



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Tuesday, February 22, 2022
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
in consideration of
SB 3027 SD1
RELATING TO BEACHES.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) acknowledges that healthy beaches benefit coastal ecosystems, public access, recreation, cultural practices, and Hawaii's tourism-based economy, and offers the following **comments on SB 3027 SD1** that introduces an addition to develop a statewide beach assessment study and restoration and conservation plan by adding (10) to Hawaii Revised Statutes § 226-11(b) under the Hawaii State Planning Act.

If the intention of the Legislature is to create a statewide policy for planning to achieve beach conservation goals, OPSD respectfully suggests the following amendments:

(10) [~~Develop~~] Promote a statewide beach assessment [~~study~~] and beach restoration and conservation [~~plan~~] to [~~regularly assess shoreline erosion and~~] develop feasible beach restoration or conservation options.

If it is the intention of the Legislature is for an entity to develop a statewide beach assessment study and beach restoration plan to regularly assess shoreline erosion and develop feasible beach restoration or conservation options, OPSD recognizes that this significant undertaking should not overlap with existing efforts and will require appropriate funding to achieve. OPSD suggests that this may be further considered in session law or added as a proviso to the FY22-23 budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
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ROBERT K. MASUDA
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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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

Tuesday, February 22, 2022
10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3027, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BEACHES

Senate Bill 3027, Senate Draft 1 proposes to amend Section 226-11(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to add that it will be the policy of the State to “develop a statewide beach assessment study and restoration and conservation plan to regularly assess shoreline erosion and develop feasible restoration or conservation options.” **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) acknowledges the value that such a study would have, and offer the following comments:**

The Department currently has data on where the significant areas of shoreline erosion are, based on historical erosion mapping projects that have been regularly updated since circa 2011. A statewide beach assessment study and restoration and conservation plan would require significant fiscal resources. As Section 226-11, HRS, focuses on objectives and policies for land-based, shoreline, and marine resources, the Department suggests that such a study might better be considered by including it as part of the budget process with appropriate funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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February 21, 2022

Thank you, Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith Agaran and members of the Ways and Means Senate Committee.

On behalf of Napili Bay and Beach Foundation, Inc. I want to express our strong support of SB 3027, SD 1.

Napili Bay and Beach Foundation was formed as a community based non-profit, 501 (c) 3 in 2006, for the purpose of protecting and improving the health of Napili beach and bay. The concerns shared at that time were losses in water quality and losses of beach width due to erosion, observations we made over the several decades.

In the ~15 years we have worked together, we have obtained grant funding and private funds to control repeated storm runoff due a non-functioning outlet valve mauka of the bay, have supported training for a Water Quality sampling program which has resulted in a much more complete picture of the health of the bay water over time, have had benthic studies performed to have a picture of coral and fish health in our bay, as major efforts.

Since 2017, rising sea levels have caused us to focus intently on how we can restore the beach at Napili, as a way of protecting the shoreline structures (including public beach access structures) and the water quality (by providing a buffer against shoreline erosion which has impaired water clarity/health). We have raised private funds to do this work to date, but we know that the fair and equitable way for us to raise necessary funds for a Small Scale Beach Restoration project is to have a special tax district set up which will allow us to float a bond to cover immediate project costs, but will also be a reasonable mechanism to have a "reserve fund" to cover costs of care of these important community resources and economic engine, into the future.

SB 3027 would amend HRS Section 226-11 so that a statewide beach assessment study, restoration and conservation plan is put in place as a Master Plan for Hawaii's coastal resources. As important as the beaches and marine life are to Hawaii's culture and economic vitality, this seems like a key step to protecting vital components of life in Hawaii.

We strongly support SB 3027 SD 1.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat B. Lindquist".

Pat B. Lindquist, President

Gregg Nelson, Vice-President

Nane Aluli, Secretary

Norm Runyan, Director

Jamie Lung-Ke'o, Director

Tano Taitano, Director