

JAN 23 2014

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the northwest facing  
2 shore of the north shore of Oahu, stretching from Haleiwa to  
3 Kahuku point, is a spectacular fifteen-mile-long coastline of  
4 primary importance to state residents and visitors from around  
5 the world for its beautiful sandy beaches, famous surf breaks,  
6 recreational opportunities, marine resources and wildlife, and  
7 vistas. Several important north shore beaches are at increasing  
8 risk of erosion and deterioration from a combination of high  
9 energy waves, winter surf, tsunami events, sea level rise and  
10 climate change, and coastal erosion and intensive use by people  
11 accessing the shoreline. Estimates indicate that nearly half of  
12 all visitors to Oahu visit the north shore during their stay,  
13 and most of the shoreline beach parks and coastal access areas  
14 along the north shore have visibly inadequate infrastructure to  
15 handle the high number of residents and the millions of visitors  
16 who are attracted to these beaches each year, causing additional  
17 erosion and damage to natural resources. North shore beaches  
18 also serve as a key habitat for endangered and threatened



1 species, such as the green sea turtle and the Hawaiian monk  
2 seal, which frequent beaches that are at risk of loss of sand  
3 and turbidity from coastal erosion.

4       Recently, homes in the Ke Nui road area on the north shore  
5 have been damaged and are still at risk from high surf and  
6 eroding beaches, causing significant disruption and calls for  
7 government action in the short- and long-term for beachside  
8 homeowners. In addition, some key sections of Kamehameha  
9 highway, including sections along Laniakea beach and Chun's  
10 reef, are currently subject to erosion due to high surf and  
11 storm events, and loss of sand. The Pupukea marine life  
12 conservation district, which stretches from Waimea bay to  
13 Shark's cove, is experiencing high levels of shoreline erosion  
14 due to poor management, severely eroded walkways due to lack of  
15 infrastructure and planning, and parking lot and road collapse  
16 due to sink holes and over-use. Other areas along the coastline  
17 are at risk from the lack of overall planning for protection of  
18 the beaches, beach access areas, and shoreline uses.  
19 Nonetheless, Hawaii's beaches and coastline are part of the  
20 public trust, held by the State for the benefit of the people,  
21 and the State has a fiduciary duty to affirmatively protect  
22 beaches and coastal access.



1           Therefore, the legislature finds that long-term protection  
2 of the northwest-facing north shore beaches from Haleiwa to  
3 Kahuku, which are subject to a common wave regime and share  
4 common beach erosion characteristics, requires a comprehensive  
5 assessment and modern management plan that recognizes the risks  
6 of climate change and sea level rise. The large number of  
7 government, business, private, and community entities involved  
8 in the north shore would benefit from participating in the  
9 development and implementation of a comprehensive beach  
10 management plan for this vulnerable area.

11           In 2010, the University of Hawaii sea grant college program  
12 successfully produced a beach and dune management plan for  
13 Kailua beach, which provided an extensive analysis of the  
14 current state of this important beach and recommended management  
15 measures for federal, state, and local government, as well as  
16 community partners, in response to threats such as climate  
17 change and sea level rise. This study serves as a useful  
18 prototype for the implementation of beach management plans at  
19 other locations and demonstrates the effectiveness of location-  
20 specific beach management policies and practices, which the  
21 north shore would greatly benefit from. The north shore's  
22 northwest-facing coastline is more than five times longer than



1 the 2.6 mile stretch of Kailua beach surveyed and will require  
2 greater funding and resources to accomplish such comprehensive  
3 planning.

4 The purpose of this Act is to provide funds for the  
5 University of Hawaii sea grant college program to conduct a  
6 study and create a north shore beach management plan, with  
7 substantial community input, over a two-year period.

8 SECTION 2. The University of Hawaii sea grant college  
9 program shall, over a period of two years, conduct a study and  
10 create a north shore beach management plan for the north shore  
11 of Oahu. The study and plan shall include substantial community  
12 input and shall include various scenarios covering a period of  
13 twenty to one hundred years. Recommendations may include  
14 measures such as condemnation of beachfront property and  
15 structures, which may be leased back to current owners, and  
16 other innovative means to address erosion of private property.  
17 In addition, recommendations may include bike path planning to  
18 connect the entire coastline from Turtle Bay to Haleiwa in order  
19 to set homes and vehicular traffic back from the beach and  
20 ensure that recreational access, vistas, and traffic issues  
21 relating to the receding coastline will be addressed.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the  
4 University of Hawaii sea grant college program to conduct a  
5 study and create a comprehensive north shore beach management  
6 plan for the north shore of Oahu pursuant to this Act.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
8 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. Moneys appropriated pursuant to this Act shall  
10 be considered expended upon distribution to the University of  
11 Hawaii.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

**Report Title:**

North Shore of Oahu; Beach Management Plan; University of Hawaii  
Sea Grant College Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii sea grant college  
program to conduct a study and create a north shore beach  
management plan for the north shore of Oahu.

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

