

JAN 27 2016

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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 the Kawaiiloa  
3 to Waiale'e ahupua'a is a spectacular coastline of primary  
4 importance to state residents and visitors from around the world  
5 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.



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, storm  
8 events, and loss of sand. The Pupukea marine life conservation  
9 district, which stretches from Waimea bay to Shark's cove, is  
10 experiencing high levels of shoreline erosion due to poor  
11 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 the Kawaihoa to



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

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



1 greater funding and resources to accomplish such comprehensive  
2 planning.

3 The purpose of this Act is to provide funds for the  
4 University of Hawaii sea grant college program to create a north  
5 shore beach management plan covering the area from the Kawaiiloa  
6 to Waiale'e ahupua'a, with substantial community input, over a  
7 two-year period.

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

19 (b) The plan under subsection (a) shall also include:

20 (1) Long- and short-term planning and climate change  
21 scenarios;



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

14          SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so  
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for  
17 the University of Hawaii sea grant college program to create a  
18 comprehensive north shore beach management plan for the north  
19 shore of Oahu stretching from the Kawaihoa to Waiale'e ahupua'a  
20 pursuant to this Act.

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

3           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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# S.B. NO. 2972

**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 the Kawaiiloa to Waiale'e  
ahupua'a.

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

