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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, February 25, 2014
9:10 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3036, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU

Senate Bill 3036, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program (UH Sea Grant) to conduct a study and create a beach management plan for the north shore of Oahu. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget request.**

This legislation endeavors to improve understanding and management of beach resources along the fifteen-mile stretch of coastline from Haleiwa to Kahuku Point, which is of primary importance to state residents and visitors from around the world for its beautiful beaches, world-class surf breaks, and marine resources.

As you know, part of the Department's mission is to manage coastal areas and ocean resources through the Department's Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL). A recent study by University of Hawaii and United States (US) Geological Survey researchers¹ finds the 73% of beaches along the north shore of Oahu are undergoing a long-term trend of beach erosion (shoreline retreat). The threat of seasonal erosion and inundation during large waves may be an even greater hazard along many north shore beaches. Management and conservation of north shore beaches is further challenged by a legacy of concentrated development too close to hazard-prone shorelines, as well as impacts from intensive public use. Frequency and severity of coastal erosion and coastal flooding events will only increase with increasing rates of sea level rise in the coming decades.

¹ Fletcher, C.H., *et al.*, 2012, National assessment of shoreline change: Historical shoreline change in the Hawaiian Islands: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2011-1051, 55 p.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIAAINA
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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LAND
STATE PARKS

The Department has been especially busy with beach management efforts on the north shore over the last several months with a series of highly publicized coastal erosion events in the Sunset Beach area. The Department is working closely with local residents and county and federal agencies to coordinate and authorize short-term solutions to manage these erosion problems, while also working to protect public beach and marine resources.

The Department, county, and federal agencies that share regulatory oversight of the north shore, as well as the local community and property owners would greatly benefit from improved scientific information on beach processes through a coordinated, community-supported beach management plan guiding future beach management efforts.

The Department has worked closely with UH Sea Grant for over 10 years in support of the OCCL Coastal Lands Program. Collaborative efforts between the Department and UH Sea Grant include development of the Kailua Beach and Dune Management Plan in 2010. UH Sea Grant is ideally suited to develop a north shore beach management plan as a neutral broker and due to the organization's affiliations with UH researchers and expertise in community extension and outreach.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 9:10 am

By
E. Gordon Grau, PhD, Director
and
Dolan Eversole, Extension Agent
Sea Grant College Program
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 3036 SD1 – RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU

The UH Sea Grant strongly supports SB3036 SD1 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget. This legislation endeavors to improve the scientific understanding and sustainable management of beach resources along North Shore of O'ahu from Hale'iwa to Kahuku Point. This heavily used coastal stretch is world renown for its beautiful beaches, world-class surf breaks, and marine resources and warrants a dedicated regional beach and dune management plan to conserve and sustainably manage this unique area.

The North Shore community has expressed strong interest and support for a beach management plan. The development of a regional beach management plan requires the support and participation of the community in order to ensure successful implementation of priority management strategies. In this respect UH Sea Grant also supports and encourages the planned "community conversations" to discuss the objectives of the plan and allow an opportunity for the community to share their comments, ideas and concerns for the management of this community resource.

SB3036 SD1 intends to support the development of a coastal processes study and create a north shore beach management plan, with substantial community and stakeholder input, over a two-year period. The University of Hawai'i is well positioned to carry this out and has successfully developed similar beach and dune management plans in Hawai'i including the [Kailua Beach and Dune Management Plan](#) and the [Beach Management Plan for Maui](#).

While UH Sea Grant strongly supports the overall intent of SB3036 SD1, we recommend that the proposed legislation be amended as follows:

1. Page 5, Line 10-11. Remove reference to developing disaster recovery plans as part of this effort in the bill as this may be beyond the initial scope of a beach management plan. This is a more involved process that requires a different set

of stakeholders and will require its' own plan. Rewording this section to "shall consider and provide a summary...." or similar instead of "shall include..." would help.

2. Page 4 line 17. Clarify the type of "scenarios" in this section perhaps "planning and climate change...." would be sufficient. Delete reference to specific planning timeframes of 20 to 100 years. Inclusion of the terms "long and short term" would be more appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Name/Title: Rafael Bergstrom, Surfrider Oahu Chapter Administrator; Junior Researcher,
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, UH Manoa

Committee: WAM

Date/Time: Tuesday February 25th 2014, 9:15 AM

Measure Number: SB 3036

Aloha Committee Members,

I would like to voice my strong support for SB 3036. The North Shore of Oahu from Sunset to Waimea is under considerable threat from the forces of nature. Climate is changing and the seas are most certainly rising as increasing global surface temperatures causes the oceans to expand and the melting of polar ice caps adds large amounts of water to our seas. Major storm surges are already having dramatic effects on our coastlines at Rocky Point and this is only likely to increase as beach erosion on the north shore is accelerated by all the development that was allowed close to the shore in the last 50 years. It's time to begin an action plan now before much more consistent and major events threaten the existence of this island's most famous beaches.

Many options exist for responding to these changing conditions and it is important that a well researched plan for reclaiming the necessary lands and keeping our beaches intact is thought out before the problem worsens. Please consider SB 3036 to be a major effort in this area of coastal zone planning and a strategy that seeks to solve the problem before the consequences are realized to their full extent.

Thank you for reading my testimony and please vote in support of SB 3036.

Cheers,

Rafael Bergstrom

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ahuntemer@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3036 on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2014 2:57:10 PM

SB3036

Submitted on: 2/23/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Huntemer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of SB3036. Please allow studies of beach erosion on the North Shore by releasing these funds and passing this bill. Results here, will contribute to an important body of knowledge that will be much relied upon in the coming years..Mahalo. Angela Huntemer, M.Ed.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: carolphilips1@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3036 on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 3:29:27 PM

SB3036

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol Philips	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee, I am in strong support of SB3035. Please pass this bill. The North Shore and it's beaches are a world resource and this bill will help find a way to manage this area for generations to come. Respectfully, Carol

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: antolinid@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3036 on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 8:49:56 AM

SB3036

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Antolini	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani, and members of the committee, I write in STRONG SUPPORT of SB3036, which would fund a North Shore Beach Management Plan, through the Sea Grant program at the University of Hawaii. I recommend one key amendment to return to the original intent of the bill: ** broaden the area to be studied to include at least Laniakea/Chun's Reef to Velseyland as part of the beach management plan - so it should read "northwest facing shore, from Laniakea to Velseyland" While I am appreciative that HRE/WAL passed the bill, the committees' amendments that narrowed the scope only to "Sunset to Waimea" do not make policy, scientific, or planning sense. This measure is a wise investment of state resources in ensuring the long-term protection of North Shore beaches that are a vital recreational resource to the entire island. The plan, with extensive community and agency collaboration, would be a model for Hawaii's climate adaptation planning of our shorelines. As the Feb 18 2014 Star-Advertiser Editorial stated (referring to SB3035 and SB3036): "These bills should pass, sending a clear message that further delay is simply intolerable. Government may drag its heels on a highway project, but erosion won't wait forever. The end result we don't want is for the sea to claim Kamehameha Highway." Or for that matter, the invaluable public trust resources -- our beaches -- along our shorelines. Mahalo for your consideration and passing this bill! Sincerely, Denise Antolini Pupukea resident

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From: [Gil Riviere](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB3036
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 1:31:45 PM

Support for SB3036

SB3036 proactively addresses coastal erosion along shorelines that have recently and dramatically been affected. Success of this study and action plan will be useful for guidance statewide as other coastlines are impacted.

Thank you.

Gil Riviere
Waialua, HI

From: [Randy Rarick](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: *****SPAM***** SB 3036 February 25, 9:10am
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2014 7:56:16 AM

2/23/2014

Dear Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani and members of the Committee.

Please pass SB 3036! I have lived at Sunset Beach for forty-five years and have witnessed first hand, the problems the North Shore is having. The State-wide benefits of a beach management plan can not be understated. Through the sponsorship of the VANS Triple Crown of Surfing events, millions of dollars of impact take place on the North Shore. The entire surfing industry and community is behind this bill and strongly urge you to pass it.

Thank You!

Randy Rarick
Executive Director, VANS Triple Crown of Surfing
59-063 A Hoalua St
Haleiwa, Hawaii 96712
(808) 638-7266

Erosion at Sunset Beach Bike Path



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: leinaur001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3036 on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 10:09:10 AM

SB3036

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roberts Leinau	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please .. now is the time

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From: [Sally and Peter Cole](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: *****SPAM***** SB3036 North Shore Beach Management
Date: Saturday, February 22, 2014 10:10:34 PM

Dear Chair Ige, Vice-Chair Kidani, and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB3036. Please pass this bill.

I also feel it is more appropriate to extend the management area to include from Laniakea Beach to Velzeyland Beach.

My name is Sarah Cole and I am a resident of Sunset Beach.

Mahalo.