

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Thursday, February 12, 2026 9:00AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

in consideration of
HB 1846
RELATING TO REGIONAL SHORELINE MITIGATION DISTRICTS.

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land, HB 1846 establishes the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) as the lead agency for establishing and approving regional shoreline mitigation districts and their associated regional coastal erosion and sediment management plans.

The OPSD, the lead agency of the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, provides the following **comments with concerns** on HB 1846:

1. **OPSD concurs** that regional shoreline management is an appropriate approach to address coastal hazards in order to protect beaches, dunes, and access to public resources, and to develop proactive and long-term strategies to reduce the risk of coastal hazards to shoreline properties and infrastructure. OPSD has completed multiple phases of its long-term Regional Shoreline Management Initiative, including developing a potential methodology for delineating shoreline regions for adaptation planning purposes, and consultations with relevant State, County and Federal agencies. Currently, the OPSD is in the early stages of piloting the regional shoreline delineation methodology in three moku across the State (Wai'anae, O'ahu, Pū'ali Komohana, Maui, and Kona, Moloka'i).
2. **OPSD is concerned** that HB 1846 adds a new chapter and amends the existing statutory laws Chapter 183C and Chapter 205A, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) **before** there is a completed pilot project and applied understanding of how to establish a regional shoreline mitigation district and develop a regional coastal erosion and sediment management plan. OPSD believes it would be premature to adopt the amendments proposed by HB 1846.
3. **OPSD is concerned** that HB 1846 requires OPSD to become a regulatory agency. OPSD plays the role of CZM lead agency as defined in HRS § 205A-3. HB 1846 requires OPSD to play a role of regulatory agency by serving as the accepting authority for any

HB 1846 RELATING TO REGIONAL SHORELINE MITIGATION DISTRICTS -
COMMENT
State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
February 12, 2026

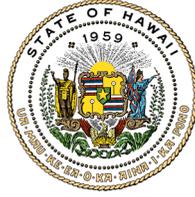
programmatic environmental assessments (EA) or environmental impact statements (EIS) for a regional coastal erosion and sediment management plan prepared by shoreline property owners. The proposal from HB 1846 is not consistent with chapter 343 and its administrative rules. When an applicant proposes an action, the authority for requiring an EA or EIS, making a determination regarding any required EA, and accepting any required EIS shall rest with the approving agency that initially received and agreed to process the request for an approval.

4. Given accelerating and chronic coastal erosion and wave run-up, HB 1846 sets a high priority on the protection of private shoreline properties, and lists dune enhancement, beach nourishment, living shoreline projects, or structural measures such as rock groins as long-term erosion mitigation solutions to a regional shoreline mitigation district. Given the natural shoreline processes, OPSD recommends that long-term shoreline erosion mitigation measures must also explore and assess removal, retreat or relocation of the existing shoreline structures and infrastructure to protect dunes and beaches, and other public resources.
5. **OPSD is concerned** that one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) temporary planning analyst is not sufficient to carry out the purposes of this Act. HB 1846 does not clarify or recognize the requirements of resources, including staff, funding and time, to establish statewide regional shoreline mitigation districts, prepare regional coastal erosion and sediment management plans, and further approve such plans. The initiative described in HB 1846 would require a significant investment by the Legislature in additional staff and resources for OPSD, as well as commitment from other State and County agencies, and community members.

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
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Thursday, February 12, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1846
RELATING TO REGIONAL SHORELINE MITIGATION DISTRICTS

House Bill 1846 proposes to authorize the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to approve the establishment of regional shoreline mitigation districts to facilitate regional coordination by shoreline property owners to address coastal erosion. It requires the preparation of a regional coastal erosion and sediment management plan for each regional shoreline mitigation district. It also establishes procedures for the review of state and county permits associated with regional shoreline mitigation districts. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes this bill because it shifts substantive shoreline decision-making from regulatory agencies charged with protecting public trust resources to a planning framework that limits site-specific review and regulatory discretion.**

The Department acknowledges the increasing urgency of coastal erosion and the value of regional coordination; however, House Bill 1846 would fundamentally alter the balance between planning and regulatory authority in a manner that raises significant concerns for the protection of public trust resources. The Department is concerned that the proposed framework elevates planning-level decisions into binding constraints on future regulatory actions, limiting the State's ability to respond to dynamic shoreline conditions and site-specific impacts over time.

House Bill 1846 assigns the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, a planning and coordination agency, authority to approve regional shoreline mitigation districts and regional coastal erosion and sediment management plans, and to serve as the accepting authority for programmatic environmental review. Once approved, these privately prepared plans would establish governing standards for shoreline mitigation and significantly restrict the scope of state

and county permit review, including by directing regulatory agencies not to reconsider the appropriateness, location, or type of mitigation measures previously approved. This structure risks shifting substantive decision-making away from the Department, which is statutorily and constitutionally charged with managing State lands, regulating shoreline activities, and protecting the State's public trust resources.

Although the bill includes language preserving agency authority to protect public trust resources, natural shoreline processes, and public access, the Department is concerned that these safeguards may be insufficient in practice given the strong presumption in favor of plan-consistent projects and the reliance on programmatic environmental review. Shorelines are highly dynamic, and public trust duties are continuing and non-delegable; they require ongoing, site-specific judgment rather than reliance on earlier regional determinations. For these reasons, the Department cannot support this measure as drafted and believes that any regional planning framework must preserve clear regulatory primacy and discretion for the agencies responsible for protecting Hawai'i's shoreline resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Water and Land
Thursday, February 12, 2026
By
Chip Fletcher, PhD

HB 1846 – RELATING TO REGIONAL SHORELINE MITIGATION DISTRICTS

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chip Fletcher and I am the Dean of the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology and the Director of the Climate Resilience Collaborative at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. My testimony is submitted as an individual and not as a representative of the University of Hawai‘i.

I respectfully oppose House Bill 1846, which would authorize the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to approve the establishment of regional shoreline mitigation districts to facilitate regional coordination by shoreline property owners to address coastal erosion; requires the preparation of a regional coastal erosion and sediment management plan for each regional shoreline mitigation district; establish procedures for the review of state and county permits associated with regional shoreline mitigation districts; establish the support and integration of regional coastline erosion and sediment management planning as a policy under the coastal zone management program; and appropriate money and establish temporary position.

I oppose House Bill 1846 because it would limit the Department of Land and Natural Resources’ (DLNR) regulatory discretion and site-specific review of proposed projects. I have been a research scientist specializing in coastal processes and beach response to sea level rise for over four decades¹ and I agree that science-based regional shoreline management is appropriate to address coastal hazards driven by sea level rise and climate change. However, I oppose House Bill 1846 because DLNR should remain the main agency responsible for conserving and protecting public trust beaches.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ In that time, I have published over one hundred peer-reviewed articles and three textbooks on these topics. Further, I been a principal advisor in over 35 master and PhD studies of shoreline processes in Hawai‘i. With my students, I have published over a hundred peer-reviewed articles as well as three textbooks. The sea level rise data and modeling projections developed by my research group is used for legal, regulatory, and planning purposes by the State of Hawai‘i and the counties.



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 1259 A'ala Street, Suite 300
Honolulu, HI 96817

February 12, 2026

The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair

House Committee on Water & Land
State Capitol, Conference Room 411 & Videoconference

RE: House Bill 1846, Relating to Regional Shoreline Mitigation Districts

HEARING: Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawaii and its over 10,000 members. HAR **supports** House Bill 1846, which authorizes the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to approve the establishment of regional shoreline mitigation districts to facilitate regional coordination by shoreline property owners to address coastal erosion. Requires the preparation of a regional coastal erosion and sediment management plan for each regional shoreline mitigation district. Establishes procedures for the review of state and county permits associated with regional shoreline mitigation districts. Establishes the support and integration of regional coastline erosion and sediment management planning as a policy under the coastal zone management program. Appropriates moneys and establishes 1.0 FTE temporary position.

Shoreline communities across the state are increasingly affected by coastal erosion and sea-level rise. Accelerating coastal erosion statewide is affecting housing stability and insurability in affected shoreline areas.

Since changes to the shoreline do not stop at property boundaries, erosion affecting one property can also impact neighboring homes. The current parcel-by-parcel approach to erosion mitigation and permitting is not well-matched to how erosion mitigation impacts coastlines and has resulted in inconsistent results that vary from property to property and within regional areas.

As such, a coordinated regional approach provides a long-term planning solution to longstanding erosion concerns by creating a defined framework for regional planning, programmatic environmental review, and coordinated agency decision-making to help homeowners and our communities. It also preserves existing environmental safeguards and county and state agency oversight. Well-planned regional erosion management plan will benefit not only property owners, but also renters, local businesses, public access, visitors and broader coastal communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.





SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: February 11, 2026

TO: Representative Mark Hashem
Chair, Committee on Water & Land

FROM: Mihoko Ito / Chris Delaunay

RE: **H.B.1846 – Relating to Regional Shoreline Mitigation Districts**
Hearing Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 9:00 am
Conference Room 411

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee on Water & Land:

The Kahana Bay Steering Committee (KBSC) submits this testimony in **strong support** of H.B.1846, which establishes a statewide framework for Regional Shoreline Mitigation Districts and coordinated regional coastal erosion and sediment management planning. This measure provides a pathway for regional shoreline solutions while preserving agency oversight, environmental safeguards, and local control.

KBSC is a group of nine condominium properties and one residential shoreline parcel at Kahana Bay on Maui that are actively working together to address severe and ongoing beach erosion. In 2017, recognizing that a property-by-property approach alone would not solve their erosion issues, KBSC members formed the Kahana Bay Steering Committee to develop, plan, implement and fund a regional erosion mitigation project.

KBSC has invested significant time, effort and money in this project, and has hired engineers, worked on an environmental assessment, and coordinated with state and county government agencies. Oceanit published the Second Draft Environmental Impact Statement in 2021. However, despite these efforts, the planning and approval process stalled, in part because the County of Maui indicated that it was unwilling to assume the liability risks of owning the proposed groins that would be required to keep the restored sand in place.

In the meantime, short-term emergency measures have faced state and county delays and uncertainty. Currently, many of the condominium properties along this shoreline are relying on emergency sandbags as their only protection against further erosion of the shoreline, and remain precariously exposed to further, and potentially, catastrophic erosion.

Kahana Bay is at an inflection point. Shoreline erosion, sea level rise, and chronic wave impacts are already reducing beach width, threatening structures and infrastructure, and affecting public shoreline use.

We support H.B.1846 because it is a means to move forward - it establishes the long-term regional planning and approval framework needed to move coordinated shoreline solutions forward. The bill establishes a formal process led by the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to recognize regional shoreline mitigation districts, approve regional coastal erosion and sediment management plans. These plans will include technical sediment analysis, risk assessments, appropriate emergency and long-term mitigation options, financing strategies, and state, county and federal coordination, as needed.

Importantly for property owners and communities, H.B.1846 consolidates planning, reduces duplication, and creates a more transparent and efficient pathway from planning to implementation. It allows for a programmatic environmental review, which means that it can efficiently cover a comprehensive regional mitigation strategy. It also provides that subsequent permits will be consistent with an approved regional plan, reviewed for consistency and alignment with the plan. Notably, this bill does not remove or reduce agency review or environmental protection – permitting agencies will retain full authority to impose conditions or deny permits where site-specific impacts to public trust resources, shoreline processes, or public access require it.

This bill will help not only Kahana Bay, but other similarly affected shorelines statewide to move forward from reactive, short-term emergency responses toward coordinated, long-term coastal resilience. It supports solutions that are science-based, regionally designed, environmentally reviewed, and publicly accountable. It also evaluates financing tools so that groups of affected owners can collectively fund appropriate mitigation.

For these many reasons, KBSC respectfully urges the Committee to pass H.B.1846. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

STARN · O'TOOLE · MARCUS & FISHER

A LAW CORPORATION

February 12, 2026

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair,
Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair,
and Members of the Committee on Water & Land

Hearing: House Committee on Water & Land
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 411 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of HB 1846
Relating to Regional Shoreline Mitigation Districts

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa and Members of the Committee on Water & Land:

I represent the Shoreline Preservation Coalition, who offers this testimony in **strong support** of HB 1846. The Shoreline Preservation Coalition's members consist of homeowners along the shoreline in Hawaii.

Coastal erosion due to sea level rise affects our shorelines in different ways based on the geography of a littoral cell. Regional shoreline mitigation districts will allow for solutions to be tailored to the unique challenges each littoral cell faces. The management plans developed pursuant to HB 1846 would also provide a roadmap for state actors when evaluating proposed solutions, ensuring that any management efforts are appropriate for the area.

For these reasons, the Shoreline Preservation Coalition is proud to support HB 1846 and thanks the Senators for bringing this important measure forward.

Sincerely,



Bernie Bays

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 2:38:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michael kayem	Valley Isle Resort Kahana Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Kayem, and I am a director AOA of Valley Isle resort in Kahana Bay on Maui. I have owned now my condo for 4 years. I am writing in support of H.B. 1846 because

- shoreline erosion is something that we experience every day.

I am extremely concerned with the: LOSS OF BEACH, WAVES REACHING CLOSER TO BUILDINGS, FLOODING, DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, BLOCKED ACCESS, HIGHER MAINTENANCE COSTS, AND SAFETY CONCERNS ALONG WITH THE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE.

Our association and the KBSC have tried to address the erosion issues, both separately and together.

- Where I live, erosion is affecting all of our properties in the area.
- We are trying to work together to solve this complex issue, and have tried for many years, but have not had much success.
- This problem is bigger than any one property and needs a shared plan.
- Currently, the process to plan and get approvals for solutions is confusing, slow, and it's not working well. That makes it very hard for neighbors to work together on a long-term solution.
- We see the shoreline getting smaller and closer to our buildings year after year.
- Right now, every property is treated separately, even though the erosion problem is connected.
- We need a clearer path so communities can plan together instead of struggling one property at a time.
- A regional plan makes more sense than repeated emergency actions.

I support HB1846, It would help to create a clear framework for communities and property owners to plan together and work with government agencies on regional shoreline solutions to help protect our shoreline for future generations.: 1. It gives shoreline communities a clearer path forward instead of confusion and delays. 2. It makes it easier for neighbors to work together on one shared plan. 3. It supports long-term solutions instead of repeated short-term emergency fixes. 4. It encourages coordination between state and county agencies instead of a piecemeal process. 5. It helps move projects forward in a more organized and predictable way. 6. It helps communities like ours plan responsibly instead of reacting to each new storm or erosion event. 7. It helps protect homes, public access, and shoreline resources at the same time. I respectfully ask you to support HB1846.

Mahalo, Michael kayem



February 11, 2026

RE: Support for HB 1846

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Apartment Owners of Valley Isle Resort, we respectfully submit this letter in strong support of HB 1846.

Our community is facing the harsh reality of severe shoreline erosion. The beach fronting our property has virtually vanished. Waves now reach dangerously close to our buildings, and during high surf events, we have experienced flooding of the property. Public beach access has been significantly compromised, and in some areas, the shoreline is no longer safely passable.

These conditions have led to substantially higher maintenance costs and, most importantly, serious safety concerns for our residents and guests. The ongoing erosion threatens not only private property but also the well-being of everyone entering and exiting the area.

For many years, we have attempted to work collaboratively with agencies and stakeholders to address this complex issue. Despite our continued efforts to pursue responsible and coordinated solutions, we have been unable to secure the necessary approvals to move

forward. The current regulatory framework has resulted in confusion, delay, and repeated emergency actions that do not provide lasting relief. Simply put, the current system is not working.

HB 1846 offers a more comprehensive and common-sense approach. We support this measure because it:

Encourages regional planning rather than isolated, reactive responses.

Provides shoreline communities with a clearer, more predictable path forward.

Makes it easier for neighboring properties to work together on shared solutions.

Supports long-term strategies instead of repeated short-term temporary fixes.

Allows communities to plan responsibly and proactively, rather than reacting to each new catastrophic event.

A regional plan is essential to eliminate the cycle of repeated emergency measures that fail to address the broader problem. Shoreline erosion does not respect property lines, and solutions must reflect that reality.

Our beaches are the lifeline of the Maui economy. Protecting them is not only a matter of private property protection—it is critical to our community, our residents, our visitors, and the long-term sustainability of the island.

HB 1846 represents an important step toward organized, forward-looking shoreline management. We respectfully urge your support of this measure to help communities like ours move from crisis response to coordinated, long-term solutions.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Norb Wolszon

Vice President / Secretary

Valley Isle Resort AOAO

Sent on Behalf of the BOD

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 5:48:05 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Randy Moore, and I write in support of HB 1846 as the owner since 1969 of beachfront property on Ke Nui Road, Sunset Beach, O‘ahu.

HB 1846 would establish regional shoreline mitigation districts. These districts would allow a group of adjacent property owners to more appropriately address shoreline erosion affecting their properties by acting together than the present every-man-for-himself approach that is suboptimal, both for the property owners and for the general public.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:12:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
glenn wachtel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Glenn Wachtel, and I write in support of HB 1846 as a resident of Sunset Beach and former Ocean Safety Officer with the City & County of Honolulu North Shore District since 1992.

HB 1846 would establish regional shoreline mitigation districts.

Coastal erosion operates on a regional scale; parcel-by-parcel responses are often ineffective and can worsen impacts on neighboring properties.

Existing law lacks a coordinated framework for neighbors to plan and permit erosion mitigation together.

This Bill will allow shoreline owners within a defined area to collaborate on a single regional erosion and sediment management plan to better manage and preserve the natural resource.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 1:51:05 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOSHUA JOHN WEST	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joshua West, and I as well as my 70 year old mother are residents of the North Shore. I am writing in strong support of HB1846.

As local residents, I have witnessed firsthand the accelerating impacts of shoreline erosion in our community. Beaches that once felt wide and resilient are shrinking. Access points are disappearing. Homes, infrastructure, and cultural resources are increasingly vulnerable. What used to be a distant, long-term concern is now a visible, urgent reality.

HB1846 offers a practical and forward-thinking solution. By allowing the creation of regional shoreline mitigation districts, this bill recognizes a critical truth: coastal erosion does not respect property lines. Piecemeal, lot-by-lot responses are inefficient, inequitable, and often harmful to neighboring properties. We need coordinated, science-based, regional planning to address this challenge responsibly.

This bill creates a pathway for shoreline property owners and communities to work together under a structured framework, guided by coastal erosion and sediment management plans. That kind of collaboration is essential if we are to balance environmental protection, property rights, public access, and long-term sustainability.

Importantly, HB1846 promotes proactive planning rather than reactive emergency measures. Too often, we wait until a structure is threatened before acting. By then, options are limited and costs are higher — financially and environmentally. Regional planning allows us to make thoughtful, data-driven decisions that reduce risk, protect beaches, and preserve what makes Hawaii special. Our shorelines are not just private property boundaries — they are public trust resources, cultural landscapes, and economic engines that support tourism, recreation, and local livelihoods. If we fail to manage erosion strategically, we risk losing not only land but also heritage, access, and environmental integrity.

HB1846 is a responsible step toward resilience. It acknowledges climate change, rising sea levels, and the increasing intensity of coastal hazards. It provides tools to plan ahead instead of constantly reacting. It encourages cooperation instead of conflict.

For the sake of our beaches, our communities, and most of all future generations, I respectfully urge you to pass Hb1846.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, truly.

Sincerely,
Joshua West

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 2:20:16 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl West	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cheryl West, and I am a senior resident of the North Shore. I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB1846.

I have been blessed to be part of the North Shore community for several years. I originally purchased my property with the intention of creating a generational home for my family. Throughout this time, my family and I have remained committed to respecting our neighbors, our community, and most importantly, the ‘āina that sustains us all.

HB1846 represents a thoughtful and balanced approach to addressing the growing challenges of shoreline erosion. By enabling regional shoreline mitigation districts and coordinated planning, this bill recognizes that coastal impacts do not occur in isolation. A collaborative, science-based framework will allow communities to respond more effectively and responsibly, rather than relying on fragmented, individual efforts.

Climate change is not a distant concern — it is a present reality affecting our shorelines, homes, and public resources. We must take proactive steps now to protect our families, preserve our communities, and steward our coastlines for future generations. HB1846 provides an important first step toward long-term resilience and responsible coastal management.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support and pass HB1846.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Cheryl West

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 5:20:54 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr Marion Ceruti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill as it affects me personally. I live on West Maui and I see the effects of coastal erosion every day. It has resulted in higher maintenance costs and a growing uncertainty about what will happen to my home on Kahana Bay.

We have tried for many years to solve this complex problem individually but a group approach appears to be the best way forward. Our community needs one shared plan that will provide a clear path forward and end the delays. We want to partner with our neighbors and with various levels of government to achieve a long-term solution.

Please help protect my home and, at the same time, provide public access to the shoreline so that we all can enjoy it together.

Please, kokua, vote yes on **H.B.1846**.

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 7:44:35 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Sweatt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Nancy Sweatt, and I write in support of HB 1846 as the owner since 2005 of beachfront property on Ke Nui Road, Sunset Beach, O‘ahu.

HB 1846 would establish regional shoreline mitigation districts. These districts would empower groups of adjacent property owners to collaborate in addressing shoreline erosion, creating a coordinated strategy that is far more effective than the current individualistic approach and better serves both property owners and the broader community.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Nancy Sweatt

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:43:14 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Frank Schultz and I am an owner at Hololani. I live at Hololani 50% of the year and moving forward, I will

be there more of the year. I am writing in support of H.B. 1846 because the shoreline is something I care deeply about. Where there used to be sand directly in front of our home, now there is none. The waves get higher and more intense every year. Our association and the Kahana Bay region have tried to address the erosion issues, both separately and together but to date little has been done. When we first moved into our condo in 2023 there was an intermittent beach right in front. I have not seen any beach in front in the last several years. The sandbags are a mess and continue to erode and fall apart. This creates havoc for the turtles and other marine life. I support HB 2205 because it allows emergency action while still requiring full review for permanent solutions later while also recognizing that real shoreline emergencies sometimes require immediate protective action.

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:07:39 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesus Gonzales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jesus Gonzales, and I am an owner of a Hololani condominium on Maui. I’ve been part of this community for years, and this place means a lot to me — it’s where my family and I have some of our fondest memories, where we know our neighbors, and where we’ve invested our time, money, and care.

I’m writing to support H.B. 1846 because shoreline erosion isn’t an abstract issue for us. We see it and feel it every day. The beach has changed right in front of our eyes, and the shoreline has steadily moved closer to the buildings. After high surf and storms, we worry about flooding, damage, losing safe access along the water, and the long-term uncertainty that comes with watching the ocean creep inland. It also creates rising maintenance costs and constant questions about what we’re supposed to do next.

Our association — along with others throughout the Kahana Bay region — has spent years trying to address this problem, both on our own and together. But the reality is: erosion doesn’t stop at property lines. What happens in front of one building affects the next one down the coast, and the impacts are connected across the whole area. We’ve tried for a long time to make progress, but we keep running into the same challenge: the process for planning and getting approvals is confusing, slow, and inconsistent. Even when neighbors want to collaborate, it’s hard to do it well when every property is forced to navigate a separate track for a problem that is clearly regional.

Meanwhile, year after year, we watch the shoreline get smaller and move closer. Treating each property separately doesn’t match what’s happening in real life, and it leads to repeated short-term reactions instead of an organized plan that actually addresses the root issue. A coordinated regional plan makes far more sense than having everyone scramble independently after each storm.

That’s why I support H.B. 1846. This bill would create a clearer framework so shoreline communities can plan together and work in a coordinated way with state and county agencies on long-term regional solutions. It gives communities a more predictable path forward, makes it easier for neighbors to come together around a shared plan, and encourages coordination instead of a piecemeal approach. Most importantly, it helps communities like ours plan responsibly —

not just react to the next erosion event — while protecting homes, shoreline resources, and public access for the future.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask you to support H.B. 1846.

Mahalo,
Jesus J. Gonzales

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:15:42 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lenore E Houston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

My name is Lenore Houston, and I reside at Hololani Resort at 4401 Lower Honoapiilani Road in Kahana.

I am writing to express urgent and strong support for HB1846. Coastal erosion along the West Coast of Maui — including Kahana Bay — is not a future threat; it is happening now. Our shoreline is actively receding, and with each season the risks grow more serious for residents, visitors, and critical infrastructure.

At Hololani, we are already witnessing beach loss and increased vulnerability to flooding along Lower Honoapiilani Road. Temporary measures such as sandbags are failing, deteriorating, and creating safety and environmental hazards for both people and marine life. These stopgap approaches are not sustainable and cannot continue to be our primary line of defense.

We need coordinated, statewide action and long-term planning now — not later — to address erosion, protect coastal communities, and implement durable solutions. HB1846 is an important step toward bringing agencies, experts, and communities together to act before more damage occurs and costs escalate further.

Please move this measure forward with urgency.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Lenore Houston

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:33:52 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Spencer Schmerling	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Spencer Schmerling, and I am an owner and full-time resident in Kahana on Maui. I have lived here for three years, and during this time I have come to deeply value this community, the shoreline, and the people who call this place home.

I am writing in support of H.B. 1846 because shoreline erosion is something we experience regularly in our daily lives. I have personally witnessed significant beach loss, increasing risk to nearby buildings, and growing safety concerns for residents and visitors. Areas that once felt stable and safe now feel uncertain. We have also experienced serious sand loss and damage to shoreline protection structures such as seawalls, which has made the situation even more concerning for our community.

Our association and the Kahana Bay region have made ongoing efforts to address erosion, both individually and collectively. Erosion is affecting properties throughout our area, and despite years of trying to work together to manage this growing problem, progress has been limited. This challenge is bigger than any single property and requires a coordinated, regional solution.

Currently, the process for planning and obtaining approvals for shoreline solutions is complicated, slow, and difficult to navigate. This makes it extremely challenging for neighbors and communities to collaborate on meaningful, long-term solutions. Meanwhile, we continue to see the shoreline shrinking and moving closer to our buildings year after year. Although the erosion problem is interconnected, each property is treated separately, which limits the effectiveness of any individual effort. We need a clearer, more coordinated path forward so communities can plan together instead of responding property by property. A regional strategy is far more practical and sustainable than repeated emergency responses.

I support H.B. 1846 because it would create a clearer framework for communities and property owners to work together with government agencies on regional shoreline solutions, helping protect our shoreline for future generations. It provides a more predictable and organized process, encourages coordination between state and county agencies, and supports long-term planning instead of short-term emergency fixes. Most importantly, it helps communities like ours act responsibly and proactively, while protecting homes, public access, and vital shoreline resources.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for your support of H.B. 1846.

Mahalo,
Spencer Schmerling

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joe Garavaglia and I am writing as a condominium owner at Hololani who has directly experienced the devastating impacts of coastal erosion. Our community has lost access to our beach—a vital resource for recreation, property value, and quality of life. In response, we have incurred extensive costs implementing temporary solutions, yet we still lack a clear, long-term path forward or a united community strategy.

The loss of our beach has deeply affected our residents and visitors. Families no longer have a safe place for recreation and gathering, which has diminished our sense of community and well-being. Property values have suffered, impacting not only individual owners but also the local economy and tax base. The uncertainty and financial burden of ongoing, piecemeal repairs have created stress and division among neighbors, making it difficult to plan for the future or invest in lasting improvements.

H.B. 1846 represents a critical opportunity to address these challenges in a timely manner. By providing a framework for coordinated, sustainable action, this bill would empower communities like ours to move beyond costly, short-term fixes and work toward solutions that protect both property and the environment. It would help restore confidence among property owners, foster collaboration, and ensure that coastal communities are not left to face these hardships alone.

I urge you to support H.B. 1846 and help safeguard the future of coastal neighborhoods like Hololani. Your leadership can make a meaningful difference for our community and many others facing similar hardships.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Joe Garavaglia

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 3:28:38 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Reiss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Serena Reiss**, and I am a condo owner of Valley Isle Resort on Maui. My family and I have been visiting Maui now for many years and we care about what is happening to our beaches and land, especially as shoreline erosion continues to threaten our beaches, properties, and way of life.

I am writing in support of H.B. 1846 because

- Shoreline erosion is something my family experiences every day.
- Personally, the loss of beach, waves breaking closer to the land and buildings, flooding, damage to property, blocked access, higher maintenance costs, safety concerns and the uncertainty about the future is something we all should be concerned about.

Our association and the Kahana Bay region have tried to address the erosion issues, both separately and together.

- Where I live, erosion is affecting all of our properties in the area.
- We are trying to work together to solve this complex issue, and have tried for many years, but have not had much success.
- This problem is bigger than any one property and needs a shared plan.
- Currently, the process to plan and get approvals for solutions is confusing, slow, and it's not working well. That makes it very hard for neighbors to work together on a long-term solution.
- We see the shoreline getting smaller and closer to our buildings year after year.
- Right now, every property is treated separately, even though the erosion problem is connected.
- We need a clearer path so communities can plan together instead of struggling with one property at a time.
- A regional plan makes more sense than repeated emergency actions.

I support HB1846 because

- It would help to create a clear framework for communities and property owners to plan together and work with government agencies on regional shoreline solutions to help protect our shoreline for future generations.
- It gives shoreline communities a clearer path forward instead of confusion and delays.
- It makes it easier for neighbors to work together on one shared plan.
- It supports long-term solutions instead of repeated short-term emergency fixes.
- It encourages coordination between state and county agencies instead of a piecemeal process.
- It helps move projects forward in a more organized and predictable way.
- It helps communities like ours plan responsibly instead of reacting to each new storm or erosion event.
- It helps protect homes, public access, and shoreline resources at the same time.

I respectfully ask you to support HB1846.

Mahalo,

Serena Reiss

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 4:07:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Devin Kitashiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly agree with measure to ensure or coastal protection and provide a place that our keiki will be proud of.

February 11, 2026

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Luis Cabrera, and I am the owner of a condominium at Valley Isle. I am a newer owner, and purchasing this property was truly a dream come true for me. Owning a home in this community represents years of hard work, sacrifice, and hope for the future. I had so many plans and dreams tied to this investment — not only financially, but personally as a place for my family to gather and create lasting memories.

Although I am a newer owner, I am fully aware of the serious shoreline erosion affecting our property. I have seen firsthand how the shoreline has receded and how the waves are getting closer and closer to the building. This is deeply concerning. My greatest worry is the increasing impact of the waves on the structure itself. As the ocean continues to encroach, the risk of structural damage grows.

Beyond potential building damage, there are serious concerns about flooding and safety. The uncertainty surrounding the future of this property is stressful for homeowners like me who have invested their life savings in their homes. We need clarity, coordination, and proactive solutions to address these challenges before the situation worsens.

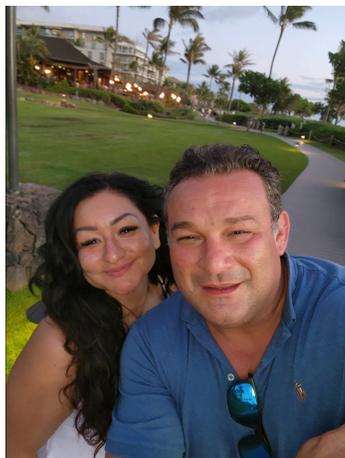
For these reasons, I am writing in strong support of HB 1846. This bill would help create a clear framework for communities and property owners to plan together and work collaboratively with government agencies on regional shoreline solutions. It would encourage coordination between state and county agencies, rather than the current piecemeal process, which often leads to delays and uncertainty.

Protecting our shoreline is not only about safeguarding property — it is about protecting communities, ensuring public safety, and preserving our coastline for future generations. I respectfully urge you to support HB 1846 and help provide a coordinated, forward-looking approach to shoreline management.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Luis Cabrera
4327 Lower Honoapiilani Road #702
Lahaina, HI 96761
(909) 684-1161



February 11, 2026

My name is Wendy D.A. Barrios, a new condo owner at Valley Isle. This purchase has been a deeply personal dream—one built on years of hard work, sacrifice, and hope for my family's future.

I've seen firsthand how shoreline erosion is drawing the waves closer to our building. The risk to the structure is real, and concerns about flooding and safety are mounting. As a homeowner who has invested significant savings here, the uncertainty about the property's future is both stressful and personal for my neighbors.

I strongly support HB 1846. It offers a clear, collaborative framework for communities, property owners, and government to plan regional shoreline solutions—streamlining coordination and reducing delays and uncertainty that have hampered us in the past.

Protecting our shoreline goes beyond protecting property; it safeguards lives, preserves safety, and helps maintain the memories and community we're building for generations to come. I respectfully urge you to support HB 1846 and to adopt a proactive, coordinated approach to shoreline management.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony and for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Wendy D.A Barrios
4327 Lower Honoapiilani Road #702
Lahaina, HI 9676
(818) 987-2951



Chris Surprenant

4327 Lower Honoapiilani Rd
409 & 504
Lahaina, HI 96761

February 11, 2026

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Surprenant, and I am the owner of units 409 and 504 of the Valley Isle Resort on Maui. These condos have been in my family for 39 years and have been a second home to both my family and our guests.

I am writing in support of H.B. 1846 because

- Shoreline erosion is something my family experiences every day.
- We have had to petition the county for permission to place sandbags on our beach to protect the building, which we were eventually allowed to do at a great expense.
- For years, we've watched the sandbags deteriorate.
- We have tried for years to pursue a regional solution, but have not gotten anywhere with the County.
-

Our association and the Kahana Bay region have tried to address the erosion issues, both separately and together.

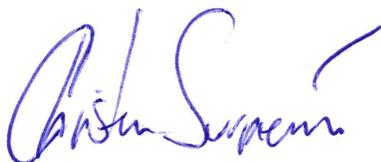
- Where I live, erosion is affecting all of our properties in the area.
- This problem is bigger than any one property and needs a shared plan.
- Right now, every property is treated separately, even though the erosion problem is connected.
- We need a clearer path so communities can plan together instead of struggling one property at a time.

I support HB1846 because

- It would help to create a clear framework for communities and property owners to plan together and work with government agencies on regional shoreline solutions to help protect our shoreline for future generations.
- It makes it easier for neighbors to work together on one shared plan.

I respectfully ask you to support HB1846.

Mahalo,



HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 8:51:05 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helene Kayem	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Helene Kayem and I am a condo owner at Valley Isle Resort.

I am writing in support of H.B. 1846

I have concerns regarding the soil on the strip of ground between the ocean and Valley Isle Resort. This strip is actively being undermined.

The current sandbags need to be replaced.

The sandbags are taking direct wave energy, but the water is overtopping and splashing behind them.

That dirt/sand zone behind the bags is not armored and looks uncompacted and already scoured.

You can see washout channels, exposed soil, and loss of fines — classic signs of ongoing erosion.

Once water repeatedly gets behind a barrier, erosion accelerates fast.

We are already in the late stage of protection failure.

What usually happens next (if nothing changes)

1. Continued loss of fines behind the bags
2. Formation of a void or soft pocket
3. Sudden slump or collapse after a high-energy event
4. Rapid inland erosion toward the structure

Practical reality check

This isn't a "years" problem.

It's a "next storm cycle" problem.

Best

Helene Kayem

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:31:38 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Kawanami	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karen Kawanami and I am an owner at Hololani (unit B504) on Maui. I absolutely love spending time on the beautiful shore in Kahana and respectfully ask for your consideration

I am writing in support of H.B. 1846 because the shoreline erosion is something we see impacting the beautiful coastline

Over the past 3 years seeing the shoreline disappear and the safety of accessing the water is very concerning

Our association and the Kahana Bay region have tried to address the erosion issues, both separately and together. Where I live, erosion is affecting all of our properties in the area. We are trying to work together to solve this complex issue, and have tried for many years, but have not had much success. This problem is bigger than any one property and needs a shared plan. We see the shoreline getting smaller and closer to our buildings year after year.

We need a clearer path so communities can come together and plan together instead of struggling one property at a time. A regional plan makes more sense than repeated emergency actions.

I support HB1846 because it gives shoreline communities a clearer path forward instead of confusion and delays. Also, it supports long-term solutions instead of repeated short-term emergency fixes. working together is imperative - it encourages coordination between state and county agencies instead of a piecemeal process.

It helps protect homes, public access, and shoreline resources at the same time.

I respectfully ask you to support HB1846.

Mahalo for the kind consideration

Karen Kawanami

Testimony in Support of HB 2205

Committee on Water and Land (WAL)

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kammy Furtado. I am a generational Maui resident and a shoreline property owner who has experienced firsthand the uncertainty, stress, and real danger that erosion can create for families and communities.

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB 2205.

Across Maui and throughout Hawai'i, shoreline erosion is no longer theoretical. It is happening now. In certain locations, it advances quickly, threatening homes, infrastructure, and public safety. When erosion becomes urgent, property owners and associations often face a confusing and uncertain permitting pathway — unsure what action can legally be taken, how long it will take, and whether protective measures can be installed in time.

HB 2205 provides a responsible and balanced solution.

This bill:

- Supports temporary and emergency measures while long-term solutions are being planned.
- Requires permits, documentation, and time limits — not open-ended shoreline hardening.
- Helps protect homes and safety when erosion becomes dangerous.
- Brings clarity to a process that is currently uncertain and confusing.
- Allows emergency action while still requiring full review for permanent solutions later.
- Recognizes that real shoreline emergencies sometimes require immediate protective action.
- Helps avoid repeated delays when erosion threats are urgent.
- Gives property owners and associations a clear emergency pathway instead of confusion.

Importantly, HB 2205 does not eliminate oversight. It ensures that temporary emergency protections are properly documented and time-limited, and that any permanent shoreline solution still undergoes full regulatory review. This is a practical and balanced approach.

When erosion threatens a structure, waiting months for layered approvals can mean the difference between stabilization and catastrophic loss. At the same time, our communities understand the importance of long-term planning, environmental stewardship, and thoughtful coastal management. HB 2205 acknowledges both realities.

As someone who has lived through disaster and ongoing recovery on Maui, I understand how critical it is for government processes to be clear, timely, and workable during urgent situations. This bill brings that clarity while maintaining accountability.

I respectfully urge the Committee on Water and Land to pass HB 2205.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your continued work on behalf of our communities.

Sincerely,

Kammy Furtado
Lāhainā, Maui Resident/Makai Property Owner

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 5:24:31 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven S Reiss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Steve Reiss**, and I am a condo owner of Valley Isle Resort on Maui. My family and I have been visiting Maui now for many years and we care about what is happening to our beaches and land, especially as shoreline erosion continues to threaten our beaches, properties, and way of life.

I am writing in support of H.B. 1846 because

- Shoreline erosion is something my family experiences every day.
- Personally, the loss of beach, waves breaking closer to the land and buildings, flooding, damage to property, blocked access, higher maintenance costs, safety concerns and the uncertainty about the future is something we all should be concerned about.

Our association and the Kahana Bay region have tried to address the erosion issues, both separately and together.

- Where I live, erosion is affecting all of our properties in the area.
- We are trying to work together to solve this complex issue, and have tried for many years, but have not had much success.
- This problem is bigger than any one property and needs a shared plan.
- Currently, the process to plan and get approvals for solutions is confusing, slow, and it's not working well. That makes it very hard for neighbors to work together on a long-term solution.
- We see the shoreline getting smaller and closer to our buildings year after year.
- Right now, every property is treated separately, even though the erosion problem is connected.
- We need a clearer path so communities can plan together instead of struggling with one property at a time.
- A regional plan makes more sense than repeated emergency actions.

I support HB1846 because

- It would help to create a clear framework for communities and property owners to plan together and work with government agencies on regional shoreline solutions to help protect our shoreline for future generations.
- It gives shoreline communities a clearer path forward instead of confusion and delays.
- It makes it easier for neighbors to work together on one shared plan.
- It supports long-term solutions instead of repeated short-term emergency fixes.
- It encourages coordination between state and county agencies instead of a piecemeal process.
- It helps move projects forward in a more organized and predictable way.
- It helps communities like ours plan responsibly instead of reacting to each new storm or erosion event.
- It helps protect homes, public access, and shoreline resources at the same time.

I respectfully ask you to support HB1846.

Mahalo,

Steven Reiss

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 5:40:08 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Kobialko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eric Kobialko, owner of Royal Kahana 1008.

Kahana Bay is facing major coastline erosion problems. Ignoring the problem will not find the solution. There has to be a permanent solution to the Kahana Bay Beach erosion. This is why I support HB1846 as well as respectfully ask for yours.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Eric Kobialko

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 6:21:36 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danny Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Danny Cox**, and I am the **owner** of a condo at **Valley Isle Resort** on Maui since 2016. We moved to Maui last year from California. Like many in our area, I care deeply about the long-term health of our shoreline and the future of our community.

I am writing in strong support of **H.B. 1846** because shoreline erosion is something we experience firsthand.

Over the years, we have seen **the beach narrowing, waves reaching closer to buildings, flooding during storms, damage to infrastructure, blocked access, rising maintenance costs, or growing safety concerns**. Each year, the shoreline continues to move closer to our buildings, creating uncertainty about the future and increasing pressure on residents and associations alike.

Our association and the broader **Kahana Bay region** have made repeated efforts to address shoreline erosion, both individually and collaboratively. However, erosion does not stop at property lines.

Where I live, erosion is affecting all of the surrounding properties. We have tried for many years to work together on solutions, but progress has been limited. The problem is larger than any single property, yet the current system treats each parcel separately. The process to plan, permit, and implement shoreline protection is confusing, slow, and difficult to navigate, making meaningful regional cooperation extremely challenging.

As a result:

- Each property is forced to respond on its own, even though the erosion is connected.
- Communities are left reacting to emergencies rather than planning responsibly.
- Long-term, coordinated solutions are delayed while the shoreline continues to disappear.

A regional approach simply makes more sense than repeated, short-term emergency actions.

I support **HB1846** because it would:

- Create a clear framework for shoreline communities to plan together and work collaboratively with government agencies.
- Provide a more predictable and organized path forward instead of confusion and delays.
- Encourage coordination between state and county agencies rather than a piecemeal process.
- Support long-term, sustainable shoreline solutions.
- Help protect homes, public access, and shoreline resources for future generations.
- Allow communities like ours to plan responsibly instead of reacting to each new storm or erosion event.

For communities facing ongoing erosion, HB1846 offers clarity, cooperation, and hope for real progress.

I respectfully ask you to support **HB1846**.

Mahalo,
Danny Cox

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:15:53 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Fobes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

I have owned a condo at Kahana Reef for over 10 years. I have been alarmed at the continuing erosion of Kahana Bay.

Our condo association joined ALL other condos and one private property on the bay to work with Oceanit to create a plan that would stop the erosion, and add a beach and sand dunes to protect the shoreline. We are willing to create a special tax district to pay for this plan.

This would also protect the critical infrastructure that is right behind the condos on Lower Honoapi'ilani. Electricity, water and sewer run along that road.

While the restoration of Kahana Bay has gone through many of the required steps, including a draft EIS, it has gone no where for the last few years because there isn't a clear path to working with government agencies.

I support this bill because it would help to create a clear framework for communities and property owners to plan together and work with government agencies on regional shoreline solutions.

I respectfully ask you to support HB1846.

Mahalo,

Natalie Fobes

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:07:59 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gwen McNeilus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gwen McNeilus, and my husband and I own a condo in the Valley Isle Resort located along Kahana Beach on West Maui. We been coming to Maui for over 30 years. We are writing in support of HB1846 because we are gravely concerned about the severe shoreline erosion. We have witnessed the loss of the beach year over year and in January 2026 when we were on island the proximity of the waves to the building was frightening and the sandbags which were to be a temporary solution, are being placed within 18” of one corner of the building making easy access around the building to what remains of the beach impossible.

For many years our association and the Kahana Bay region have tried to address the erosion issues, both separately and together however the problem is bigger than any one property and needs a shared plan. We are trying to work together to solve this complex issue but now every property is treated separately, even though the erosion problem is connected. A regional plan makes more sense than repeated emergency actions.

We support HB1846 because it supports long-term solutions instead of repeated short-term emergency fixes. It would help to create a clear framework for communities and property owners to plan together and work with government agencies on regional shoreline solutions to help protect our shoreline for future generations. HB1846 protects homes, public access, and shoreline resources at the same time.

These times are urgent and we respectfully ask you to support HB1846.

Mahalo,

Gwen McNeilus and Peter Mongroo

Owners, Valley Isle Resort, Unit 1007

HB-1846

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:11:16 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/12/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bob Alessandrelli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Bob Alessandrelli and my wife and I have owned a Kahana Reef condo as a second home for more than 14 years. We come over to our place three times a year and consider ourselves part Hawaiian (I'm joking.)

I am writing in support of H.B. 1846 because shoreline erosion is something we experience and worry about. We are particularly concerned because our unit is ground floor and the closest unit to the ocean. In fact, we have a little 14" rock wall in front of our unit—the only one to have this out of our 88-unit complex—to deter high wave sea water for entering our unit. It's not made it in yet but has come close.

Let me tell you, we are VERY concerned about this.

Our AOA and the Kahana Bay region have tried to address the erosion issues, both separately and together. We're trying and will continue to do so but it's a complex issue that we simply can't do alone. This problem is bigger than any one property and needs a shared plan.

Currently, every property is treated separately, even though the erosion problem is connected. A regional plan is what is needed with strong County and State support to define and implement long-term solutions.

Please support HB1846.

Mahalo,

Bob & Mary Alessandrelli