

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAI'I | 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 Senate Committees on
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
and
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**Thursday, February 19, 2026
1:02 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3169
RELATING TO COASTAL RESILIENCE**

Senate Bill 3169 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 exempt the pilot program 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) has significant concerns with this approach and offers the following comments.**

While the Department supports comprehensive coastal resilience planning for Mantokuji Bay, this bill would waive essential environmental and land-use protections and shift substantive shoreline decision-making away from the regulatory agencies charged with protecting public trust resources.

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. In response to these immediate risks, the Department issued Emergency Conservation District Use Permit MA 21-10 on May 12, 2021, 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.

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. However, the Department does not believe that the State should waive its regulatory oversight over public trust resources by 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 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.

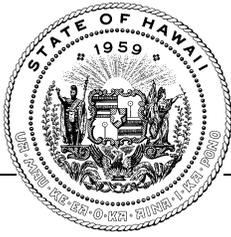
Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Figure 1 Sandbags used for temporary erosion control at Mantokuji Bay



Figure 2 Erosion fronting the cemetery at Mantokuji Bay



**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
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
AND
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**
Thursday, February 19, 2026, 1:02 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of
**SB 3169
RELATING TO COASTAL RESILIENCE.**

Chairs DeCoite and Lee, Vice Chairs Wakai and Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committees on Economic Development & Tourism and Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (**OPSD**) **supports and offers the following comments on SB 3169** 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 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.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers
K. Kauano'e 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

February 17, 2026

TO: Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Honorable Chris Lee, Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

FROM: Nohelani U'u-Hodgins
Councilmember

DATE: Thursday, February 19, 2026
1:02 p.m., Conference Room 229

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3169, 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. Exempts the Pilot Program from certain regulatory requirements. Requires the State Historic Preservation Division to conduct a streamlined historic preservation review. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. Sunsets 06/30/2031.

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.

February 17, 2026

Page 2

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 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 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.

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

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers
K. Kauano'e 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

February 18, 2026

TO: Honorable Lynn Decoite, Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts

FROM: Yuki Lei Sugimura
Council Vice-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yuki Lei Sugimura".

SUBJECT: **Testimony in Support of SB 3169 – Relating to Coastal Resilience**

SB 3169 proposes the establishment of a five-year Coastal Resilience Pilot Program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for the preservation of Mantokuji Bay in Paia. I support passage of this bill for the following reasons:

1. **Enhanced Resilience Against Climate Impacts:** Our islands are increasingly vulnerable to climate-driven hazards, including sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and storm surge. SB 3169 will allow for a dedicated pilot initiative to model effective coastal preservation strategies tailored to our unique natural, cultural, and economic landscapes. Such proactive planning is far more cost-effective and protective of lives, property, and resources than reactive emergency response.
2. **Targeted Focus on Mantokuji Bay:** Mantokuji Bay is a treasured coastal area with deep cultural, ecological, and community significance. A pilot program centered here acknowledges its value and provides a replicable framework for other coastal areas statewide. Empowering DBEDT to coordinate this effort, with a streamlined review process for historic preservation where appropriate, will reduce administrative hurdles while maintaining respect for historic and cultural resources.

February 18, 2026

Page 2

3. Streamlined Processes Without Compromising Accountability: SB 3169 thoughtfully balances efficiency with oversight by exempting the pilot program from select regulatory requirements and requiring annual reports to the Legislature. This ensures progress is transparent, measurable, and informed by community input, while allowing implementers to navigate unnecessary red tape that often delays needed action.

4. Commitment to Long-Range Planning and Program Evaluation: By authorizing the pilot for five years and setting a sunset date of June 30, 2031, the bill promotes thoughtful implementation, iterative learning, and evidence-based evaluation. This model allows community partners, scientists, businesses, and government agencies to assess outcomes and determine how best to scale successful approaches statewide.

For these reasons, I support HB 2386. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Thirty-Third Legislature, Regular Session of 2026

RE: SB 3169 – Relating to Coastal Resilience

Hearing: 2.29.26, 1:02pm

Position: STRONGLY SUPPORT

My name is Cathleen Murayama, and I am a member of Paia Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission. I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 3169, which would establish a pilot program to protect Mantokuji Bay.

My family has been part of the Mantokuji congregation since its founding in 1906. My grandfather, Sokyo Ueoka, was the founding minister of Paia Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission. For over a century, this sacred ground has been the final resting place for our community's ancestors. The sandy beach I grew up cherishing is no longer there to share with my grandsons, 8 years and 2 years.

Today, I watch in horror as the ocean steals what we have always considered eternal. Each year the winter swells continue to claim gravestones that once stood in neat rows and eats away at the bank. This January, it finally claimed an ironwood tree on the bank that is no longer. The remains of our kupuna – our grandparents and great-grandparents – wash into the sea. More than property loss – it is a spiritual crisis that cuts to the heart of who we are as a community.

This crisis extends far beyond our temple. The entire Mantokuji Bay shoreline is eroding – threatening homeowners, the Hana Highway, and the habitat where the endangered sea turtles rest. We learned that protecting just our property will not work. The bay is a single natural ecosystem, and it must be restored as a whole.

We have tried for years to address this through existing regulatory processes, but those processes have not produced a long-term solution – only sandbags holding back the sea. Meanwhile, with every winter swell, the shoreline retreats another foot, then another. We cannot wait any longer!

HB SB 3169 offers a path forward. It takes a comprehensive, bay-wide approach to coastal restoration while maintaining protections for Native Hawaiian rights and the environment. This is not about just our temple – it is about restoring the entire bay for the benefit of everyone who lives here, visits here, and depends on this shoreline.

I urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,

Cathleen Murayama

Member

Paia Mantokuj Soto Zen Mission



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

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Thursday, February 19, 2026
1:02 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

In Support of
SB3169 RELATING TO COASTAL RESILIENCE

To: Chair Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair Senator Glenn Wakai
Chair Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair Senator Lorraine Inouye, and
Members of the Committees
From: Dr. Patrick Sullivan, Founder & CEO, OCEANIT
Re: Testimony in Support of SB3169

Chairs DeCoite and Lee, Vice Chairs Wakai and Inouye, and Members of the
Committees:

Oceanit Laboratories, Inc. strongly supports SB3169, which establishes a five-year Coastal Resilience Pilot Program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for the restoration and preservation of Mantokuji Bay, Paia, Maui.

Oceanit is a forty-year-old Hawaii-based science and engineering firm with deep experience in coastal resilience, infrastructure protection, and environmental monitoring. We have seen firsthand how Hawaii's current parcel-by-parcel regulatory approach fails our coastlines. Sediment transport, wave energy, and shoreline dynamics do not respect property boundaries. When individual landowners harden their shoreline in isolation, they often accelerate erosion on neighboring properties and degrade the very ecosystems that provide natural coastal protection. The result across Hawaii has been decades of piecemeal interventions that make the overall problem worse.

SB3169 represents a fundamentally better approach. By treating Mantokuji Bay as the natural coastal cell it is, approximately one mile of interconnected shoreline bounded by headlands, this bill enables the kind of comprehensive, science-based intervention that coastal engineers and geologists have long advocated for. The bill's streamlined regulatory framework addresses a real and critical barrier:

overlapping state and county jurisdictions and rigid permitting criteria that were never designed for regional coastal management make it effectively impossible to implement bay-wide solutions under current law.

The urgency is clear. The Mantokuji Bay coastline is retreating at approximately 1.6 feet per year. Ancestral burials at the Mantokuji Temple, the oldest Soto Zen Buddhist temple in the State, have already fallen into the ocean. The Hana Highway, the sole transportation corridor for northeast Maui communities, is increasingly exposed to coastal hazards. These losses are irreversible, and the window for effective intervention is narrowing.

Critically, SB3169 maintains all federal regulatory requirements, protects traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights under the State Constitution, and preserves marine life and water quality protections. The bill does not eliminate oversight; it consolidates and streamlines it so that meaningful coastal restoration can actually proceed. The annual reporting requirement and five-year sunset ensure legislative accountability and create a replicable model that can inform future statewide coastal management policy.

Proposed Amendment: Native Hawaiian Burial Treatment

We respectfully request one amendment to address concerns raised by the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD). The bill's current inadvertent discovery protocol under Section 2(c)(3) could subject Native Hawaiian burial discoveries to the abbreviated process under HAR §13-300-40, which provides only a two-to-three-day decision window with limited descendant and burial council involvement. SHPD has recommended language consistent with HAR §13-300-33, which provides for Island Burial Council authority over preservation-in-place or relocation decisions, full lineal and cultural descendant consultation, and a 45-day determination period.

We ask the Committee to add a new subsection requiring that any Native Hawaiian skeletal remains discovered during pilot program activities receive the full protections of burial council oversight and descendant consultation, with work stoppage until the burial council renders its determination. This amendment would also clarify that documented burials within the Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission cemetery fall under separate Department of Health jurisdiction. Proposed amendment language has been provided to the Committee for its consideration.

This amendment strengthens the bill by proactively addressing cultural protection concerns while preserving the streamlined framework essential to the pilot program's success.

We strongly urge the Committee to pass SB3169 with the proposed burial treatment amendment.





Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Thursday, February 19, 2026, 1:02 PM Hearing in Conference Room 229 on
SB 3169 Relating to Coastal Resilience

TESTIMONY

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

Chairs DeCoite and Lee, Vice Chairs Wakai and Inouye, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii has major concerns with SB 3169. 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 SB 3169 exemption of the project from Chapters 343, 183C, and 205A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). 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.

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Eric Moto, and I am the president of the Paia Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission's administrative board. I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3169, which would establish a program to restore and protect our Mantokuji Bay.

My family has been a part of the Mantokuji congregation for four generations spanning many decades. For over a century, this sacred ground has been the final resting place for our community's ancestors and the only temple on Maui of the Soto Shu Buddhist sect.

Today, I watch in desperation as rising sea levels, and stronger and more frequent wave conditions relentlessly claim more and more of the beach and the land we have always considered sacred and eternal. Gravestones that once stood in neat rows now tumble into the surf. The remains of our kupuna – our grandparents and great-grandparents – wash into the sea. This is not just property loss, but a spiritual and existential crisis that cuts to the heart of who we are as a community.

And this crisis extends far beyond our temple. The entire Mantokuji Bay shoreline is eroding, threatening neighboring homeowners, the Hana Highway, and the habitat where endangered sea turtles come to rest. We have learned that protecting just Mantokuji's property will not work. The ocean does not care about property lines. The bay is a single natural ecosystem connecting all of us and it must be restored as a whole.

Mantokuji has tried for about ten years and spent close to a million dollars to address this crisis through existing regulatory processes, all while fulfilling every requirement and rule and document request. But this process has not produced a long-term solution, only a temporary sandbag structure fighting a losing battle to hold back the sea.

SB 3169 offers a project that can serve as an example of how to move forward as you are asked time and again to help save and protect Hawaii's eroding shorelines. It will take a comprehensive, bay-wide approach to coastal restoration while maintaining protections for Native Hawaiian rights and the environment. This is not about saving just our temple, it is about restoring the entire bay for the benefit of all who live on Maui, all who visit our island, and all those who depend upon this shoreline.

I humbly urge you to pass SB 3169 and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Roberta Arita and I am a member of the Paia Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission. I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2490 which would establish a pilot program to protect Mantokuji Bay.

My grandfather, Sokyo Ueoka, was the founding minister of Mantokuji Soto Zen Mission. For over a century, the Mantokuji graveyard has been the final resting place for our community's ancestors. The white sandy beach boarding the property which our family and the community enjoyed fishing, swimming, tin boat racing, learning to dive off "diving rock," and picking pipipi and opihi are now just cherished memories of our childhood.

Today, I watch in fear at what the ocean will and has taken from Mantokuji. It has taken rows of graves and the monument of headstones collected after the 1946 tsunami which is only preserved in a black and white photo taken by Ansel Adams, "Buddhist Grave Markers and Rainbow, Maui, Hawaii," 1956. This loss of graves is a crisis that cuts to the heart of who we are as a spiritual refuge and community. When I returned to Maui in 2005, there was 25 feet from the temple to the shoreline. There is now maybe 15 feet. And we are now told we are losing over a foot each year.

This crisis extends beyond our temple grounds. The entire Mantokuji Bay shoreline is eroding, threatening surrounding homeowners, the Hana Highway and the habitat of the endangered sea turtles so protecting just our property will not work. The bay is one natural system and must be restored as one.

We have worked for years to address this through existing regulatory processes, but these costly efforts have not produced a long-term solution. Despite the sandbags, only allowed for a three-year period, the rising ocean continues to erode the shoreline with every winter swell. We are also losing trees and foliage which help to protect the shoreline. We cannot wait any longer. We need your help.

HB 2490 offers a path forward. It takes a comprehensive bay-wide approach to coastal restoration while maintaining protections for Native Hawaiian rights and the environment. This is not about saving just our temple, it is about restoring the entire bay for the benefit of the Paia Community, everyone who lives here, visits here and depends on the shoreline. I urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Roberta Arita

Cindy Freitas
makainanqi@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION UNLESS AMENDED
S.B. 3169 – RELATING TO COASTAL RESILIENCE

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 respectfully submit testimony **in opposition to S.B. 3169 unless it is amended.**

I understand and support the need to address shoreline erosion and protect cultural sites. The bill correctly recognizes that coastal erosion threatens cultural and spiritual resources and even burial sites . However, the method proposed in this bill raises serious concerns.

This measure establishes a five-year coastal resilience pilot program and allows the State to approve shoreline projects through a **streamlined process** . The concern is that the bill also exempts the project from major state and county protections, including:

- Coastal zone management laws
- Environmental impact statement review
- Shoreline setback requirements
- County building permit requirements

These protections exist specifically to prevent unintended damage to shoreline ecosystems, public trust resources, and Native Hawaiian cultural sites. Removing them creates a dangerous precedent.

The bill allows work to proceed if historic preservation review is not completed within forty-five days . In Hawai'i, identifying burial sites and cultural resources often takes much longer. Cultural consultation cannot be rushed, and iwi kūpuna cannot be placed on a timeline.

Although the bill states Native Hawaiian rights are not exempted , the reality is that removing environmental review and county oversight significantly weakens the practical protection of those rights. Without full review and public participation, cultural practitioners and nearby communities may not receive meaningful notice or opportunity to be heard.

Coastal protection should not come at the cost of due process, environmental review, or cultural safeguards.

Therefore, I respectfully request the following amendments:

1. Require full cultural impact assessment and community consultation before approval.
2. Remove the exemption from Chapter 343 environmental review.

3. Require county permitting and public hearings.
4. Require consultation with lineal descendants and cultural practitioners before any ground disturbance.
5. Prohibit automatic approval if historic preservation review deadlines are not met.
6. Require burial council involvement whenever ancestral remains may be affected.

We all support protecting shorelines and cultural sites. However, protection must not bypass the very laws designed to safeguard Hawai'i's people, environment, and iwi kūpuna.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Committee to **defer S.B. 3169 or amend it to include enforceable cultural and environmental protections.**

Mahalo

Cindy Freitas

SB-3169

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 3:07:07 PM

Testimony for EDT on 2/19/2026 1:02:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SCOTT WERDEN	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I find Section 2(e) that exempts the program from environmental review to be unacceptable. Changes within coastal zones, especially ones with significant erosion, need public review. I therefore oppose SB3169.

Scott Werden, Ha'iku