

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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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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
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
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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 2205
RELATING TO EMERGENCY EROSION MITIGATION

House Bill 2205 proposes to replace the current statutory prohibition on private shoreline hardening with a policy directing the minimization of these structures. It also proposes to establish a clear, time-limited statutory framework for emergency permits within the Conservation District. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes House Bill 2205 and offers the following comments on the measure.**

House Bill 2205 proposes two significant changes to Hawai'i's shoreline and Conservation District framework: first, it would establish a new statutory section authorizing emergency permits within the Conservation District; second, it would replace the current statutory prohibition on private shoreline hardening with a policy directing minimization of such structures.

With respect to emergency permits, the Department does not believe that a new statutory section is necessary. Section 183C-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), already provides the Department with clear authority to issue Conservation District permits, including permits necessary to respond to emergencies. That authority is fully implemented through Hawaii Administrative Rules §13-5-35, which allows the Chairperson or Deputy Director to immediately authorize emergency land uses essential to alleviating threats to public health, safety, welfare, and natural resources, including threats from natural hazards. These rules were intentionally crafted to allow rapid response while ensuring that emergency actions remain temporary, limited in scope, and subject to removal once the imminent threat has been addressed.

The Department has relied on this framework for decades, and it remains a powerful and effective tool. House Bill 2205 would fundamentally alter that framework by allowing emergency permits to remain in place for up to five years, with the possibility of further extensions, without environmental review and without public notice or an opportunity for public testimony. At that point, the permit is no longer addressing a short-term emergency; it becomes a long-term authorization issued outside the safeguards that apply to land uses in the Conservation District. This undermines Hawai'i's longstanding statutory and policy commitments to protect natural shoreline processes and to ensure transparency and public participation in decisions affecting public trust resources.

Section 3 of this bill would weaken existing shoreline protections by softening the current prohibition on private shoreline hardening on sandy beaches and at sites where hardening interferes with recreational and waterline activities. This represents a rollback of important protections strengthened by Act 16, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2020, which amended Chapter 205A, HRS, in response to decades of scientific research and on-the-ground experience demonstrating the harmful impacts of shoreline armoring. Coastal armoring structures — whether labeled temporary or permanent — consistently lead to beach narrowing, beach loss, and increased erosion to adjacent properties. A 2012 study by the U.S. Geological Survey and University of Hawai'i researchers documented more than thirteen miles of beach loss on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui directly fronting shoreline hardening structures.

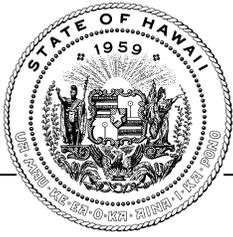
The Department regularly faces intense pressure from shoreline landowners to authorize temporary erosion-control measures when homes and improvements are threatened. In practice, however, most of these situations are not short-term emergencies. They are the result of long-standing, unmanaged erosion hazards that have existed for years and will continue into the future. Once temporary erosion-control materials such as sandbags or tarps are installed, it is often extremely difficult to compel their timely removal, despite agreed-upon deadlines. These materials frequently become quasi-permanent, causing ongoing environmental damage, loss of public access, and prolonged enforcement cases that strain limited state resources.

House Bill 2205 would exacerbate this problem by extending the duration of emergency permits and relaxing the statutory prohibition on shoreline hardening. Together, these changes risk shifting emergency permitting into a de facto long-term regulatory pathway with diminished oversight, reduced public participation, and increased environmental harm. Rather than encouraging proactive adaptation and managed retreat, this bill risks incentivizing reactive development and continued reliance on shoreline armoring that is inconsistent with Hawai'i's coastal management goals.

While the Department understands the desire to provide clarity and flexibility in responding to urgent shoreline hazards, House Bill 2205 goes too far. Emergency authority must remain narrowly tailored and temporary, and it must not become a loophole for ongoing shoreline armoring or the erosion of hard-won coastal protections.

For these reasons, the Department respectfully opposes House Bill 2205.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

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

in consideration of
HB 2205
RELATING TO EMERGENCY EROSION MITIGATION.

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

HB 2205 proposes to amend Chapter 205A, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), by replacing the prohibition of private shoreline hardening structures with minimization of private shoreline hardening structures at sites that have sand beaches. In addition, HB 2205 amends HRS Chapter 183C by adding a new section to allow for up to a five-year period of emergency permits within the conservation district with one or more extensions of an emergency permit.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD), the lead agency of the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, provides **comments** to the amendment to HRS § 205A-2(c)(9) proposed by HB 2205 as follows:

1. Nonconforming and previously permitted (prior to Act 16 Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 2020) shoreline hardening structures have contributed to the disappearance of beaches and likely caused flanking erosion which triggers erosion of adjacent properties and beaches. Prohibition of private shoreline hardening structures at sites having sand beaches is a critical measure to help limit further contributions to the disappearance of beaches, unless undertaken as part of a regional shoreline management plan that ensures lateral public access on the sand beach.
2. The policies of beach protection under HRS § 205A-2(c)(9) also apply to § 205A-46, part III of chapter 205A, which provides that a shoreline setback variance may be granted for a private shoreline hardening structure at sites having sand beaches if the granting of the variance is clearly demonstrated to be in the interest of the public. Act 16 SLH 2020 successfully strengthened the protection of beaches and beach processes in Hawai'i.

HB 2205 RELATING TO EMERGENCY EROSION MITIGATION - COMMENT
State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
February 12, 2026

3. Authorized by the Hawai‘i CZM Law, HRS Chapter 205A, each county has implemented emergency permitting measures that provide the flexibility to address situations where erosion poses an imminent threat to life, property or public safety in the shoreline area. These emergency measures to stabilize and protect the shoreline area include both nature-based solutions and engineered measures.

OPSD has no comments on the proposed amendments to HRS Chapter 183C, which is under the purview of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

HB 2205 – RELATING TO EMERGENCY EROSION MITIGATION

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 2205, which would replace the current statutory prohibition on private shoreline hardening with a policy directing the minimization of these structures and establish a statutory framework for emergency private shoreline hardening permits within the conservation district, including defined standards for permit duration and extension.

I have been a research scientist specializing in coastal processes and beach response to sea level rise for over four decades.¹ Over the course of my career, my research group has systematically documented and demonstrated that private shoreline hardening structures such as seawalls, revetments, sandbag burritos, and other coastal artificial structures accelerate erosion on adjacent public trust beaches.² Our research demonstrates that these structures interrupt natural beach processes which would otherwise be capable of responding to sea level rise. The cumulative effect of shoreline hardening in Hawai‘i has been a measurable narrowing and loss of publicly accessible shoreline.

I oppose House Bill 2205 because emergency shoreline hardening structures have been consistently misused by beachfront property owners at the expense of public trust beaches and any new authorizations for such structures will inevitably produce the same harmful outcomes.

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 my research group is used for legal, regulatory, and planning purposes by the State of Hawai‘i and the counties.

² See e.g. Anderson, T., Fletcher, C., Barbee, M., Romine, B., & Lemmo, J. 2018. *Modeling multiple sea level rise stresses reveals up to twice the land at risk compared to strictly passive flooding methods*. Nature Scientific Reports 8: 14484 DOI:10.1038/s41598-018-32658-x; Summers, A., Fletcher, C.H., Spirandelli, D. et al. *Failure to protect beaches under slowly rising sea level*. Climatic Change 151, 427–443 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-018-2327-7>.



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 1259 A'ala Street, Suite 300
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February 12, 2026

The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair

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

RE: House Bill 2205, Relating to Emergency Erosion Mitigation

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 2205, which replaces the current statutory prohibition on private shoreline hardening with a policy directing the minimization of these structures. Establishes a clear, time-limited statutory framework for emergency permits within the conservation district, including defined standards for permit duration and extension.

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, and increasingly threatens homes, infrastructure, and communities. This measure allows narrowly tailored, temporary shoreline protection in true emergency situations, helping to protect our communities while longer-term solutions are pursued

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.





FRIENDS OF KEWALO

Protect, Preserve, Mālama.

Aloha Committee on Water & Land

February 11, 2026

Honorable Chair Rep Mark Hashem and Vice Chair Rep. Dee Morikawa

Written Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 2205

The ramifications of replacing the statutory prohibition on private shoreline hardening is a foot in the door for more hardening to be done. This action will go against mother nature and will impact other properties down the coast. Some times miles away.

As an avid surfer, I know the dangers of floating hardening debri in the ocean and how it endangers the general public who use this precious resource.

Although we feel for the property owners impacted, we always have to think about the majority. In this case, the safety and well being of the People of Hawaii today and tomorrow.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share our mana'o.

Mahalo for all your hard work to better our lives.

**Ron Iwami
Friends of Kewalo, President
Non profit 501C3**



FRIENDS OF KEWALO

Protect, Preserve, Mālama.

To Protect, Preserve, Malama Kewalo Basin Park and the surrounding shoreline area to ensure the recreational user continues to have access and the ability to enjoy the area for future generations to come.
www.friendsofkewalo.org



February 11, 2026

House Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Legislature
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Testimony in OPPOSITION of HB2205, Relating to Emergency Erosion Mitigation
Hearing: Thursday, February 12, 2026, 9:00 AM CR 411 & Via Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee

Surfrider Foundation Hawaii Region strongly opposes House Bill 2205, which amends HRS §205A and establishes a new framework for emergency shoreline hardening. This bill reverses landmark legislation established by Act 16 (2020), which strengthened HRS §205A and clearly signaled Hawaii's commitment to prioritizing public trust resources over private shoreline armoring.

Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots environmental organization dedicated to protecting the world's oceans, waves, and beaches. Our chapters on Maui, Kaua'i, and O'ahu are directly engaged in addressing coastal erosion, shoreline armoring, and threats to public beach access. As an entirely coastal state, Hawaii is on the front lines of sea level rise and climate change impacts, with coastal communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems increasingly threatened by erosion and flooding. From this work, it is clear that accelerating beach loss, driven by shoreline armoring, dense coastal development, and rising sea levels, is undermining beach access and public trust resources across the islands.

Rather than building on the protections established under Act 16, HB2205 dismantles key elements of that statutory framework. It replaces a clear prohibition with a vague "minimize" standard and creates expanded emergency permitting pathways that could allow shoreline armoring for up to five years or longer through extensions. In doing so, it weakens decades of coastal management policy and weakens the State's ability to protect public trust resources.

The impacts of shoreline hardening are well documented. Shoreline armoring disrupts sediment transport, increases lateral erosion on adjacent properties, and prevents beaches from naturally migrating inland. A 2012 study by the U.S. Geological Survey and University of Hawaii documented more than thirteen miles of beach loss on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui in areas directly fronting armored shorelines. What is framed as "protection" for private structures ultimately results in narrower beaches, loss of sand, degraded nearshore habitat, and diminished public access.

Equally concerning is the bill's expansion of emergency permitting. Allowing shoreline armoring in the Conservation District for up to five years, with potential extensions based on continued "emergency" conditions, risks effectively converting temporary measures into de facto permanent structures. Chronic erosion and sea level rise are not sudden emergencies; they are long-term, predictable processes. Furthermore, there is no need to create a new emergency permitting framework. Existing law under HRS §183C-6 and Hawai'i Administrative Rules §13-5-35 already authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources to grant emergency land uses in true emergency situations, while limiting those actions to temporary responses tailored to address imminent threats. Institutionalizing emergency armoring as an ongoing response is a reactive band-aid that delays necessary adaptation and anchors a pattern of armoring that further accelerates beach loss.

The State must support natural shoreline processes and long-term adaptation strategies that allow space for beaches to migrate inland. If we fail, Hawai'i's beaches will disappear. At a time when we need proactive, science-based solutions to protect our coastlines and communities, HB2205 moves us backward by prioritizing short-term private property protection over the preservation of public trust resources and the future of Hawai'i's beaches.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to this measure on behalf of Surfrider Foundation chapters on Maui, O'ahu, and Kaua'i as well as our members statewide.

Hanna Lilley

Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation



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. 2205 – Relating to Emergency Erosion Mitigation
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.2205, 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, only to see their planning and approval process stall.

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 expired permits for 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.

KBSC is in strong support of HB 2205, which preserves the State's long-standing commitment to protecting natural shoreline processes while providing a carefully regulated pathway for emergency erosion mitigation where immediate action is necessary to protect life, property, and public infrastructure.

Under current law, private shoreline hardening is generally prohibited, even in circumstances where erosion poses an imminent danger to life or property. As a result, emergency erosion permits are often pursued through DLNR administrative rules, without clear statutory direction regarding their duration, conditions, or transition toward longer term solutions.

This lack of statutory clarity creates uncertainty for agencies, communities, and property owners alike. HB 2205 amends Hawai'i's shoreline policy in a careful and limited manner, and proposes to:

- Replace the absolute statutory prohibition on private shoreline hardening in HRS Chapter 205A with a policy requiring minimization, preserving the State's strong preference against unnecessary or excessive shoreline armoring.
- Allow state and county authorities limited flexibility to authorize narrowly tailored erosion mitigation in emergency circumstances, subject to agency review and conditions.
- Establish a clear, time-limited statutory framework for emergency permits within the conservation district under HRS Chapter 183C.

Importantly, HB 2205 does not mandate seawalls or permanent shoreline hardening, nor does it eliminate environmental review or permitting. It codifies emergency permit authority in statute, providing predictability and transparency for agencies, applicants, and affected communities. It also contains limitations that allow extensions only where emergency conditions or public safety concerns persist, supported by written findings, and clarifies that emergency permits are intended as temporary stabilization tools while longer-term solutions are pursued through existing regulatory processes.

We believe this bill is needed to provide a predictable framework for addressing short term emergency shoreline erosion while long term solutions are being considered. Rapid shoreline erosion is increasingly threatening homes, public safety, coastal access, and critical infrastructure across the state. In many areas, erosion is occurring faster than anticipated, placing property owners, residents, and the public at immediate risk.

For these reasons, KBSC respectfully urges the Committee to pass H.B.2205. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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 2205
Relating to Emergency Erosion Management

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 **support** of HB 2205. The Shoreline Preservation Coalition's members consist of homeowners along the shoreline in Hawaii.

Coastal erosion has placed numerous homes at risk of falling into the ocean and has slowly eaten away at our beaches. HB 2205 does two important things to protect our beaches and homes. First, it allows for emergency permits in the conservation district. Because the conservation district extends to the high wash of the waves, most shoreline protection methods need permits in the conservation district which have a lengthy approval timeline. Emergency permits would provide homeowners with a realistic path to protect themselves and their property when it is imminently threatened.

Second, HB 2205 amends state policy so shoreline hardening structures are no longer prohibited. In certain circumstances shoreline hardening can help to rebuild a beach, and an explicit prohibition prevents use of shoreline hardening methods where they make sense. This policy shift is a movement in the correct direction so, when appropriate, shoreline hardening can be used as a method to protect our beaches and homes.

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-2205

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 2:46:45 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:

I am writing in support of H.B. 2205 because

- shoreline erosion is something my family and I experience every day.

The evidence is clear: THE LOSS OF BEACH, WAVES REACHING CLOSER TO BUILDINGS, FLOODING, DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, BLOCKED ACCESS, HIGHER MAINTENANCE COSTS, SAFETY CONCERNS AND UNCERTAINTY HAS US WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE.

- For years, we've watched the sandbags deteriorate. What was once a welcoming beach is now a patchwork of failing barriers that are neither safe nor effective. We have tried for years to pursue a regional solution, but have not gotten anywhere. In the meantime, I have seen our shoreline deteriorate to the point of not having a beach. Without action, there is a danger factor as people are walking on the sliding sandbags, the problems we are facing will only get worse.

I support HB 2205 because

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

· It works together with longer-term regional planning bills like HB 1846 to address both short-term and long-term erosion risks.

I respectfully ask you to support HB2205.

Mahalo, Michael Kayem, Valley isle Resort



February 11, 2026

RE: Support for HB 2205

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 2205.

Our property has experienced severe and ongoing shoreline erosion. Over the years, we have watched temporary sandbag measures deteriorate as wave action continues to undermine the shoreline. The beach area fronting our property has become non-passable at times, creating dangerous conditions for residents, guests, and emergency access. We have witnessed residents and visitors trip and fall on sandbags, waves crash into and onto lower level lanais, and mostly the vast majority of Kahana Bay is not accessible. This dangerous situation continues to worsen daily.

For years, our Association has actively sought solutions. Despite good faith efforts to navigate the regulatory process, we have been unable to obtain timely action. Meanwhile, erosion continues, and conditions worsen. Without practical emergency pathways, situations such as these will become increasingly dire.

We support HB 2205 because it provides a clear and structured approach to temporary emergency measures while long-term solutions are being developed. Importantly:

- It requires permits and oversight.
- It does not authorize unchecked shoreline hardening.
- It allows temporary protective measures while permanent solutions undergo full environmental and regulatory review.
- It reduces repeated delays and confusion in emergency situations.
- It provides property owners and associations with a defined emergency pathway instead of uncertainty and inaction.

We currently face emergency situations affecting Units 109 and 110 at Valley Isle Resort. Immediate temporary protections are necessary to safeguard these units, protect residents, and ensure safe ingress and egress along the shoreline.

HB 2205 brings clarity, accountability, and balance to a process that is currently too slow to respond to real-time shoreline emergencies. It allows responsible, temporary action while maintaining environmental safeguards and full review of permanent solutions.

We respectfully urge your support of HB 2205.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to addressing Hawaii's shoreline erosion challenges.

Sincerely,

Norb Wolszon

Vice President / Secretary

Sent on Behalf of The BOD Valley Isle Resort AOA

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:04:12 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 2205 as a resident of Sunset Beach and former Ocean Safety Officer with the City & County of Honolulu North Shore District since 1992.

HB2205 is a targeted, balanced update to Hawai'i's shoreline management framework. It preserves the State's long-standing commitment to protecting natural shoreline processes while providing a responsible, clearly regulated path for emergency erosion mitigation when immediate action is necessary.

HB2205 will replace the absolute statutory prohibition on private shoreline hardening with a policy requiring minimization effectively addressing the emergency nature of seasonal shoreline erosion.

Allows state and county authorities limited flexibility to authorize carefully conditioned erosion mitigation in emergency circumstances.

Establishes a clear, time-limited statutory framework for emergency permits in the conservation district.

HB2205 will allow narrowly tailored erosion mitigation where necessary to address imminent threats, subject to review and conditions to effectively protect life and property while preserving the natural resource.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:35:07 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Thompson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members.

I oppose HB2205

In Hawai‘i, we have long-standing laws that prohibit shoreline hardening with seawalls, cement barriers, and other armoring devices. While it is completely understandable that homeowners facing erosion want to protect their property, these laws exist for an important reason. Shoreline hardening accelerates beach loss, degrades coastal ecosystems, and ultimately harms public access.

Our beaches are a public trust resource. When armoring is allowed, the beach in front of the structure often disappears over time, effectively privatizing what should remain public shoreline. Once a beach is lost to hardening, it is extremely difficult—if not impossible—to restore.

The current laws were hard-won through decades of work by environmental organizations, community advocates, and policymakers who recognized the long-term consequences of armoring Hawai‘i’s coastlines. These protections reflect a careful balance between private property concerns and the broader public interest in preserving beaches for future generations.

For these reasons, I oppose efforts to weaken Hawai‘i’s shoreline protection laws. Instead, we should focus on sustainable adaptation strategies, including managed retreat, dune restoration, and other nature-based solutions that protect both communities and the coastline itself.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kate Thompson

Written Statement of
Joshua D. Greig
James D. Greig, MD

Before The
House Committee on Water and Land

Thursday, February 12, 2026
9 am
Conference Room 411

In Support of:
**SB2401 RELATING TO REGIONAL SHORELINE MITIGATION
DISTRICTS**

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joshua Greig, and I am writing in strong support of HB 2205. My family has lived in Hawai'i for generations. My father after working for 40 years was able to buy his dream home located on the North Shore of O'ahu 30 years ago. We are located at the end of nearly half a mile of already hardened coastline and at the end of our littoral beach cell (which is capped by a large natural rock outcropping). Over the past decade, we have experienced severe erosion and have lost nearly 40 feet of our dune. Today, our house sits just feet from the ocean and faces imminent destruction.

During these ten years of erosion, we have worked diligently to find solutions. We hired an engineering firm to study the area and attempted small erosion control measures that have failed; our only long-term solution includes sand pushing and groin construction to slow lateral sand movement, but we believe enacting that plan could take at least another decade. Hardening our portion of shoreline would have little to no negative impact on the environment, neighboring properties, or coastal access, yet Act 16 (2020) with such a hard stance, left us without that option. HB 2205 would allow us to temporarily protect our home while we work through that lengthy process. Without the ability to stabilize our shoreline in the interim, we face total loss of our home. I respectfully urge you to support this bill and allow private property owners to save their homes, without allowing for temporary relief there will be no time for long term solutions.

Sincerely,
Joshua Greig & James Greig, MD

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 2:00:38 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 Cheri West are residents of the North Shore. I am writing in strong support of HB2205.

As someone who lives in a coastal community, I have seen firsthand how rapidly shoreline erosion is impacting homes, infrastructure, and public safety. What used to feel like a slow-moving issue has accelerated dramatically. In some areas, waves now reach places they never did before. Families are living with constant uncertainty, wondering whether the next high surf event will undermine foundations, utilities, or access roads.

HB2205 recognizes the urgent reality many of us are facing. While Hawaii has rightly prioritized protecting natural shorelines and limiting hard armoring, there must also be a clear and workable path for emergency situations when erosion poses an imminent threat to life and property. This bill does not abandon environmental protections — it refines them. It replaces an absolute prohibition with a policy that minimizes shoreline hardening while allowing limited, carefully regulated emergency action when necessary.

The current system can leave property owners and communities in limbo during crises. A defined, time-limited emergency permitting process provides clarity, accountability, and structure. It ensures that responses are not permanent default solutions but measured, temporary safeguards implemented under clear standards.

We all value Hawaii’s beaches, coastal ecosystems, and cultural resources. Protecting them must remain a priority. At the same time, we cannot ignore the very real and immediate risks facing residents today. HB2205 strikes a responsible balance between environmental stewardship and public safety.

Climate change and sea level rise are no longer abstract future threats — they are here. We need policies that are both principled and practical. This bill provides tools for emergency response without undermining long-term coastal management goals.

For the safety of our families, the protection of our communities, and the responsible management of our shorelines, I respectfully urge you to pass HB2205.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, truly.
Sincerely,
Joshua West

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 2:21:50 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 HB2205.

I have been blessed to be part of the North Shore community for several years. I purchased my property with the intention of creating a generational home for my family. We have always sought to be responsible members of our community and to mālama the ‘āina that surrounds us.

In recent years, however, shoreline erosion and increasingly severe coastal conditions have created real and immediate concerns for many residents. Climate change and sea level rise are no longer abstract issues — they are directly impacting our homes, safety, and sense of stability. When erosion threatens life and property, communities need a clear, structured, and reasonable pathway to respond.

HB2205 provides that balance. It maintains Hawaii’s commitment to minimizing shoreline hardening while establishing a defined and time-limited emergency process for situations where immediate action is necessary. This thoughtful approach allows for environmental stewardship and public safety to coexist, rather than placing them in opposition.

As a homeowner and community member, I believe it is essential that we adopt practical policies that acknowledge both the urgency of coastal hazards and the importance of protecting our natural shorelines. HB2205 is a responsible step toward that balance.

For the safety of our families and the resilience of our coastal communities, I respectfully urge you to support and pass HB2205.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheryl West

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 5:37:43 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 HB2205 because it affects me personally. My husband and I have owned a home on Kahana Bay for 25 years. Now, as Maui residents, we have watched the shoreline erode to the point where some buildings have been lost on West Maui and many homes are threatened.

The residents and other owners of properties on Kahana Bay have tried for many years to pursue a regional solution to the seemingly endless erosion of our shoreline. However, we have not made any measurable progress because this is a complex problem that requires help from our governments, to which we have paid taxes for 25 years.

HB2205 will provide a way forward for temporary measures while plans for a long-term solution are finalized. It requires permits and time limits, not shoreline hardening. It will bring clarity to a process that now is ill defined, uncertain, and confusing. Most importantly, it will help protect my home in a timely manner, before erosion gets worse and will cost much more to mitigate.

This important bill will work hand-in-hand with HB1846 to provide a way forward for both short-term needs and long-term coastline solutions.

Please, kokua, vote YES on HB2205.

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 7:04:09 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Dadds, PA-C	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Using hardening devices on the shoreline is prohibited by law in the state of Hawaii. Science has shown this is detrimental to neighboring properties and frequently ends up in the ocean, harming the reefs and marine life. I oppose this bill.

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 7:52:31 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 2205, this bill relating to emergency erosion mitigation, as the owner since 2005 of beachfront property on Ke Nui Road, Sunset Beach, O‘ahu.

HB 2205 takes an important and practical step forward in shoreline management. By replacing the current statutory prohibition on private shoreline hardening with a policy that instead directs the minimization of these structures, the bill creates a more balanced and realistic approach to protecting both our environment and our communities. Rather than relying on an outright ban, this legislation recognizes that there are circumstances in which limited and carefully regulated shoreline protection measures are necessary to safeguard homes, infrastructure, and public safety.

Overall, this bill strikes a thoughtful balance between environmental stewardship and the practical realities of coastal living. It allows for responsible action in urgent situations while still prioritizing the long-term protection of our shorelines.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass this important legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Nancy Sweatt

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:40:34 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. 2205 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-2205

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:03:45 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 the owner of a Hololani condominium on Maui. I have been connected to this home and community for years, and it's not just a property to me — it's my family's happy place, where our neighbors are, and where we've invested our savings and our future.

I'm writing in strong support of H.B. 2205 because shoreline erosion isn't something we read about in reports — it's something we deal with in real life. Over time, we've watched the beach narrow and the ocean push closer and closer. During high surf and storms, the water comes up farther than it used to, and it creates real concerns about flooding, damage, access, and safety. It also drives up maintenance costs and leaves our community constantly uncertain about what comes next.

For years, we've also watched sandbags and other temporary barriers deteriorate. What used to be a welcoming shoreline is now a patchwork of failing, piecemeal protections that are neither safe nor effective. We've tried for a long time to pursue a broader regional solution, but we haven't gotten anywhere — and while the process drags on, the shoreline keeps changing. Without action, the problems we are already facing will only get worse.

That's why I support H.B. 2205. It gives communities like ours a clear, responsible way to respond when erosion becomes an immediate threat. It supports temporary and emergency measures while long-term solutions are being planned. It still requires permits, documentation, and time limits — it's not a blank check for permanent shoreline hardening. It provides a way to protect homes and public safety when conditions become dangerous, while keeping full review in place for any permanent solution later.

Most importantly, H.B. 2205 brings clarity to a process that is currently uncertain and confusing. When the threat is urgent, repeated delays can be costly — and sometimes irreversible. This bill recognizes that real shoreline emergencies happen, and it creates a reasonable emergency pathway instead of leaving property owners and associations stuck guessing what they're allowed to do while the ocean keeps moving.

I also appreciate that H.B. 2205 complements longer-term regional planning efforts like HB 1846, so we can address both the short-term risks and the long-term solutions.

Thank you for your time and I respectfully ask you to support H.B. 2205.

Mahalo,
Jesus J. Gonzales

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:36:39 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 that time I have developed a deep connection to this community, our 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 now feel uncertain. We have also experienced major sand loss and damage to shoreline protection structures, including seawalls, which has made conditions even more concerning for our community.

Our association and the broader Kahana Bay region have spent years trying to address erosion, both individually and collectively. However, this issue is larger than any one property and requires a coordinated, regional solution. The current process for planning and obtaining approvals is complex, slow, and fragmented, making meaningful long-term progress difficult. Meanwhile, the shoreline continues to move closer to our homes year after year.

H.B. 1846 would provide a clearer, more coordinated framework for communities and property owners to work together with government agencies on regional shoreline solutions. It supports long-term planning rather than repeated emergency responses, improves coordination, and helps protect homes, public access, and shoreline resources for future generations.

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

Mahalo,
Spencer Schmerling

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:45:26 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 in support of HB 2205.

This measure provides responsible temporary and emergency options while long-term shoreline solutions are being planned and reviewed. It establishes clear guardrails by requiring permits, documentation, and defined time limits, rather than allowing open-ended shoreline hardening. It also brings much-needed clarity to a process that is currently uncertain and confusing for property owners and associations facing urgent erosion threats.

HB 2205 recognizes that real shoreline emergencies sometimes require immediate protective action. It creates a defined emergency pathway, helps avoid repeated delays when erosion risks become dangerous, and still requires full review for any permanent solutions later. Importantly, it works in coordination with longer-term regional planning efforts, such as HB 1846, to address both immediate and future shoreline resilience needs.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to support HB 2205.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Lenore Houston

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

I am writing as a Hololani condominium owner to express my strong support for H.B. 2205. This measure is vital for communities like ours facing urgent erosion threats and the risk of repeated delays in implementing protective actions.

H.B. 2205 recognizes the reality that immediate action is required when erosion threatens properties and infrastructure. By allowing temporary and emergency measures, the bill provides affected communities and property owners the flexibility to respond quickly, while also granting the necessary time to plan and execute permanent solutions. This approach is both practical and responsible, ensuring that we do not sacrifice long-term planning for short-term needs, nor do we leave our communities vulnerable while permanent solutions are developed.

The ability to act swiftly in emergencies is essential. Erosion does not wait for lengthy permitting processes or bureaucratic delays, and neither should our response. H.B. 2205 helps avoid repeated delays and empowers communities to protect themselves and their investments when the threat is urgent.

I urge you to support H.B. 2205 and help ensure that our communities have the tools they need to respond effectively to erosion threats. Thank you for your attention and your commitment to safeguarding our coastal properties.

Sincerely,

Joe Garavaglia

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 2:47:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
arleen velasco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2205. It allows property owners to use hardening devices on the shoreline that are currently prohibited by law in the state of Hawaii. It is prohibited by law because science has shown this is detrimental to neighboring properties and the long term stability of the beach. Here in Hawaii, it frequently ends up in the ocean harming people, reefs and marine life. Last year a surfer had to be rescued after getting wrapped up in floating material used to make a sand burritos. If other surfers hadn't been close by he would have died. Hardening is a short term solution that has the potential for great harm. Please do not modify the existing law.

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 3:36:23 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 at Valley Isle Resort on Maui. My family and I have been an owner here since 2018 and we are deeply concerned about the land and our beaches, property and community.

I am writing in support of H.B. 2205 because

- Shoreline erosion is something my family experience every day.
- The continual loss of beach, waves reaching closer to the buildings, flooding, property damage, blocked access, higher maintenance costs, safety concerns and the uncertainty about the future is very concerning to us.
- For years, we've watched as sandbags have deteriorated.
- What was once a welcoming shoreline is now a patchwork of failing barriers that are neither safe nor effective.
- We have tried for years to pursue a regional solution but have not gotten anywhere.
- In the meantime, I have seen our shoreline decline considerably and it's not getting better.
- Without action, the problems we are facing will only get worse.

I support HB 2205 because:

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

- It works together with longer-term regional planning bills like HB 1846 to address both short-term and long-term erosion risks.

I respectfully ask you to support HB2205.

Mahalo,

Serena Reiss

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. 2205 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.
- Without action, the problems we are facing will only get worse.

I support HB 2205 because

- It supports temporary and emergency measures while long-term solutions are being planned.
- It requires permits, documentation, and time limits — not open-ended shoreline hardening.
- It helps protect homes and safety when erosion becomes dangerous.
- It brings clarity to a process that is currently uncertain and confusing.
- It allows emergency action while still requiring full review for permanent solutions later.
- It recognizes that real shoreline emergencies sometimes require immediate protective action.
- It helps avoid repeated delays when erosion threats are urgent.
- It gives property owners and associations a clear emergency pathway instead of confusion.
- It works together with longer-term regional planning bills like HB 1846 to address both short-term and long-term erosion risks.

I respectfully ask you to support HB2205.

Mahalo,



HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:13:09 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. 2205

The sandbags are temporary emergency measures quietly reaching end-of-life.

We are already in the late stage of protection failure.

The current sandbag system is functioning as a temporary, end-of-life emergency measure and is no longer adequately protecting the land or structure. What we are experiencing mirrors erosion failures occurring elsewhere along Maui's shoreline, including Kahana Bay.

I respectfully urge the County to recognize the immediacy of this threat and to support prompt, coordinated action before irreversible damage occurs.

Thank you for your attention and for addressing this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Helene Kayem

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:41:30 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 of a condominium at Hololani (B504) and have truly loved the experience to enjoy the beautiful view and shoreline

I am writing in support of H.B. 2205 because I am truly frightened by the shoreline erosion over the past three years. The loss of the beach and shoreline makes it very dangerous as the water gets closer to the buildings.

For years, we've watched as sandbags have deteriorated. What was once a welcoming shoreline is now a patchwork of failing barriers that are neither safe nor effective.

We have tried for years to pursue a regional solution, but have not gotten anywhere.

In the meantime, I have seen our shoreline disappear which is heartbreaking. Without action and working together as a community, the problems we are facing will only get worse.

I support HB 2205 because it supports temporary and emergency measures while long-term solutions are being planned. It requires permits, documentation, and time limits — not open-ended shoreline hardening.

Also, it helps protect homes and safety when erosion becomes dangerous. It recognizes that real shoreline emergencies sometimes require immediate protective action.

It gives property owners and associations a clear emergency pathway instead of confusion. It works together with longer-term regional planning bills like HB 1846 to address both short-term and long-term erosion risks.

I respectfully ask you to support HB2205.

Mahalo for your kind consideration,

karen Kawanami

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 5:25:41 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 at Valley Isle Resort on Maui. My family and I have been an owner here since 2018 and we are deeply concerned about the land and our beaches, property and community.

I am writing in support of H.B. 2205 because

- Shoreline erosion is something my family experience every day.
- The continual loss of beach, waves reaching closer to the buildings, flooding, property damage, blocked access, higher maintenance costs, safety concerns and the uncertainty about the future is very concerning to us.
- For years, we've watched as sandbags have deteriorated.
- What was once a welcoming shoreline is now a patchwork of failing barriers that are neither safe nor effective.
- We have tried for years to pursue a regional solution but have not gotten anywhere.
- In the meantime, I have seen our shoreline decline considerably and it's not getting better.
- Without action, the problems we are facing will only get worse.

I support HB 2205 because:

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

- It works together with longer-term regional planning bills like HB 1846 to address both short-term and long-term erosion risks.

I respectfully ask you to support HB2205.

Mahalo,

Steve Reiss

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 5:41:28 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-2205

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 6:28:25 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. I have owned the condo since 2016 and this community is deeply important to me, both personally and as a place we want to preserve safely and responsibly for the future.

I am writing in support of **H.B. 2205** because shoreline erosion is something we experience every day.

Over the years, I have personally seen loss of beach area, waves reaching closer to buildings, flooding during storms, damage to property, blocked access, rising maintenance costs, or growing safety concerns. For years, we have watched sandbags deteriorate as conditions worsen. What was once a welcoming shoreline has become a patchwork of failing barriers that are neither safe nor effective.

Our community has tried for years to pursue a coordinated regional solution, but progress has been slow and frustrating. In the meantime, I have watched our shoreline each year, become more dangerous during storms, or expose infrastructure and buildings to risk. Without timely action, the problems we are facing will only continue to worsen.

I support **HB2205** because it recognizes the reality that shoreline emergencies do not wait for long planning timelines.

Specifically, HB2205:

- Supports temporary and emergency shoreline protection measures while long-term solutions are being planned.
- Requires permits, documentation, and clear time limits, rather than allowing open-ended shoreline hardening.
- Helps protect homes, residents, and public safety when erosion becomes dangerous.
- Brings clarity to a process that is currently uncertain and confusing for property owners and associations.
- Allows immediate emergency action while still requiring full review for permanent solutions later.
- Recognizes that real shoreline emergencies sometimes require swift protective action.

- Helps avoid repeated delays when erosion threats are urgent.
- Gives property owners and associations a clear emergency pathway instead of confusion.
- Works alongside longer-term regional planning efforts, such as **HB1846**, to address both short-term and long-term erosion risks.

HB2205 provides a practical, responsible approach that balances safety, oversight, and environmental protection.

I respectfully ask you to support **HB2205**.

Mahalo,
Danny Cox

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 6:58:13 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,

Please vote in favor of this bill.

I own a condo in Kahana Reef. I have seen first hand what the erosion of the bay can do to the shoreline. This bill would allow emergency repairs to failing barriers while waiting for a long-term solution to the erosion.

Critical infrastructure, water, sewer and electricity, runs behind the condos and private property on Lower Honoapi'ilani Rd. Without the ability to do emergency repairs, this infrastructure is at risk, too.

I respectfully ask you to support HB2205.
Mahalo,

Natalie Fobes

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 7:43:12 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 are writing in support of H.B. 2205.

In large part due to the welcoming shoreline my parents purchased a property in 1995 and we have been coming to Kahana for over 30 years. It is our hope to continue their legacy and spend another 30 years in this area. However, we are gravely concerned about any hope for the future due to 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 within 18” of one corner of the building.

For years we’ve watched the shoreline disappear and the sandbags have deteriorated and created not only an eyesore but an ecological disaster. For many years we were hopeful that a regional solution would be put in place but nothing has been done and we are now at the 11th hour. There has been no action and the problems we are facing have worsened and will continue to do so unless prompt and responsible action is taken.

These times are urgent and we support HB2205 because it recognizes that real shoreline emergencies sometimes require immediate protective action to protect homes and safety when erosion becomes dangerous. It also brings clarity to a process that is currently uncertain and confusing and helps avoid repeated delays when erosion threats are urgent.

Lastly, we support the bill because It works together with longer-term regional planning bills like HB 1846 to address both short-term and long-term erosion risks.

We respectfully ask you to support HB2205.

Many mahalos,

Gwen McNeilus and Peter Mongroo

Owners, Valley Isle Resort, Unit 1007

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

My name is Ronald Yates, and I own a condominium at Valley Isle Resorts on Maui. I purchased my condo back in 2021 and while I love staying there when it is available I use it as a short term rental property bringing tourists in for local businesses.

I am writing in support of H.B. 2205 because we have seen beach erosion that can adversely affect the structure and safety of the building at Valley Isle. What was once a welcoming shoreline is now a patchwork of failing barriers that are neither safe nor effective. Without action, the problems we are facing will only get worse.

I support HB 2205 because it helps protect homes and safety when erosion becomes dangerous. It gives property owners and associations a clear emergency pathway instead of confusion.

It works together with longer-term regional planning bills like HB 1846 to address both short-term and long-term erosion risks.

I respectfully ask you to support HB2205.

Mahalo,

Ronald Yates

916-801-6653

ry24005505@gmail.com

HB-2205

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 8:19:50 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 HB 2205 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.

Please support HB 2205 because it supports both temporary and emergency measures while much needed long-term solutions are planned and implemented. Hopefully, this will bring clarity to an important situation that recognizes that emergencies require immediate action. In addition, it works with HB 1846, to which I've also entered written support testimony.

We ask you to support HB 2205.

Mahalo,

Bob & Mary Alessandrelli

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