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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RESTORATION OF BEACH LANDS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the  
2 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's leading  
3 authority on climate science, in its Assessment Report 6 (2021)  
4 stated that it has high confidence that global sea level is  
5 committed to rise for centuries to millennia, regardless of  
6 whether humans slow carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

7           The legislature also finds that the state climate change  
8 mitigation and adaptation commission, created by Act 32, Session  
9 Laws of Hawaii 2017, stated in its 2022 report to the  
10 legislature that Hawaii is projected to likely experience  
11 between 3.9 and 5.9 feet of sea level rise by the year 2100.  
12 The legislature finds that sea level rise poses a serious and  
13 imminent threat to Hawaii's coastal communities and residents  
14 and to Hawaii's natural resources, primarily beaches and coastal  
15 ecosystems. The legislature recognizes that the State has an  
16 affirmative duty to preserve beaches as a public trust resource  
17 for the people of Hawaii, and that beaches are both culturally



1 important and provide natural resilience to sea level rise and  
2 associated coastal flooding.

3 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 4 (1) Amend the definition of "beach restoration" to expand  
5 the types of activities the State recognizes as  
6 restorative and beneficial to beach lands in response  
7 to increasing threats of sea level rise and beach  
8 loss; and
- 9 (2) Appropriate funds for sand restoration and dune  
10 replenishment pilot projects.

11 SECTION 2. Section 171-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by amending the definition of "beach restoration" to  
13 read as follows:

14 ""Beach restoration" means [~~the placement of sand, with or~~  
15 ~~without stabilizing structures, on an eroded beach from an~~  
16 ~~outside source such as offshore sand deposits, streams, channels~~  
17 ~~or harbor mouths, or an upland sand quarry.] an activity  
18 undertaken to:~~

- 19 (1) Maintain and improve beaches and dune systems through  
20 management of sand and native dune vegetation;



1       (2) Place sand on an eroded beach from an approved outside  
2       or adjacent source, with or without stabilizing  
3       structures; or

4       (3) Remove abandoned remnant materials from beaches and  
5       dunes that pose a risk to public health and coastal  
6       ecosystems."

7       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
10 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
11 year 2026-2027 for a sand restoration and dune replenishment  
12 pilot project to be undertaken seaward of the parcels located at  
13 and between tax map key numbers 2-4-3-005-027-0000 and 2-4-3-  
14 009-052-0000, on the island of Maui.

15       The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
16 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

17       SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
21 year 2026-2027 for a sand restoration and dune replenishment



1 pilot project to be undertaken seaward of Hanakao Park on the  
2 island of Maui.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



**Report Title:**

Restoration of Beach Lands; Sand Restoration and Dune Replenishment Pilot Projects; Appropriation

**Description:**

Amends the definition of "beach restoration" to include activities undertaken to maintain and improve eroded beaches and degraded dune systems through the management of sand and native vegetation, place sand on an eroded beach, and remove abandoned remnant materials that pose a risk to public and ecosystem health. Appropriates funds for sand restoration and dune replenishment pilot projects. (PROPOSED HD1)

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

