

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF PLANNING  
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SCOTT J. GLENN**  
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846  
Fax: (808) 587-2824  
Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of  
**SCOTT GLENN, Director**

before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**  
Tuesday, January 31, 2023, 9 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

in consideration of  
**HB 88**  
**RELATING TO COASTAL EROSION**

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land:

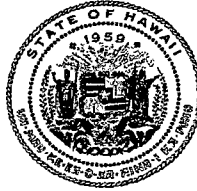
The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) offers the following comments on HB 88, which establishes and appropriates funds for a two-year program at the University of Hawaii to study the impact of sandbag walls, or "sand burritos", on sand movement patterns and coastal erosion at Ehukai beach park on the north shore of Oahu, and establishes a temporary moratorium on the use of sandbag walls or "sand burritos", unless authorized by an emergency permit from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The impacts of sandbags on coastal erosion are generally understood to have similar effects as concrete seawalls and other hardening structures and are not considered long-term adaptation strategies. The OPSD respectfully notes that beach or dune management plans for the public beach parks to preserve the public assets in the region to be an important strategy as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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  
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LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
WATER AND LAND

Tuesday, January 31, 2023  
9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 430 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
House Bill 88  
RELATING TO COASTAL EROSION

House Bill 88 proposes to implement a two-year program to study the impact of sandbag seawalls on sand movement and coastal erosion at 'Ehukai Beach Park on the north shore of O'ahu. **The Department of Land Natural Resources (Department) appreciates that the House Committee on Water and Land is addressing coastal erosion, and offers the following comments:**

The impacts of shoreline hardening on beach processes has been well studied. Temporary erosion control devices such as sandbag walls can have similar effects as concrete and rock seawalls. We note that there are other activities in the subject area that can impact sand movement, such as the installation of tarps, the placement of large rocks in the shoreline, and sand pushing.

The Department also notes 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. In order for the proposed study to have the maximum benefit, the Department proposes the following amendments to Section 1 of the bill:

The University of Hawaii shall establish and implement a two-year program to study ~~the impact of sandbag walls, often referred to as "sand burritos", on~~ sand movement patterns and coastal erosion at along the coast between Sunset beach park and Ehukai beach park on the north shore of Oahu. The study will examine the impact of sandbag walls, tarps, rocks placed in the shoreline, sand pushing, and coastal restoration on beach processes. The Department can support the proposed legislation with the expanded language.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**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 Water and Land  
Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

by

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

HB 88 – RELATING TO COASTAL EROSION

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

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

A combination of Hawai'i Sea Grant's excellent research, education and policy efforts 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.