

TESTIMONY
HCR 258



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
ABBEY SETH MAYER
Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Monday, April 21, 2008
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of
HCR 258
**REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING TO COORDINATE THE
CITY AND STATE AGENCIES IN ADDRESSING THE OVERGROWTH OF
VEGETATION ON KAHALA BEACH.**

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Kokubun, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

The Office of Planning (OP) **supports** House Concurrent Resolution No. 258. OP has been facilitating group meetings with the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) of the City and County of Honolulu, the Kahala Community Association and the neighborhood Board No. 3, Waialae-Kahala, to collaborate issues of overgrowth of vegetation on Kahala Beach and explore management responses.

OCCL and DPP have demonstrated enthusiasm and cooperation in dealing with the issues. We would be happy to continue working with them and the community to assure a successful solution to the encroaching vegetation situation in Kahala.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

testimony

From: Jerry Norris [jerryn@oha.org]
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2008 2:58 PM
To: Sen. Clayton Hee
Cc: David Rodriguez; testimony
Subject: HCR258 Kahala Beach
Attachments: image001.png; oledata.mso



Legislative Testimony
**HCR 258, REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING
 TO COORDINATE THE CITY AND STATE AGENCIES
 IN ADDRESSING THE OVERGROWTH OF VEGETATION ON KAHALA BEACH**
 Senate Committee on Water and Land

April 21, 2008

9:30 a.m.

Room: 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** H.C.R. 258, which would request the Office of State Planning to coordinate relevant local and State agencies in addressing the overgrowth of vegetation on Kahala Beach as a roadmap to rectify the encroaching vegetation problem on other Hawai'i beaches.

The tension between public trust resources and private ownership is often most clearly felt on Hawai'i's shorelines. The combination of development, recent environmental conditions and the associated sea level rise will only worsen this issue, and the effects are already being felt.

OHA recognizes that the State's beaches are a public trust resource. Further, beaches provide our beneficiaries with access to their constitutionally protected Native Hawaiian traditional and customary gathering and cultural 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. We also note that Native Hawaiian burials have been found on Kahala beach and are prevalent in beach areas in general, which heightens OHA's concern.

Shoreline owners enjoy many benefits of living on the beach in Hawai'i and should be prepared to accept the inherent responsibilities and consequences. The public should not be deprived of the right to use and enjoy our shared, public trust shoreline areas due to encroaching vegetation emanating from private structures and growing on the beach corridor, blocking lateral access to and along beaches.

This Concurrent Resolution seeks to assess the issue via a study of impacts and implications on Kahala Beach and serve as a model for other beach areas in Hawai'i. Thus, OHA supports this timely and much needed resolution, and we urge the Committee to PASS H.C.R. 258. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

testimony

From: Turney, Marian [Marian.Turney@uhf.hawaii.edu]
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2008 2:50 PM
To: testimony
Subject: HCR 258 Testimony

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING TO
COORDINATE THE CITY AND STATE AGENCIES IN
ADDRESSING THE OVERGROWTH OF VEGETATION ON
KAHALA BEACH.

Monday, April 21 2008 at 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 016

Testimony

Marian Turney
2356 Aha Maka Way
Honolulu, HI 96821

**I support the request for the Office of State Planning to
coordinate the city and state agencies in addressing the
overgrowth on Kahala Beach.**

I have walked Kahala Beach regularly for the last 10 years and have watched with dismay as the vegetation from beachfront lots has been allowed to increasingly encroach on the beach. The hau tree near the Hunakai Street access to the beach has become very obstructive, to the point where it is now impossible to walk the length of the beach for several hours around high tide, without getting very wet. I frequently have to carry my young grandchildren past this obstruction, getting soaked in the process, if they wish to run along the beach. The tree has become a dangerous and unsightly mess of tangled roots. All along the beach the vegetation has grown to the point that it is difficult to find any dry sand to sit on, much of the time.

That the vegetation has been allowed to reach this point is a scandal and I hope that a process can be worked out so that regular inspection and maintenance will ensure that this situation will not keep recurring.

TESTIMONY
HCR 258
(END)