans:

Recommendation #4. Develop a beach and dune management plan for North Shore beach parks and accessways, including guidelines that may be transferable to efforts fronting privately owned lands

Recommendation #5. Develop a comprehensive climate change and sea level rise vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategy for the North Shore

It is evident that comprehensive beach management and adaptation plans are not only warranted, but immediately needed to ensure that we can proactively approach the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. HB2248 allocates funds and resources to a problem that we should have begun addressing in a more comprehensive manner decades ago. Given the immense challenge of private property being built too close to the ocean coupled in an area that is undergoing long-term erosion, we need plans and we needed them yesterday. It is our hope that the plans developed by this bill will serve as a prototype to be replicated to other areas around the state.

In Hawai'i, beaches are an integral part of our way of life. While it is easy to discount projects such as this, HB2248 supports plans that are integral to ensuring that we have beaches for the next generation. Surfrider Foundation spent over \$20,000 of our nonprofit funds to bring the North Shore Working Group to fruition. We now ask the state to do their share and support HB2248 and the requested appropriations.

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider maintains a network of over 150 chapters and academic clubs nationwide, including 3 chapters in the Hawaiian Islands. The Surfrider Foundation focuses on many aspects of the environment such as coastal protection, plastic pollution, and water quality. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB2248, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 3 Chapters in Hawai'i and all of our members who live in the state and visit to enjoy the many coastal recreational opportunities offered by all of the islands' coastlines.

Sincerely,

Lauren Blickley
Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation

¹ <https://hawaii.surfrider.org/northshoreworkinggroup/>

HB-2248-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 4:45:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise E Antolini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DelaCruz and WAM Committee members,

I fully support HB2248 - North Shore Beach Management Plan.

Please refer to my prior committee testimony for background on the urgency of the shoreline erosion issues in this region.

The bill will result in an *action plan*, not a "study."

The diverse interests supporting this bill speaks volumes about the urgency and strong community support.

We cannot afford to kick the can down the road any longer.

I defer to UH Sea Grant regarding budget options for your consideration.

Mahalo for moving the bill forward.

Denise Antolini

Pupukea, Oahu

LATE

HB-2248-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 12:28:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2024 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randolph Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I encourage your support of this bill. Beach erosion is a statewide problem, but especially serious at Sunset Beach. Developing a plan to mitigate it here will help to address this problem elsewhere.