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HB1492

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for HB1492. Although I am a professor at the University of Hawaii, I submit this testimony as a private citizen.

This bill seeks to fund a study of Kailua Beach. However, there is an existing study of Kailua Beach, funded by DLNR to the UH Sea Grant program; Sea Grant has in turn contracted two local commercial firms to perform the study. The study has just started. It is designed to produce place-based management recommendations for ensuring conservation of Kailua Beach during the 21st century. The study will account for sea-level rise, erosion trends, and community development patterns along the beach. The goal of the study is to define new and better management strategies for Kailua and to serve as a template for place-based management on other Hawaii beaches.

While the existing study is innovative, it is under funded. Two elements, in particular require additional funding: the economic and planning component, and the engineering component. I recommend that the funds in HB1492 be reprogrammed to the UH Sea Grant program to augment the existing study.