

LATE

SCR-63-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 7:00:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiare Lawrence	Testifying for Hawaii alliance for Progressive Action	Oppose	No

Comments:

Granting permits and easements for this seawall would set a horrible precedent and initiate a domino-effect as flanking erosion pushes successive beachfront owners to replace sandbags and open beaches with increasingly hardened structures. In West Maui alone, seawalls have contributed to the loss of approximately four miles of beaches to coastal armoring.

The time is now for the state to act quickly and adopt managed retreat policies. Government officials must balance our natural tendency to persevere against the social and economic costs and risks to personal safety posed by continual development in vulnerable locations.

The reality is most resorts built in Napili to Kaanapali were built on sand dunes. In 2014, the Hololani Resort received approval from the Board of Land and Natural Resources to construct a seawall which is contrary to State policy in general. Four years later we know the ill effects of coastal armoring, much of which is documented in the SLR report the state adopted last year. Now we have much more information that a seawall at this location is no more appropriate than any other location in Hawaii and will set bad policy for the future of Hawaii.

Build Resilience Today

The state needs to focus on building resilience today but also prepare for the future. This will require tough decisions. Some areas will be too vulnerable, despite our best efforts to hold back the sea. Infrastructure and homes will need to be moved away from the threat and the shore opened up to the public.

The political obstacles to this strategy will be severe in many places, but consideration of them should begin now. Tourists come to Hawai'i to enjoy our beaches not our seawalls.

Rather than rely solely on coastal armoring structures, policy makers will need to turn increasingly to land use reform and a policy of managed retreat from the shorelines.

These policies avoid disasters by building resilience, preventing or limiting coastal development in vulnerable locations, and reducing the impact of coastal hazards on infrastructure.

Such proactive non-structural solutions are often more cost effective than coastal armoring over the long-term as they do not require ongoing maintenance, re-building, or repair.

A long-term policy of managed retreat can limit a community's exposure to coastal hazards, save lives and limit the expenditure of public funding on vulnerable infrastructure and response mechanisms

We need to think about our beaches and coastlines as one big, interconnected ecosystem. The water and sand move with the currents, swells and seasons, all supporting a balance of life that has evolved together for thousands of years.

When we disrupt that system by altering the shoreline, it impacts the entire coastline. Creating a structure to collect sand in one area will deplete sand in another. I think the best that we can do is remove all the man-made structures that are disrupting this system and try to regain some type of natural balance again. Yes, that means retreating and removing buildings. Also keep in mind that the beautiful, coarse beach sand that we all love come from coral reefs and parrot fish. Healthy coral reefs and uhu populations are beach making machines, so we also need to focus on bringing back our coral reefs. Buildings can be moved, ecosystems cannot.

LATE

SCR-63-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 4:43:37 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 4:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
elizabeth blalock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Seawalls are temporary solutions that benefit one property but cause increased erosion on adjacent neighbors' properties as is evident on all our residential beaches where some have pre-permit grandfathered in walls and some do not.

This wall should not be allowed.