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GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

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**DAWN N.S. CHANG**  
CHAIRPERSON  
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2023  
10:00 a.m.**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 88, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO COASTAL EROSION**

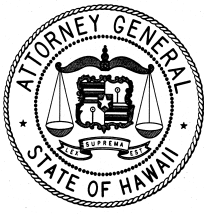
House Bill 88, House Draft 1 proposes to implement a two-year program to study sand movement patterns and coastal erosion along the coast between Sunset Beach Park and 'Ehukai Beach Park on the north shore of O'ahu. **The Department of Land Natural Resources (Department) supports the measure.**

The proposed study will examine the impact of sandbag walls, tarps, rocks placed in the shoreline, sand pushing, and coastal restoration on beach processes.

The Department notes that the impact of these activities on beach processes have been well studied. Temporary erosion control devices such as sandbag walls can have similar effects as concrete and rock seawalls. We also note that there are land uses that can have a positive effect on beach processes, such as the restoration of coastal vegetation at the county beach parks in the area.

The Department appreciates that the study will examine the impact of a variety of activities and land uses, and believes that a detailed study on a focused geographic area will assist the State in developing a stronger management framework for protecting our natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

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



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 88, H.D. 1, RELATING TO COASTAL EROSION.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023      **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 308

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Candace J. Park, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General offers the following comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to combat coastal erosion in Hawai'i by (1) requiring the University of Hawai'i to establish and implement a two-year program to study sand movement patterns and coastal erosion along the coast between Sunset Beach Park and Ehukai Beach Park; (2) requiring the University of Hawai'i to submit a report of its findings and recommendations of the program, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025; (3) between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2025, prohibiting homeowners in the State from installing or using a sandbag wall unless authorized by an emergency permit from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and (4) appropriating funds to the University of Hawai'i for the study.

Section 6 of article X of the Hawai'i State Constitution gives the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "[t]his section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern." If the Committee decides to pass this bill, we recommend an amendment that adds a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented to the  
House Committee on Finance  
Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.  
by

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation  
University of Hawai'i System

HB 88 HD1 – RELATING TO COASTAL EROSION

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 88 SD1 which establishes and appropriates funds for UH to conduct a two-year study on sand movement patterns and coastal erosion between Sunset Beach and 'Ehukai Beach Park on O'ahu.

The Hawai'i Sea Grant's excellent research, education and policy efforts combined with working, technical solutions from the UH Mānoa's College of Engineering Coastal Erosion Shoreline Team in geotechnics, transportation, infrastructure and shoreline hardening, provides the full range of skillsets necessary to conduct this important study.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-88-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 12:42:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please let me start by saying how unnerved I am about making the effective of every bill on this agenda almost 800 years in the future. None of us will be alive then. None of us are Methuselah. Stop playing with us and put in normal effective dates. This is one of the reasons the public has lost trust in the legislature and government in general. The year 3000 says you have no intention of passing a bill that should be passed henceforth and effective upon approval by the governor. It also says you don't know what to do and the year 3000 will solve the problem as climate change will have rendered the subject obsolete as we will be submerged in the Paific, with no land to protect.

The bill is well intentioned. The proposed moratorium should be permanent. There should not be any emergency permits. If you were stupid enough to buy the land, knowing the risks, you should live with it and not expect the state or the rest of us to bail you out.

**HB-88-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2023 2:29:24 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oahu's North Shore is Hawaii's "coal mine canary" for coastal erosion related to sea level rise. Studying the ongoing processes there should provide guidance on how to address the effects of sea level rise as they increasingly affect other parts of the state. I support the passage of HB88 as amended.