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COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LANDS
Senator Kaiali`i Kahale, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

Friday, February 8, 2019, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 229

SB776 – Relating to Coastal Highways

TESTIMONY

Nancy Davlantes, Legislative Committee Member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chairs Kahele and Inouye, Vice-Chairs Keith-Agaran and Harimoto, committee members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB776 that would appropriate funds requiring the department of transportation to work in conjunction with any relevant educational institution or federal, state, or county agency to develop a strategic plan to protect coastal highways from the effects of coastal erosion and update the plan as needed every five years and report to the legislature.

Who among us hasn't seen what's been happening to Hawaii shoreline highways such as Honoapiilani Hwy. on Maui and Kamehameha Hwy. on Oahu? The damage to both highways has created public safety hazards for drivers whose travels leave them with no other choice.

While this bill initially focuses on Maui, it addresses beach erosion and removing existing sea walls, as have other bills being considered this session, but specifically calls on the department of transportation to work cooperatively with any relevant agencies in crafting a strategic plan to address the effects of coastal erosion on the state's coastal highways, defined as a state highway located within 500 yards of any coastline.

Whatever funds are appropriated for this bill will be spent by the department of transportation.

This problem isn't going to go away: erosion and inundation of coastal highways will only get worse and serious planning must be undertaken to figure out how to move the affected sections of these highways farther from the coastline. A project of this magnitude requires the state DOT to cooperatively work with other appropriate agencies, and there's not much time to lose.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

LATE

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND AND
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 229
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019 AT 1:15 P.M.**

To The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair;
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

To The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair;
The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Transportation,

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 776 RELATING TO COASTAL HIGHWAYS

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce with approximately 650 members. I am writing share our support of SB 776.

Given what has occurred to Honoapiilani Highway and other areas around Maui that are affected by high surf, we believe it is important to have a strategic plan to protect coastal highways. These are critical pieces of infrastructure that must be addressed, so our roadways are safe for residents and visitors. We know there are many challenges in these areas, so a detailed and frequently updated plan is needed. Therefore, we support this bill to create a plan to protect coastal highways from the effects of coastal erosion.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony and we hope you will move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique

SB-776

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 12:33:21 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/8/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-776

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 1:53:25 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/8/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Winslow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-776

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:35:06 AM

Testimony for TRS on 2/8/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Saumalu Mataafa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-776

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 12:40:35 PM

Testimony for TRS on 2/8/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY OF LAUREN ARMSTRONG

MAUI MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

February 8, 2019 at 1:15pm

Conference Room 229

SB776 RELATING TO COASTAL HIGHWAYS

Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair

Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of SB776. The purpose of this bill is to require the department of transportation to work in conjunction with any relevant educational institution or federal, state, or county agency to develop a strategic plan to protect coastal highways from the effects of coastal erosion. The Maui MPO Policy Board has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as Executive Director.

As you know, coastal erosion and sea level rise are serious threats to Hawaii's coastal infrastructure, requiring immediate and collaborative action. Resilience was the top priority for transportation on Maui, based on a survey of over 8,000 residents conducted by Maui MPO in August 2018. Honoapi'ilani Highway is the primary link between Central Maui and West Maui, enabling over 20,000 commuters and visitors to reach their destinations daily. Loss of a safe and reliable transportation link to West Maui would have severe economic impacts for Maui and the entire state in terms of lost revenues, and incalculable damage in jeopardizing human health and safety.

We need an updated plan for the managed retreat of Honoapi'ilani Highway. Funding from SB776 would fund a study to assist State and County agencies in moving forward with realigning the highway inland from the coastal hazard zone. Community members would benefit from an opportunity to weigh on potential alignments using updated maps that overlay sea level rise, land ownership and other key information. Please support this measure to protect West Maui beaches from further shoreline hardening, by setting us on a collaborative path toward managed retreat.

Sincerely,

Lauren Armstrong