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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 12, 2014
9:30 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3036, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU

Senate Bill 3036, Senate Draft 2 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.

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

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

JESSE K. SOUKI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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LAND
STATE PARKS

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.

DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



CHRIS T. TAKASHIGE, P.E., CCM
DIRECTOR

MARK YONAMINE, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 10, 2014

The Honorable Faye Hanohano, Chair
and Members
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, and Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hanohano and Members:

Senate Bill No. 3036 SD2, Relating to Beach Management for the North Shore of Oahu

The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) respectfully **supports** Senate Bill 3036 SD2, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College program to create a beach management plan for the north shore of Oahu stretching from Waimea Bay to Sunset Beach. City beach parks comprise a significant portion of the total land area along the specified coastline.

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is responsible for operation and maintenance of the City's parks. The Department of Design and Construction works with DPR on matters concerning park facilities and supporting infrastructure, including threats to park land and facilities by shoreline erosion. The proposed legislation would provide a comprehensive approach to addressing an ongoing problem that is expected to increase due to climate change and the associated sea level rise projected to occur over the coming decades.

The City has begun to address the problem at our shoreline parks, but has not yet formulated a plan for the area addressed in this bill. The City contracted with Sea Engineering, Incorporated, to prepare an April 2010 report entitled, *City Beach Parks Erosion Study, Island Of O'ahu, Hawaii*. This report surveyed the entire island's shoreline with the exception of the Leeward coast. The Leeward shoreline is presently under study by the same firm. The City also has plans to address the protection of City infrastructure and beach resources at Hale'iwa, Punalu'u and Hau'ula Beach Parks. The proposed beach management plan would complement, but would not duplicate, the City's ongoing efforts in this regard.

The City would welcome the opportunity to participate in the beach management planning process and would have an implementation role for shoreline areas where the City owns and/or controls public park lands.

The Honorable Faye Hanohano, Chair and Members
March 10, 2014
Page Two

For these reasons, DDC respectfully **supports** Senate Bill 3036 SD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,


Chris Takashige, P.E., CCM
Director



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 9:30 am

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

SB 3036 SD2 – RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU

The UH Sea Grant strongly supports SB3036 SD2 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 SD2 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 SD2, we recommend the geographic scope of the plan be based on community input of beach management concerns that may include for example, areas like Waimea Bay and Laniakea.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Denise Antolini
59-463 Alapi‘o Road, Pūpūkea, O‘ahu 96712
(808) 554-7215 antolinid@gmail.com

Hearing on SB3036 SD2
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources & Hawaiian Affairs (OMH)
Hearing: Mar. 12, 2014, 9:30 am Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

I write in **STRONG SUPORT OF SB3036** introduced by Senator Clayton Hee, whose district includes the proposed project area. This bill will support and fund a **North Shore Beach Management Plan** under the leadership of the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College. The plan will involve public-private partnerships and be community driven as everyone works together toward sustaining our islands’ precious coastal resources.

*Please amend the geographic scope of the bill back toward the original intent – the scope needs to cover at least the ahupua‘a of **Kawailoa to Waiale‘e** to address the beach erosion problems at the key recreational beaches from Laniakea to Velseyland. The current scope - “Waimea to Sunset Beach” – makes little sense and is too narrow.*

The combination of climate change impacts such as sea level rise and episodic coastal erosion have already been particularly damaging to this “northwest” facing stretch of the North Shore, from Hale‘iwa to Kahuku. Stretches of Kamehameha Highway near the beach in this area are already obviously undermined and experience wash-over in high surf/tides. Several private homes at Ke Nui Road have recently been hit by high surf events and more heart-breaking impacts on beachfront homeowners are surely coming in the future.

More important, the beach itself -- a public trust asset that belongs to everyone – has substantially narrowed in many areas and is not proactively or adequately managed for the long-term. Reacting to acute damage situations with short-term solutions such as hardening the shoreline or seawalls will only lead to further disaster for the common resource.

A NSBMP would ultimately save considerable time and money for the state, city, and community by coordinating and integrating city-state-community planning efforts along this shoreline. Sea Grant has considerable expertise in this area, having completed the Kailua Beach and Dune Management Plan in 2010 and is well positioned to lead this community planning effort, which can become a model for future collaborative efforts in other beach areas statewide. As the attached Star-Advertiser editorial states: It’s time to be *proactive* to protect Hawai‘i’s critical beaches and coastlines. The NSBMP will be a major step forward for all of us.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Protect highway, improve access to shoreline - Hawaii News –
Honolulu Star-Advertiser
StarAdvertiser.com

Protect highway, improve access to shoreline
POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Feb 18, 2014

“Lawmakers have seized an opportunity to deal with the North Shore erosion problem in a way that makes sense: by pairing the goals of protecting the highway and improving public use of the shoreline. . . . [references to SB3035 omitted]

What matters more than the sequence of events is that there's some kind of coordination here to make the best use of public land and money, addressing the twin issues of erosion and beach access. If that's managed successfully here, the plan can serve as a template for many more coastal areas where these issues arise.

To that point, Hee is also pressing for another piece of legislation to expand the area where comprehensive shoreline management planning can take place. **SB 3036** would allot an unspecified amount of money for the Sea Grant College to create a North Shore beach management plan covering the area from Sunset Beach to Waimea Bay. The focus would be on dealing with erosion and other threats of sea-level rise, but smart planning would produce coastal road adjustments that mesh well with recreation, too.

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.”

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 09, 2014 12:41 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: Kent@TRIsland.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB3036 on Mar 12, 2014 09:30AM*

SB3036

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 12, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kent Fonoimoana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: omhtestimony
Cc: ahuntemer@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3036 on Mar 12, 2014 09:30AM

SB3036

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 12, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: Aloha Committee Members, Please support the passage of SB3036. It would initiate hopefully the first of many opportunities for science- based mitigation measures to address the effects of climate change in our coastal areas. Increased storm activity, sea level rise, warming, acidification, salt water intrusion, increases in invasive species, decreases in native species are just a few of the climate related issues that can be proactively addressed by the passing of SB3036. I am currently a participant in NOAA's Climate Stewards Program and so take a great deal of interest in this topic. There are other non-climate related problems such as runoff of silt and chemicals into the ocean, The silt smothers the reef, the chemicals poison animals, plants and people. Development along our coastlines further jeopardizes the integrity of our watershed and wetland systems. I have personally witnessed an enormous amount of human- generated erosion here over the past 13 years I have lived on the North Shore. There is a lot of pedestrian generated erosion in heavily used areas like Lanai's, Chun's, Three Tables and Sharks Cove. There are other problems too that you are aware of such as houses falling into the ocean and the only road from Haleiwa to Kahaluu being inundated. As you are all well aware, the North Shore is home to many candidate, threatened and endangered species of plants and animals. The marine, shoreline and wetland habitats are a precious resource for all the people of Hawaii and our visitors to enjoy. Even the fact that we have coral reef here makes it special and fragile. There are measures that can be taken to mitigate these problems such as, limiting the use of chemicals on the land, restoring watershed and wetland systems, protecting our herbivorous fish, restricting development in coastal areas, increasing setbacks of development, restoring coastal vegetation and removal of invasives both in and out of the water, SB3036 will help us identify, prepare and respond to climate change impacts and others. The resulting management program could be a model for the rest of the State of Hawaii and even the world. Mahalo for your time and attention. Angela Huntemer M.Ed. Kahuku Resident

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Cc: annietbi@hotmail.com
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SB3036

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 12, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Gommers	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the SB 3036 plan for the North Shore but ask that it also be extended to Kaena Point...we have serious erosion issues at Mokuleia and houses are on the edge of falling in!!! across from the Dillingham airport!! Thank you all for your service... Sincerely, Ann Gommers
Waiialua, HI 96791

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To: omhtestimony
Cc: gil@gilriviere.com
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SB3036

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 12, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gil Riviere	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Chair Hanohano and Representatives, SB3036 will improve planning for coastal areas subject to erosion throughout the state. The two dramatic erosion events that occurred near Sunset Beach this winter remind us that our shoreline is subject to great fluctuation that can quickly destroy both private and state infrastructure. Now is the time to review the science and make a plan for the future. Thank you for your support. Gil Riviere Waialua, HI

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Cc: nimboy44@aol.com
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SB3036

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 12, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Preserving our shoreline is critical. We need to take action to preserve the shoreline as quickly as possible and not just wait for the next time we have 60 foot waves. We dodged the bullet this time. We won't always be that lucky.

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Cc: brimohi@msn.com
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SB3036

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 12, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Emmons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: pamelaboyar@gmail.com
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SB3036

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 12, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Boyar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: andreaswimsunset@yahoo.com
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SB3036

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 12, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Woods	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Our beaches are a large part of what makes Hawaii a prime visitor destination. As we see more and more beach erosion, it is time to proactively study the situation so that a plan can be devised to best protect this most valuable resource.

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SB3036

Submitted on: 3/9/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 12, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Evern Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: omhtestimony
Cc: vallohfoto@yahoo.com
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SB3036

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 12, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Loh	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please vote to support SB3036. Thanks very much!

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SB3036

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 12, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: Please support this important bill

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Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
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SB3036

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for OMH on Mar 12, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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