

LATE TESTIMONY



HCR 258, RELATING TO KAHALA BEACH

House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources & Hawaiian
Affairs

March 24, 2008

10:30 a.m.

Room: 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** H.C.R. 258, which would request the Office of State Planning to coordinate City and State agencies in addressing the overgrowth of vegetation on Kahala beach.

The tension between public trust resources and private ownership will be most clearly felt on our State's shorelines. The combination of development and recent environmental conditions and the associated sea level rise will only worsen this issue.

OHA recognizes that the State's beaches are a public trust resource. Further, they are the areas that our beneficiaries often use for their constitutionally protected Native Hawaiian cultural practices and customary rights. As such, OHA urges that the shoreline be kept open and not be eroded by an overgrowth of vegetation from the mauka side of the shoreline. Such practices violate the legal definition of the shoreline, the public trust, and also our beneficiaries' rights.

This bill seeks to address this issue in Kahala and serve as a model for other areas in our State where the same breaches occur. As such, OHA is in support of this timely and much-needed resolution and we urge the Committees to PASS H.C.R. 258. Thank you for the chance to testify.