



Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on
Water and Land

Tuesday, April 7, 2026; 10:00 am

By
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HCR106/HR98 – ENDORSING WAIKIKI AS A WORLD SURFING RESERVE.

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

The Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Association (WBSIDA) supports House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 106 and House Resolution (HR) 98, which recognize Waikiki as a World Surfing Reserve.

Waikiki's world-renowned surf breaks and coastal ecosystems are foundational to both its cultural significance and economic vitality, demonstrating the clear connection between environmental health and long-term economic resilience. Protecting these natural resources is essential to sustaining the livelihoods, visitor industry, and community identity that depend on them. Designation as a World Surfing Reserve would formally acknowledge Waikiki's exceptional environmental, cultural, and recreational value while elevating public awareness of the growing threats facing its coastal resources.

This designation would elevate awareness of the increasing threats to Waikiki's coastal environment, while providing a framework to strengthen community-based stewardship. Designation as a World Surfing Reserve does not automatically trigger new environmental or commercial regulations but instead facilitates the formation of a stewardship committee and subsequent community-based management plan. Recognizing Waikiki as a World Surfing Reserve can help align stakeholders, support informed management, and advance a shared vision for protecting these vital natural and cultural resources for future generations.

Equally important, this recognition would help strengthen and formalize community-based stewardship. It offers a mechanism to enhance collaboration among local stakeholders, practitioners, cultural leaders, and resource managers, fostering a shared commitment to protecting Waikiki's natural and cultural heritage. By aligning conservation efforts with community values and local knowledge, this initiative can support more effective, inclusive, and adaptive management approaches. The WBSIDA supports the intent of HCR106 and HR98 and looks forward to continued discussion on the details.