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STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
TOURISM AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, February 12, 2013
1:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 497
RELATING TO BEACH NOURISHMENT**

Senate Bill 497 proposes to appropriate state matching funds from the Beach Restoration Special Fund (BRSF) to be matched dollar-for-dollar with private funds to share the cost of producing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a beach nourishment project proposed for Ka'anapali Beach on the island of Maui. **While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the actions of the Legislature and the Ka'anapali Operations Associations (KOA) to re-nourish sand at Ka'anapali Beach, the Department nonetheless has concerns with this measure in its current form.**

As a matter of background, the BRSF was established in 1999. The first major expenditure from the BRSF was \$1,500,000 to support the construction of the recently completed Waikiki Beach Maintenance project. Funds for Waikiki Beach maintenance were also provided by the Hawaii Tourism Authority and Kyoya. It appears that Senate Bill 497 proposes a similar scenario for Ka'anapali Beach.

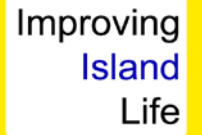
The Department does not have sufficient funds at this time in the BRSF to fully fund this measure and also manage the project and perform other critical functions around the State. The current balance in the BRSF is less than \$600,000. If \$400,000 is used for Ka'anapali Beach, this will leave the Department with a balance of only \$200,000, which is already programmed to support the Department's Coastal Lands Specialist for two years. The Coastal Lands Specialist is responsible for the oversight and implementation of beach restoration/sand maintenance projects around the State, in addition to providing technical assistance to agencies, organizations

and the general public on all aspects of shoreline erosion mitigation. While the Department could conceivably receive some new revenue over the next couple of years to keep the position and its functions operational, the Department is concerned that this measure over extends our abilities to sustain the Coastal Lands Specialist over a long period of time, and all the services that the position provides throughout the islands.

The primary source of revenue for the BRSF has been the collection of monies for shoreline easements issued to coastal landowners that have long standing encroachments on state land. However, because of the downturn in the real estate market and the unpredictable number of easements from one year to the next, revenues have decreased substantially. Revenues for Fiscal Year 2013 are around \$200,000, and the Department is projecting a flat or even downward trend for a few years due to the sluggish housing market. The Department therefore needs to maintain a positive balance in the fund to continue providing the varied coastal services within its Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands via the Coastal Lands Specialist.

Another issue is that Senate Bill 497 seems to place the Department in charge of the Beach Restoration project and appears to place the onus of the public funded portion of the project totally on the Department and the BRSF, without additional assistance from the Hawaii Tourism Authority. While the Department is not opposed to the idea of "Project Management," and co-funding, the Department is surprised to see the matter put forth in this way, as the Department has had little substantive discussion with KOA on the matter.

In closing, the Department supports, in concept, efforts to conduct beach restoration at Ka'anapali Beach. However, the Department would like more time to work directly with the stakeholders to figure our management responsibility and funding realities. As such, the Department respectfully asks the Committees to table this measure.



To the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable David Ige, Chair & The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

February 22, 2013 9:00AM, Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of SB 497 RELATING TO BEACH NOURISHMENT

Mister Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Lyon and I along with my father own and operate a civil engineering firm in the State of Hawaii and we have been improving island life since 1961. Our firm has provided and continues to provide, among other things, design services, construction management and supervision, master planning and feasibility studies for a number of State and County agencies and their respective projects.

I am writing in strong support of SB 497. The purpose of this measure is to protect Hawaii's beaches by providing matching funds for the environmental impact statement associated with the planned beach nourishment project at Kaanapali Beach on the island of Maui. An estimated 70 percent of the beaches on the islands of Kauai, Oahu and Maui are eroding. According to a state analysis, the highest rates and greatest extent of beach erosion can be found on Maui, where 85 percent of the island beaches are eroding. Beach nourishment has big advantages. When erosion continues, beach nourishment does not leave hazards on the beach or in the surf zone when compared with beach stabilization structures like seawalls or groins. Seawalls may protect structures behind the beach, but they almost always cause the beach in front of the wall to become narrower. If erosion breaches the seawall, then debris from the wall will be left on the beach and in the surf. Since beach nourishment only puts sand on the beach, no debris is left when it erodes.

Under these circumstances public/private partnerships are common. And being that Kaanapali Beach is a public beach and the private sector is willing offer funds to preserve a place that many local residents and visitors often use, it is only right that the state contribute its fair share to the project.

The crux of our business is improving island life. Likewise, the bulk of the work we do comes from the island nations of the pacific and I have seen the devastating impact erosion can have on an island. So we concur with the legislature's findings that restoration of Kaanapali beach is necessary to preserve a vital environmental, recreational, and cultural resource for residents and visitors on the island of Maui making the economic value of Kaanapali beach to Maui's visitor industry significant.

I appreciate the continuing efforts of your committee and the members of the Senate to preserve and improve the natural environment of Hawaii, and respectfully urge you to match the funds pledged with the requested appropriation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Lyon, PE, LEED AP
President
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