

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR

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

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

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday March 25, 2026, 10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

in consideration of
SB 3169, SD1, HD1
RELATING TO COASTAL RESILIENCE.

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology,

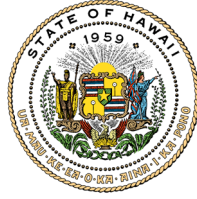
The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **supports and offers the following comments** on SB 3169, SD1, HD1 which establishes a five-year Coastal Resilience Pilot Program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for the preservation of Mantokuji Bay and exempts the Pilot Program from certain regulatory requirements.

OPSD appreciates the intent of SB 3169 and 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.

If the committee is inclined to move this measure forward, OPSD will assist DBEDT with planning and stakeholder coordination for the Coastal Resilience Pilot Program. 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 HAWAI'I
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
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

Before the House Committee on
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3169, SENATE DRAFT 1, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO COASTAL RESILIENCE

Senate Bill 3169, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 proposes to establish a five-year Coastal Resilience Pilot Program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) for the preservation of Mantokuji Bay. The bill would allow the pilot program to be exempt from multiple state and county regulatory requirements and require the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) to conduct a streamlined historic preservation review. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the amendments made in House Draft 1 and offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the urgent and complex erosion issues on the north shore of Maui, which threaten the historic Mantokuji Sōtō Mission in Pā'ia and its associated cemetery. Representatives of the Mission contacted the Department in 2016 regarding erosion at the site. The Department worked with the Mission to review mitigation strategies. In response to the immediate risk to the Mission, the Department issued Emergency Conservation District Use Permit MA 21-02 on August 9, 2020, authorizing the temporary placement of erosion control measures to stabilize the shoreline while long-term mitigation strategies were explored.

Since that time, the Department has remained in regular communication with the Mission's consultants and has conducted site visits. Photos from September 12, 2024, inspection demonstrating the severity of erosion at the Bay are attached to this testimony. Acknowledging the ongoing and evolving nature of the threat, the Department authorized expansions of the original emergency structure and extensions of both the emergency permit and the associated revocable permit for use of State lands. Both permits are currently set to expire in May 2026.

The Department has not yet received a long-term mitigation plan or permit application for review, despite those being conditions of their Emergency Permit

The Department supports the development of a comprehensive coastal resilience strategy for Mantokuji Bay and agrees that effective remediation should address the bay as a natural coastal cell rather than on a parcel-by-parcel basis. The Department appreciates that the State retains its regulatory oversight over public trust resources in House Draft 1 by not automatically exempting any future coastal resilience plan from compliance with Chapter 183C, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), relating to Conservation Districts; Chapter 205A, HRS, relating to Coastal Zone Management; and Chapter 343, HRS, relating to Environmental Review. These statutes are foundational to the State's responsibility to ensure environmental protection, public participation, and informed decision-making.

Senate Bill 3169, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1 also requires SHPD to conduct a streamlined historic preservation review of the proposed program. This is difficult to commit to without first knowing the scope, scale, and specific impacts of the measures that would be proposed under the pilot program, as well as whether sufficient resources would be available to support such an expedited review.

The Department has no objection to DBEDT taking a coordinating or leadership role in the development of a coastal resilience program for Mantokuji Bay. However, DBEDT is not a regulatory agency, and decisions regarding land use within the Conservation District should remain with the Board of Land and Natural Resources, consistent with existing law and the State's public trust obligations.

As such, the Department recommends that the words "approve and" be struck on page 4, line 8, so that Section 2(a) reads:

SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department of business, economic development, and tourism a five-year coastal resilience pilot program to implement comprehensive, streamlined coastal management measures for the restoration and preservation of Mantokuji bay, Paia, in the county of Maui. Under the pilot program, the department shall [~~approve and~~] implement coastal management measures that support regional coastal remediation by addressing the entirety of Mantokuji bay as a natural coastal cell, rather than individual land parcels.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Figure 1 Sandbags used for temporary erosion control at Mantokuji Bay



Figure 2 Turtle resting on the beach fronting the cemetery at Mantokuji Bay



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

**TESTIMONY PROVIDING COMMENTS ON SENATE BILL 3169 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO COASTAL RESILIENCE**

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho‘omohala Waiwai a me ka ‘Enehana
(House Committee on Economic Development & Technology)

Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

Malaki 25, 2026

10:00 AM

Lumi 423

Aloha e Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) provides **COMMENTS on SB3169 SD1 HD1**. OHA recognizes the serious and ongoing erosion impacts affecting Mantokuji Bay, including threats to the historic Paia Mantokuji Soto Mission and adjacent cemetery. We agree that addressing erosion at the scale of an entire coastal cell—rather than through continued parcel-by-parcel responses—is an appropriate and necessary conversation for the State.

OHA’s primary concern, however, is that the measure would allow the proposed regional coastal remediation program to be exempted from the statutory frameworks the Legislature has established to govern shoreline management (Section 2, subsection (h)). While the bill does not expressly authorize shoreline hardening, it would allow for exemptions from provisions that otherwise restrict or carefully regulate such structures. Those laws were developed in response to well-documented cumulative impacts of shoreline armoring and reflect decades of scientific analysis and policy deliberation.

Several private parcels within Mantokuji Bay appear to be hardened. Scientific findings consistently demonstrate that individual shoreline armoring can exacerbate erosion on adjacent properties and contribute to long-term beach loss across an entire

coastal cell, likely contributing to the serious conditions in the bay. The 2017 *Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report* identifies shoreline armoring as a primary driver of beach loss statewide and emphasizes avoidance, relocation, and managed retreat in areas experiencing chronic erosion.¹ Legislative findings adopted in Act 16 (2020) similarly acknowledge that hardening undermines long-term coastal resilience.

Given this context, we are concerned that exempting a regional program from existing coastal management requirements could undermine the careful balance the State has struck in managing shoreline resources. If a regional remediation effort is to proceed at Mantokuji Bay, it should do so within the established permitting and environmental review framework. Environmental review under Chapter 343 ensures that cumulative impacts and alternatives such as nature-based approaches or managed retreat are fully evaluated before significant shoreline interventions occur. Coastal zone management requirements under Chapter 205A similarly ensure that shoreline development and shoreline protection measures are evaluated for consistency with the State's policies to preserve beaches, protect coastal ecosystems, and maintain public access and use of shoreline resources. Conservation District protections under Chapter 183C further require careful review of activities within sensitive coastal areas to ensure that uses of public trust lands are consistent with the long-term protection of natural and cultural resources.

These legal frameworks were established with broad considerations in mind and prioritize long-term, sustainable shoreline management over short-term or immediate responses. Creating project-specific exemptions from these essential environmental protection provisions risks setting a precedent for bypassing safeguards in other erosion-prone areas. **Accordingly, OHA recommends removing subsection (h) of Section 2, to ensure that long-term resilience and resource protection remain central to the State's approach.**

¹ Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. 2017. *Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report*. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc. and the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, under the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Contract No: 64064.

Regarding historic preservation review, OHA supports the amendments in subsection (e) that clarify procedures when Native Hawaiian burials may be encountered and ensure the Island Burial Councils have adequate time to consult with lineal and cultural descendants. OHA also appreciates the inclusion of consultation with our office.

However, OHA supports and prefers the SD1 version of subsection (c), which included a requirement for an archaeological monitoring plan as well as an archaeological literature review. We additionally request consultation at the initial stage of the historic review process to ensure consistency with our statutory responsibilities. Accordingly, OHA suggests reverting the language of subsection (c) to the SD1 version, and adding the following language to the end of that subsection:

“The applicant shall consult with the office of Hawaiian affairs and provide the office an opportunity to review and comment on the archaeological literature review findings, archaeological monitoring plan, and any effect determinations before the pilot program proceeds.”

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. We look forward to the careful consideration of our **COMMENTS on SB3169 SD1 HD1**.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers
Kauanoë Batangan
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 22, 2026

TO: Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

FROM: Nohelani U'u-Hodgins *Nohelani U'u-Hodgins*
Councilmember

DATE: Wednesday, March 25, 2026
10:00 a.m., Conference Room 423

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3169, SD1, HD1, RELATING TO
COASTAL RESILIENCE**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish a five-year Coastal Resilience Pilot Program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for the preservation of Mantokuji Bay; allows the Pilot Program to be exempt from certain regulatory requirements; requires the State Historic Preservation Division to conduct a streamlined historic preservation review; establishes certain procedures for the discovery of Native Hawaiian skeletal remains; and requires annual reports to the Legislature.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

Mantokuji Bay is a special place in our community, which faces a coastal erosion crisis that threatens homes, businesses, cultural resources, and critical infrastructure along its one-mile shoreline. The historic Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission, whose annual Obon Festival draws thousands of visitors and generates significant economic activity for Paia's small businesses, is just one of many properties at risk.

The entire bay is eroding at approximately 1.6 feet per year. Homeowners face property loss. The Hana Highway, a vital transportation corridor, is increasingly exposed to

March 22, 2026

Page 2

coastal hazards. Endangered sea turtles are losing the beach habitat they depend on. This is not a problem that can be solved one property at a time.

SB 3169, SD1, HD1 takes a smart and comprehensive approach. Treating Mantokuji Bay as a single coastal system and streamlining regulatory processes enables the kind of bay-wide restoration that coastal science demands. Importantly, the bill maintains environmental and cultural protections while allowing for timely and effective action.

Protecting Mantokuji Bay protects Paia's economy - its residents, its businesses, its cultural institutions, and the visitors who come to experience this special place.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support of SB 3169, SD1, HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.



House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 10 AM Hearing in Conference Room 423 on
SB 3169, SD, HD1 Relating to Coastal Resilience

TESTIMONY

Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii has major concerns with SB 3169, SD1, HD1. There is no public information and the League has no position concerning planning, design, or funding of the proposed pilot project. However, because Hawaii's normal regulatory procedures and requirements facilitate informed public participation in management of coastal development, we oppose arbitrary exemption of the project from Chapters 343, 183C, and 205A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). Contrary to legislative findings in Section 1 of SB 3169, SD1, HD1, neither the DBEDT nor the OPSD has ever publicly alleged that Chapter 343, 183C, and 205A, HRS, result in "... overlapping jurisdictions and rigid criteria not designed for comprehensive coastal management". Moreover, neither the DBEDT nor the OPSD has ever publicly requested to exempt this pilot project from public disclosure and evaluation under Chapter 343, HRS; or from DLNR/BLNR determination of the "regulatory" shoreline under Chapter 205A, HRS; or from DLNR/BLNR Conservation District regulation under Chapter 183C, HRS; or from Maui Planning Commission special management and shoreline setback area regulation under Chapter 205A, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



Written Statement of
DR. PATRICK SULLIVAN
FOUNDER & CEO, OCEANIT

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 423 and Videoconference

In Support of
SB3169 SD1 RELATING TO COASTAL RESILIENCE

To: Chair Representative Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Representative Ikaika Hussey,
and Members of the Committee
From: Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Founder & CEO, OCEANIT
Re: Testimony in Support of SB3169 SD1 HD1

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

Oceanit Laboratories, Inc. strongly supports SB3169 SD1 HD1 which establishes a five-year Coastal Resilience Pilot Program for the restoration and preservation of Mantokuji Bay, Paia, Maui.

Oceanit is a forty-year-old Hawai'i-based science and engineering firm with deep experience in coastal resilience and infrastructure protection. Hawai'i's parcel-by-parcel regulatory approach has failed our coastlines for decades; sediment transport and wave energy do not respect property boundaries, and piecemeal hardening has made the overall problem worse. SB3169 SD1 HD1 takes a fundamentally different approach: treating Mantokuji Bay as the natural coastal cell it is, approximately one mile of interconnected shoreline bounded by headlands, and enabling comprehensive, science-based restoration.

The urgency is clear. The coastline is retreating at approximately 1.6 feet per year. Ancestral burials (cemetery) at the Mantokuji Temple, the oldest Soto Zen Buddhist temple in the State, established in 1906 and listed on the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places. Part of the cemetery has already fallen into the ocean. The Hana Highway, the sole transportation corridor for northeast Maui communities, is increasingly exposed to coastal hazards. UHERO's February 2026 statewide survey found that 63% of policymakers reported the state is underprepared to deal with sea level rise, while nearly 90% of residents want state leaders to act immediately.

SB3169 SD1 HD1 balances urgency with protection. Native Hawaiian burial treatment provisions developed in consultation with SHPD ensure Island Burial Council authority, full descendant consultation, and mandatory work stoppage upon discovery of iwi kūpuna. All federal regulatory requirements are maintained, including Army Corps permits, NHPA Section 106, Endangered Species Act consultation, and Clean Water Act

certification. Article XII, Section 7 of the Hawai'i State Constitution protecting traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights is explicitly preserved.

The pilot program sunsets on June 30, 2031 and annual legislative reporting requirement ensures full accountability. If this model proves effective, it will give the Legislature the evidence base to determine whether the approach should be extended to other threatened coastlines statewide.

We strongly urge the Committee to pass SB3169 SD1 HD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Cindy Freitas
makainanqi@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB3169

Relating to Coastal Resilience

Committee on Economic Development & Technology (ECD)
Hawai'i State Legislature

He Mele komo a he mele aloha no na kupuna o ke au i hala Aloha mai kakou.

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm a Native Hawaiian descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas. I submit this testimony in **strong opposition to SB3169** unless it is significantly amended to protect our cultural, environmental, and constitutional rights.

I. CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL CONCERNS – 'ĀINA IS NOT A PILOT PROJECT

Mantokuji Bay is not just shoreline it is **'āina with memory**, a place where **iwi kūpuna, mo'olelo, and 'ike are embedded in the land and nearshore waters**.

Under our 'ike, **the shoreline is not a boundary it is a living connection between realms**. Disturbance in this space without proper process is not just environmental harm—it is **spiritual harm**.

The bill allows work to proceed if **SHPD fails to act within 45 days**. This creates a dangerous situation where **silence becomes consent** over burial sites and cultural resources.

That is unacceptable.

Our kūpuna are not subject to administrative deadlines.

II. VIOLATION OF HAWAI'I CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS

This bill raises serious concerns under:

- **Hawai'i Constitution, Article XII, Section 7**
(Protection of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights)
- **Hawai'i Constitution, Article XI, Section 1**
(Public trust doctrine protection of natural resources)

The Hawai'i Supreme Court has made clear:

- In **Ka Pa'akai O Ka 'Āina v. Land Use Commission**, the Court held that the State must:
 1. Identify cultural practices
 2. Identify impacts

3. Mitigate impacts

SB3169 attempts to **bypass this analysis** by exempting the project from key processes like **HRS Chapter 343 (Environmental Review)** and **coastal permitting laws**.

Without full environmental review, **there is no lawful Ka Pa‘akai analysis**.

III. UNLAWFUL WEAKENING OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION SAFEGUARDS

The bill undermines **HRS Chapter 6E** by:

- Imposing a **45-day SHPD response deadline**
- Allowing the project to proceed if SHPD does not act
- Replacing full review with monitoring + inadvertent discovery

This is legally dangerous.

In **Kaleikini v. Yoshioka**, the Court emphasized that **burial protections must be taken seriously before disturbance occurs**, not after.

“Inadvertent discovery” is not protection it is **reaction after harm**.

IV. IMPROPER EXEMPTION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (HRS CHAPTER 343)

SB3169 exempts this project from **HRS Chapter 343**, which is one of the most important public accountability laws in Hawai‘i.

The Hawai‘i Supreme Court has repeatedly upheld the importance of environmental review:

- **Sierra Club v. Department of Transportation**
(Environmental review ensures informed decision-making and public participation)

By bypassing Chapter 343, this bill:

- Eliminates meaningful public input
- Prevents full disclosure of impacts
- Shields decision-making from transparency

This is not resilience it is **regulatory avoidance**.

V. DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR STATEWIDE EXEMPTIONS

Although framed as a “pilot project,” this bill sets a precedent:

- If exemptions are allowed here, they can be expanded elsewhere
- Other coastal areas many with cultural and burial significance—could be fast-tracked
- This undermines the entire framework of Hawai‘i’s coastal and cultural protections

This is how erosion of law begins **one exception at a time**.

VI. 'IKE KŪPUNA – TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE MUST LEAD

Our kūpuna managed shorelines without hard armoring and without bypassing process.

They understood:

- Sand is a living system
- Reefs, currents, and shoreline are interconnected
- Interventions must be guided by observation, 'ike, and respect

Modern “resilience” that ignores 'ike kūpuna is not resilience it is **short-term engineering that can create long-term damage.**

VII. REQUEST FOR ACTION

I respectfully urge this Committee to:

1. DEFER SB3169

OR

2. AMEND THE BILL TO:

- **Remove all exemptions** from:
 - HRS Chapter 343
 - HRS Chapter 205A (Coastal Zone Management)
 - County shoreline setback and permitting laws
- **Remove the 45-day SHPD default approval provision**
- **Require full compliance with HRS Chapter 6E** before any ground disturbance
- **Require cultural impact assessments and community consultation**
- **Include Native Hawaiian practitioners in decision-making authority**, not just consultation

VIII. CONCLUSION

We all support protecting our coastlines. But **how we do it matters.**

We cannot protect the shoreline by **removing the very laws that protect the shoreline and our kūpuna.**

The question before you is not whether to act it is whether to act **pono.**

SB3169, as written, is not pono.

Mahalo,

Cindy Freitas

SB-3169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:34:03 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/25/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Moto	Paia Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

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

I am Eric Moto, representing the Paia Mantokuji Soto Mission in support of Senate Bill 3169, This bill will establish an important 5-year pilot program that will help Mantokuji work on alternative, nature-based solutions to restoring, protecting, and preserving our Mantokuji Bay and provide tools and plans that can aid other shoreline communities facing similar erosion threats. Mahalo for your support.

SB-3169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 3:45:08 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/25/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathleen Murayama	Paia Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support SB3169 SD1 HD1. The lengthy permitting process has caused Mantokuji to lose at least 10' of land within the last 10 years. Your support of this bill is greatly appreciated.

SB-3169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:05:46 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/25/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Matoi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 3169 to expedite the pilot project to deal with the urgent problem of ocean erosion.

SB-3169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:48:46 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/25/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grant Matoi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Grant Matoi, my family founded the Paia Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission in 1906. Since then, the mission has been a spiritual home for community members and their families.

Today, shoreline erosion is threatening to claim both the church and adjacent graveyard. It pains me to see the very ground being washed away from under the church and gravestones. I plead with this committee to pass HB 2490 so that we can save our interned ancestors and the historic church that watches over them.

Thank You,

Grant Matoi

SB-3169-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 1:54:32 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/25/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celia Suzuki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology:

My name is Celia Suzuki and I am writing in strong support of SB3169SD1HD1. I am a member of the Paia Mantokuji Soto Mission, and one of many granddaughters of Sokyo Ueoka, founding Reverend of the Paia Mantokuji Soto Mission.

It saddens me to see the devastating effects of the shoreline erosion of the temple grounds and its surrounding areas. The church leadership and membership have been doing their best over the years to save the church and burial grounds from deterioration. Passage of this legislation will ensure protection of the historic site.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure.