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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, February 26, 2015
9:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 204, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU

Senate Bill 204, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program (UH Sea Grant) to create a beach management plan for the north shore of Oahu stretching from the Kawailoa to Waiale'e ahupua'a. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Biennium Budget request.**

This legislation endeavors to improve understanding and management of beach resources along the fifteen-mile stretch of coastline from Haleiwa through Sunset Beach, 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 researchers from the University of Hawaii (UH) and United States Geological Survey¹ 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

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.

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 past year 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's 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
February 26, 2015 at 9:00am

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Darren Lerner, Director
Dolan Eversole, Extension Agent
Sea Grant College Program
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 204 SD1 – RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB204 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 Kawailoa to Waiale'e ahupua'a, roughly Laniakea to Sunset Beach. 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 community discussion on the topic to review 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.

SB204 SD1 provides support for the development of a coastal processes study and creates a science-based 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](#).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

<http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/kailua-beach-and-dune-management-plan>

<http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/sites/default/files/publications/MauiBeachManagementPlan2008.pdf>

DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



ROBERT J. KRONING, P.E.
DIRECTOR

MARK YONAMINE, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 25, 2015

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
and Members
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Room 207
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 204, Relating to Beach Management for the North Shore of Oahu

The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) respectfully **supports** Senate Bill No. 204, 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 the Kawailoa to Waiale'e ahupua'a. 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. DDC works with DPR on matters concerning park facilities and 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. A Leeward shoreline study by the same firm has been recently completed. 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.

For these reasons, DDC respectfully **supports** Senate Bill 204.

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda
and Members
February 25, 2015
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,


Robert J. Kroning, P.E.
Director

SB204

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS SB 204, SD1, which 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 Kawailoa to Waiale'e ahupua'a. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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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SB204

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dolan Eversole	HSBPA	Support	No

Comments:

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SB204

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Co	Harold K.L. Castle Foundation	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of Senate Ways and Means Committee, The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation writes in support of SB 204. A very similar bill introduced as SB 3036 last year garnered lots of public support mustered through a series of public meetings held along the North Shore. Relevant State resource management agencies and the county also supported it. As an organization committed to natural resource management through a collaborative, community-based approach these expressions of broad-based, cross-sectoral agency and community support are important to us. We at the Foundation envision that the study this bill would produce would trigger a process wherein UH Seagrant would work with local community interests to explore a comprehensive approach to beach erosion and coastal resource management. However, we are not convinced that beach replenishment is the most effective, nor long-term solution to the challenges our coastlines face. Consequently, we feel that a comprehensive plan should consist of other considerations that would fortify and, and perhaps reduce the amount of, beach replenishment that might take place. The Foundation would hope that the study would ultimately prescribe a scientifically-sound, environmentally responsible, and community-supported action plan for addressing imminent coastal threats. Thank you for your consideration of this bill and the invitation to testify.

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SB204

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: Please look to the future in finding ways to protect one of our island's most valuable resources. Oceans levels are rising, and the state needs to act now in addressing this issue.

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SB204

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: Aloha, I support SB204 because having the University of Hawaii Sea Grant develop a North Shore Beach Management Plan from Kawailoa to Waiale'e. This plan will provide information that can be used to support other management plans in the islands. Mahalo. Angela Huntmer M Ed North Shore resident.

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SB204

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: As a North Shore resident, I write in strong SUPPORT of SB204. This bill is important not just to the North Shore but to all coastal communities in Hawaii because it will (1) produce current and credible scientific information about coastal erosion and, (2) develop a realistic community action plan for addressing imminent coastal threats. Last session, the predecessor of this bill -- SB3036 -- passed every committee with overwhelmingly positive testimony. The bill died only in the last minute budget negotiations. The reasons for such strong support: the impact of coastal erosion particularly in this area of the North Shore is significant and needs immediate attention. Thank you for your support of SB204 and for the opportunity to testify.

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Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday February 26, 2015, 9:00a
by
Kevin Kelly, Resident of Wialua

SB204 – RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU

Chair Tokuda , Vice-chair Kouchi , and members of the Ways & Means Committee,

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** for SB204 SD1 that 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. I can speak professionally as a marine geologist and as a concerned resident of the North Shore that until we understand the nearshore dynamics of sand transport in light of changing wind and sea conditions resulting from climate change, the state will be ineffective in its shoreline management efforts. This project can perhaps be a model for other communities across the state that are similarly impacted by changing shorelines and hopefully the lessons learned here can be used to make wise land use and infrastructure investment decisions along all of our precious coastlines.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committee.

SB204

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucky Cole	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill as this shoreline is in heavy use by residents and visitors during the summer and in the winter surf season. The section from Waimea Bay to Sunset Point is the Pupukea Paumalu Beach Park and includes a marine management zone and the best snorkeling swimming and diving in the summer and the best surf in the world in the winter. We need a shoreline vegetation restoration and management plan to protect this unique resource.

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SB204

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rupert Oberlohr	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Photo shows beach during summer time. Building up the beach during summer months, by allowing more sand to wash in from the ocean, the beach can survive the big surf during winter months. Thank you for your support, Rupert Oberlohr

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SB204

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2015 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
SharLyn Foo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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