
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 Sunset beach
3 to Waimea bay, is a spectacular coastline of primary importance
4 to state residents and visitors from around the world for its
5 beautiful sandy beaches, famous surf breaks, recreational
6 opportunities, marine resources and wildlife, and vistas.
7 Several important north shore beaches are at increasing risk of
8 erosion and deterioration from a combination of high energy
9 waves, winter surf, tsunami events, sea level rise and climate
10 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.



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

16 Nonetheless, Hawaii's beaches and coastline are part of the
17 public trust, held by the State for the benefit of the people,
18 and the State has a fiduciary duty to affirmatively protect
19 beaches and coastal access.

20 Therefore, the legislature finds that long-term protection
21 of the northwest-facing north shore beaches from Sunset beach to
22 Waimea bay, which are subject to a common wave regime and share



1 common beach erosion characteristics, requires a comprehensive
2 assessment and modern management plan that recognizes the risks
3 of climate change and sea level rise. The large number of
4 government, business, private, and community entities involved
5 in the north shore would benefit from participating in the
6 development and implementation of a comprehensive beach
7 management plan for this vulnerable area.

8 In 2010, the University of Hawaii sea grant college program
9 successfully produced a beach and dune management plan for
10 Kailua beach, which provided an extensive analysis of the
11 current state of this important beach and recommended management
12 measures for federal, state, and local government, as well as
13 community partners, in response to threats such as climate
14 change and sea level rise. This study serves as a useful
15 prototype for the implementation of beach management plans at
16 other locations and demonstrates the effectiveness of location-
17 specific beach management policies and practices, which the
18 north shore would greatly benefit from. The north shore's
19 northwest-facing coastline is more than five times longer than
20 the 2.6 mile stretch of Kailua beach surveyed and will require
21 greater funding and resources to accomplish such comprehensive
22 planning.



1 The purpose of this Act is to provide funds for the
2 University of Hawaii sea grant college program to create a north
3 shore beach management plan covering the area from Sunset beach
4 to Waimea bay, with substantial community input, over a two-year
5 period.

6 SECTION 2. (a) Over the course of a two-year period, the
7 University of Hawaii sea grant college program shall create a
8 north shore beach management plan for the area of the north
9 shore of Oahu that stretches from Sunset beach to Waimea bay.
10 The University of Hawaii sea grant college program shall ensure
11 the inclusion of substantial community input in developing the
12 plan. The plan shall consider innovative means to address
13 erosion of private property, including recommendations to set
14 homes and vehicular traffic back from the beach and to address
15 recreational access, vistas, and traffic issues relating to the
16 receding coastline.

17 (b) The plan under subsection (a) shall also include:
18 (1) Long- and short-term planning and climate change
19 scenarios;
20 (2) Temporary and emergency erosion management;
21 (3) Beach and dune management techniques based on sediment
22 transport;



- 1 (4) Shoreline public access management and foot traffic
- 2 control;
- 3 (5) Beach and dune nourishment;
- 4 (6) Longer-term coastal land use strategies;
- 5 (7) Shoreline protection and erosion management;
- 6 (8) Shoreline setbacks, rolling easements, and land
- 7 acquisition;
- 8 (9) Public park expansion, land swaps, and transfer of
- 9 development rights;
- 10 (10) Innovative means to adapt to coastal hazards; and
- 11 (11) Climate change.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
 15 University of Hawaii sea grant college program to create a
 16 comprehensive north shore beach management plan for the north
 17 shore of Oahu stretching from Sunset beach to Waimea bay
 18 pursuant to this Act.

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

21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



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 create a north shore beach management plan for the
north shore of Oahu stretching from Sunset beach to Waimea bay.
Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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