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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Monday, February 29, 2016
9:00 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2972
RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH SHORE OF O'AHU

Senate Bill 2972 proposes to appropriate funds to the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) to create a beach management plan for the north shore of O'ahu 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 Supplemental Budget request.**

This legislation endeavors to improve understanding and management of beach resources along the fifteen-mile stretch of coastline from Kawailoa to Waiale'e ahupua'a, 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 Hawai'i (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 as we've witnessed during this year's massive El Niño "fueled" waves. 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

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.

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 several years with a series of highly publicized coastal erosion events in the Sunset Beach area and seawall failures in the Kawaihoa area. The Department is working closely with local residents and county and federal agencies to coordinate and authorize short-term solutions to manage 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 Hawai'i Sea Grant for over 10 years in support of the OCCL's Coastal Lands Program. Collaborative efforts between the Department and Hawai'i Sea Grant include development of the Kailua Beach and Dune Management Plan in 2010. Hawai'i Sea Grant is ideally suited to develop a north shore beach management plan 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

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, February 29, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor
and

Darren T. Lerner, Director
Dolan Eversole, Extension Agent
Sea Grant College Program
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2972 – RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) supports the intent of SB2972 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents approved executive biennium budget. The bill appropriates funds to Hawai'i Sea Grant to create a beach management plan for the north shore of O'ahu stretching from the Kawaihoa to Waiale'e ahupua'a. This legislation endeavors to improve the scientific understanding and sustainable management of beach resources along North Shore of O'ahu from Kawaihoa to Waiale'e ahupua'a, roughly Laniakea beach 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 consistently 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, Hawai'i Sea Grant supports and encourages continued community engagement and discussion on the topic to assist in the development and 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.

Hawai'i'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 Hawai'i's \$15 Billion tourism industry and are

central to Hawai'i'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 sustainable management plans that attempt to address this issue.

There is an increasingly strong scientific consensus that sea-level rise will accelerate in the coming decades. The impacts of this are just beginning to be felt here in Hawai'i with accelerated rates of coastal erosion and increasing frequency of coastal inundation. Hawai'i Sea Grant has been involved with providing scientific and technical support for climate change impacts including sea-level rise to a wide range of stakeholders including communities and state and local agencies statewide. Establishing a beach management plan that recognizes and assesses the impacts of sea-level rise in high risk areas will provide accommodation and mitigation opportunities and offer more policy and regulatory options for future generations of residents and coastal managers dealing with coastal conservation and protection.

This type of environmental policy is consistent with President Obama's 2015 Executive Order 11988 regarding the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard. In recognition of the threat of sea level rise, the U.S. Congress in their FY2016 omnibus package made it a law that federal agencies plan for rising seas in all projects. Executive Order 11988 requires that all projects using federal funding must meet a federal flood risk standard that either:

- 1) Use data and methods "informed by best-available, actionable climate science";
- 2) Build 2 ft. above the 100-year flood elevation for standard projects, and 3 ft. above for critical buildings (hospitals and evacuation centers); or
- 3) Build to the 500-year flood elevation.

SB2972 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](http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/kailua-beach-and-dune-management-plan) and the [Beach Management Plan for Maui](http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/sites/default/files/publications/MauiBeachManagementPlan2008.pdf).

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 26, 2016

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. 2972, Relating to Beach Management for the North Shore of Oahu

The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) respectfully **supports** Senate Bill No. 2972, 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.

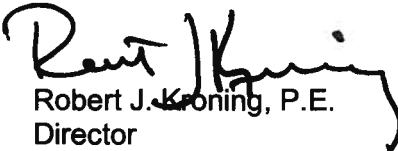
The City would welcome the opportunity to participate in the beach management planning process and would have an implementation role for shoreline areas where the City owns and/or controls public park lands.

For these reasons, DDC respectfully **supports** Senate Bill 2972.

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda
and Members
February 26, 2016
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,


Robert J. Koning, P.E.
Director



Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

2/29/2016 9:00am
Conference Room 211

By
HAWAII SHORE AND BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

In consideration of
SB2972– RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH SHORE OF
OAHU

Chair: Tokuda, Vice Chair: Dela Cruz and members of the committees:

Senate Bill 2972 appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Program to create a beach management plan for the North Shore of Oahu stretching from Kawailoa to Waiale'e.

The Hawaii Shore and Beach Preservation Association (HSBPA)* strongly supports Senate Bill 2972. Recent dramatic beach erosion events on Oahu's North Shore have threatened homes and property. Many HSBPA members have been active participants in observing the events and advising homeowners and government agencies on how best to preserve their property, yet maintain the unique character of the North Shore coastal environment. This environment is dynamic and complex. A comprehensive assessment and modern management plan would benefit the North Shore community and offer a path forward to understand and preserve one of Hawaii's most valuable treasures.

The North Shore community has recently 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 larger community in order to ensure successful implementation of priority management strategies. In this respect, the HSBPA also supports and encourages a continuation of the past "community conversations" to discuss the objectives of a management plan and allow an opportunity



for the community to share their comments, ideas and concerns for the management of this community resource.

*The Hawaii Shore and Beach Preservation Association (HSBPA, <http://www.hawaiishoreandbeach.org/>), formed in 2014, is an organization of private sector, academic, and government professionals, students and local community members dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Hawaii's beaches and coastal environments. The HSBPA aims to bring together various members of the coastal community to foster dialogue and cooperation on beach and coastal resource conservation, management, and regulation; supporting professional development of chapter members; and providing education to students and community members on Hawaii's beaches and coastal environments.

Thank you for considering our testimony on this bill. Please consider HSBPA a resource should you have any questions or want more information about beach preservation and restoration. We can be reached at aloha@hawaiishoreandbeach.org.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: lucky@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2972 on Feb 29, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Saturday, February 27, 2016 6:54:07 PM

SB2972

Submitted on: 2/27/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucky Cole	Keep the North Shore Country	Support	No

Comments: Keep the North Shore Country supports this bill to better understand the shoreline issues on the North Shore and develop a management strategy. The surf causes enormous movement of water and sand along the shoreline and causes damage to private and public property. The increased popularity of the North Shore parks and many public access rights of way causes foot erosion of the sand dunes and berms. This is a resource unique to the State of Hawaii. Mahalo for considering our opinion.

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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February 28, 2016

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Comments and Support of SB 2972 Relating to Beach Management for the North Shore of Oahu. (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.)

WAM Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 1:30 p.m., Conf. Rm. 211

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF’s missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii’s significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support for SB 2972 and comments**. For over a hundred years, LURF members have been long-time stewards of Hawaii’s lands, native endangered and threatened species, and coastlines, including its sandy beaches, surf breaks, recreational opportunities, marine resources and wildlife, and vistas. Over the years, LURF and its members (who include coastal land owners), have worked with a *broad* group of stakeholders dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Hawaii’s shorelines, including, but not limited to, shoreline property owners and businesses that would be affected; private sector, academic and government professionals and organizations, including the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program (Hawaii Sea Grant); federal, State and county government agencies responsible for shoreline areas, and community members and organizations. This broad collaboration has often resulted in *comprehensive* recommendations relating to innovative and environmentally-friendly solutions for managing coastal erosion and to preserve private property rights, as well as Hawaii’s beaches and shoreline environments, culture and way of life.

SB 2972. This measure would appropriate funds to Hawaii Sea Grant over the course of a two-year period, to create a *comprehensive* North Shore Beach Management Plan for the North Shore of Oahu stretching from the Kawailoa to Waiale‘e ahupua‘a. The bill also states, *“The large number of government, business, private, and community entities involved in the north shore would benefit from participating in the development and implementation of a comprehensive beach management plan for this vulnerable area.”*

LURF’s Position and Comments. LURF **supports SB 2972**, and encourages Hawaii Sea Grant to continue its practice of *broad* input from community stakeholders, including, but not limited to, North Shore landowners and businesses who would be affected; private sector, academic and government professionals and organizations; and federal, state and county government agencies and community members and organizations. LURF encourages Hawaii Sea Grant to continue its practice of including *comprehensive* recommendations relating to innovative and environmentally-friendly solutions for managing coastal erosion and to preserve North Shore beaches and shoreline environments.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports SB 2972**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dontbealolo@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2972 on Feb 29, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2016 8:59:34 AM

SB2972

Submitted on: 2/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan Phillips	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: elia94eb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2972 on Feb 29, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Sunday, February 28, 2016 11:18:27 AM

SB2972

Submitted on: 2/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 29, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ELIA BRUNO	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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