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**Sent:** Monday, February 29, 2016 9:39 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** darakawa@lurf.org  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2563 on Mar 2, 2016 11:00AM

**HB2563**

Submitted on: 2/29/2016

Testimony for FIN on Mar 2, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS HB 2563,HD1, which appropriates funds for the restoration of a continuous beach and infrastructure for public access along the Waikiki waterfront; and respectfully urges favorable consideration by this Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this measure.

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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Testimony Presented Before the  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**March 2, 2016 at 11:00am**  
Conference Room 308

**Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District Association**  
By  
Rick Egged

**HB2563 HD1– RELATING TO BEACHES**

Chair: Luke, Vice Chair: Nishimoto, and members of the committees:

The Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District Association (WBSIDA) **supports the general intent of House Bill 2563 HD1**. This legislation appropriates funds for the restoration of a continuous beach and infrastructure for public access along the Waikiki waterfront. **The WBSIDA does have some questions and concern about the sequencing and scope for the public access infrastructure (multi-use pedestrian and bike path) portion of the plan but supports the intent to study beach improvements.**

Hawaii’s beaches have become increasingly threatened by coastal erosion. According to the United States Geological Service (USGS) National Assessment of Shoreline Change for the Hawaiian Islands, 70% of Hawaii’s beaches are eroding and 13 miles of beach have been lost over the last century. Beach erosion effects shoreline access, recreation and cultural activities, coastal ecosystems and environments, and our economy. Beaches are the backbone of Hawaii’s \$15 Billion tourism industry and are central to Hawaii’s unique culture and lifestyle. With sea-level rise and chronic coastal erosion, the state is challenged to find effective and efficient ways to preserve and maintain our naturally occurring sand beaches. We believe the proposed legislation will support small-scale beach maintenance projects that attempt to address this issue.

Waikīkī Beach is a globally recognized icon of Hawai‘i and is the state’s largest tourist destination. Waikīkī generates approximately 42% of the state’s visitor industry revenue and is responsible for 8% (\$5 billion) of the Gross State Product<sup>1</sup>. Beaches are a primary attraction for visitors to Waikīkī. It has been estimated that Waikīkī Beach accounts for over \$2 billion in annual income for the local economy<sup>2</sup>. However, a 2008 survey found that 12% of visitors

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.waikikibid.org/>

<sup>2</sup> Waikīkī Improvement Association (2008) *Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikiki Beach, Final Report*.

would not return to Waikīkī due, in part, to limited beach area and resulting overcrowding<sup>2</sup>. Waikīkī Beach also has tremendous cultural significance as a former playground of Hawaiian royalty and the birthplace of the sport and culture of surfing. The beaches and myriad of world-renowned surf breaks and reef ecosystem located offshore are valuable natural resources that support the culture and lifestyle of Hawai‘i, and the idyllic image of Waikīkī.

HB2563 HD1 appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the planning and design of beach improvements for the stretch between the Royal Hawaiian groin and the Fort Derussy Storm drain. This stretch of iconic Waikīkī shoreline has not had any beach restoration or maintenance project since the construction of a series of 8 groins in the area in the 1940’s followed by small-scale beach fill in the late 1960’s. No other efforts to restore or maintain the beach have occurred since then. The WBSIDA supports the intent to further enhance the beach area along stretch of shoreline which is currently mostly beachless or very narrow wet beaches.

HB2563 HD1 also calls for enhancing public access by creating a mutli-use pathway through this section of coast, possibly in conjunction with the beach improvements. The WBSIDA has some concerns about this portion of the bill and how it would be done in sequence with the beach improvements and how the pathway would be managed and maintained.

WBSIDA is a non-profit which has the ability to partially support beach improvement projects in the Waikīkī district as a public-private partnership. The WBSIDA supports the general intent of HB2563 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 11:00 A.M.  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

**RE: HOUSE BILL 2563 HD 1 RELATING TO TOURISM**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 2563 HD 1, which appropriates funds for the restoration of a continuous beach and infrastructure for public access along the Waikiki waterfront.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Waikiki beach plays both a vital part to the state's tourism industry as well as the recreational relaxation for residents. Preserving the Waikiki shoreline is crucial to maintaining public access for visitors and residents alike. HB 2563 HD 1 provides state assistance in conjunction with private funds to initiate a plan to restore Waikiki beach and maintain its status as a world-class destination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

March 2, 2016, 11:00 A.M., Room 308

(Testimony is 1 page long)

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2563 HD1**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the Committee:

Blue Planet Foundation supports HB 2563 HD1, which would appropriate funding for beach restoration efforts and the development of a multi-use pedestrian bicycle path through the Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District.

Waikiki Beach is an important asset to Hawaii's visitor economy and ensuring the preservation of the beach will help keep the state's visitor economy strong. It is equally important to secure and maintaining non-vehicular access to and along the beach in order to ensure that both visitors and residents alike can access and enjoy Waikiki's shoreline.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 12:00 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** Alamea\_L@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2563 on Mar 2, 2016 11:00AM

**HB2563**

Submitted on: 3/1/2016

Testimony for FIN on Mar 2, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaalamealii	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, my name is Ka'alameali'i Lavin and also a high school senior and i am supporting of this bill. Mahalo

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Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann  
President & CEO  
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Committee on Finance

House Bill 2563 HD1: Relating to Tourism

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. On behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, we support the intent of House Bill 2563 HD1 which offers to appropriate funds for the restoration of a continuous beach and infrastructure for public access along the Waikiki waterfront.

The Waikiki beachfront plays a very essential role in our state's hospitality industry, and in turn in our economy. In 2015 the visitor industry generated a record \$15.2 billion in visitor spending, a large majority of that revenue being generated in Waikiki.

Beaches are the alluring factor to our islands and a staple reason why visitors travel here. It is crucial that we not only maintain our beaches but improve them. HB 2563 HD1 offers state funds to accompany private funds in the restoration and maintenance of Waikiki beach, in particular the area between the Royal Hawaiian groin and the Fort DeRussy storm drain groin. This stretch of shoreline is currently being underutilized as most of the land comprises beach less walkways or very narrow beachfronts. With the last restoration project for this particular stretch taking place many, many years ago we support the legislature's intent for a beach enhancement project.

HB 2563 HD1 also addresses the planning and design of a multi-use pedestrian and bicycle path that allows access throughout the length of the shoreline. Enhanced public pathways are important to maintaining and ensuring consistent access to our beaches for our visitors and residents alike. Currently the public access route along Waikiki Beach is well maintained and offers a sound source of public access along the Waikiki Coast, with the exception of the public access pathway between the Fort DeRussy and the Royal Hawaiian Groins. This stretch of shoreline is a mix of small beaches and narrow walkways, and can pose potential hazards for its patrons.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.