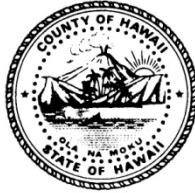


Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Maurice C. Messina
Director

Michelle Malia Hiraishi
Deputy Director

County of Hawai`i

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

101 Pauahi Street, Suite 6 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

(808) 961-8311 • Fax (808) 961-8411

Email: parks_recreation@hawaiicounty.gov

<http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/parks-and-recreation/>

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO SB3380

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BEACH PARK RESTORATION

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Monday, January 31, 1:00pm
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Honorable Chair Inouye, Honorable Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land, the Hawaii County Department of Parks and Recreation submits the following in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 3380.

This measure appropriates funds for a grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii to hire an engineering firm to study, plan, assist, and conduct preliminary design and concept work for a two-phase project to restore the Kahalu'u Beach Park in the county of Hawai'i. Conditions the appropriation on the County of Hawaii contribution of matching funds.

The Hawaii County Department of Parks and Recreation (hereinafter, "DPR") currently manages and has the maintenance responsibility for thirty beach parks in the County of Hawaii (hereinafter, "COH"). Kahalu'u Beach Park is the most visited beach park in the COH, and hosts upwards of four hundred thousand visitors annually.

During the 2021 Regular Session, the Senate adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52, Senate Draft 1, which requested the Department of Land and Natural Resources and COH to collaborate to identify sea level rise at Kahalu Bay to avoid further deterioration and damage caused by rising sea levels. The resulting interagency Kahalu Bay restoration working group, comprised of State and County officials, as well as community leaders, have been planning for the restoration of Kahalu'u Beach Park. The group's findings warrant a prioritization of Hawai'i island's overall coastal planning, as well as the need for a sea level rise study and coastal engineering input to help guide the planning process.

Due to its low-lying state, Kahalu‘u Beach Park must be frequently closed during high surf events and was the only COH Beach Park on Hawai‘i Island that required closure for numerous days to conduct debris clean-up from the recent Tonga tsunami. The matching grant-in-aid funds to the COH to hire an engineering firm to conduct the preliminary design and concept work would help us work toward the restoration of a sacred place for future generations.

For the foregoing reasons, the Hawai‘i County Department of Parks and Recreation SUPPORTS the passage of Senate Bill 3380. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3380

January 31, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 229 & Videoconference

RELATING TO BEACH PARK RESTORATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 3380 provides grant-in-aid funds to the County of Hawai'i (COH) to restore the Kahaluu Beach Park in the COH; appropriates \$536,379 in general funds for FY 23 to the COH for planning and preliminary design work; and requires matching funds from the COH.

B&F notes that the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/28/2022 9:01:29 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill to help restore Kahalu'u Beach Park!

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 1:37:32 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert P Thomas Jr	Testifying for Kohala Center	Support	No

Comments:

Although currently off island I strongly support SB3380. Before the pandemic I worked on the beach with Kahaluu Bay Education Center and currently volunteer on the beach when on island. Kahalu'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. We have been going to the Park since our first visit in 2007. Over the years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed. This is an historic site and needs to be repaired for the community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.



*Dedicated to the conservation of coastal and marine environments,
emphasizing stewardship of the natural resources of Hanauma Bay*

To: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair; Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Water and Land (WTL)

Date: Monday, January 31, 2022

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**Re: STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB3380 RELATING TO BEACH PARK RENOVATION
AT KAHALU'U BAY, HAWAI'I**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and WTL Committee Members,

Friends of Hanauma Bay (FOHB) strongly supports SB3380 to provide match grant-in-aid funds to Hawai'i County for a two-phase project to restore Kahalu'u Bay Beach Park.

Kahalu'u Bay is home to an important coral reef ecosystem containing some of the last remaining massive colonies of *Porites evermanni* along the Kona coast. This fragile coral reef ecosystem also provides a haven for juvenile fish species like the Hawaiian cleaner wrasse and many other marine wildlife species endemic to Hawai'i, and several protected by the Endangered Species Act. Kahalu'u Beach Park and Bay have historically been a gathering place for Native Hawaiians and other local residents, and together are one of the most prominent community resources in all of Hawai'i. Kahalu'u Bay's location and ease of access makes it an ideal Bay for novice and advanced snorkelers alike to pursue a lifelong connection to the ocean. Further, the amazing educational outreach provided by the Kahalu'u Bay Education Center (KBEC) staff and volunteers offers a unique opportunity for all visitors to learn about, and engage in, place-based cultural and marine stewardship.

The County of Hawai'i and KBEC have established an exemplary and enduring public-private partnership that measurably benefits the marine environment, Hawaiian culture, and the protection of Kahalu' u Bay for future generations. Together, they promote and support ocean conservation in the Bay by raising awareness and appreciation of its unique marine environment, and by fostering multidisciplinary collaboration in sustainability efforts. KBEC also inspires the community by taking a leadership role in the care of the Bay, teaching respect for natural and cultural resources through



*Dedicated to the conservation of coastal and marine environments,
emphasizing stewardship of the natural resources of Hanauma Bay*

education, public outreach, and critical research - all done with great generosity and aloha.

This long-standing commitment to Kahalu'u Bay and its adjoining Beach Park have led to the selection of Kahalu'u Bay in 2021 as a Sylvia Earle Mission Blue Hope Spot, only the second Mission Blue Hope Spot in the State of Hawaii. This designation will empower Hawai'i County, KBEC, and the dedicated Kahalu'u Bay community to implement even more far-reaching programs to mentor innovative and dedicated Ocean Champions who will craft the future of ocean conservation.

SB3380's investment in Kahalu'u Bay and Beach Park is critical to ensuring the continued preservation of this much cherished part of Hawaii Island.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB3380 to renovate Kahalu'u Bay Beach Park.**

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop
President
Friends of Hanauma Bay



RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Description: Appropriates funds for a grant-in-aid to the County of Hawai'i to hire an engineering firm to study, plan, assist, and conduct preliminary design and concept work for a two-phase project to restore the Kahalu'u Beach Park in the County of Hawai'i. Conditions the appropriation on the County of Hawai'i contribution of matching funds.

Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 p.m., by videoconference

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

I am the director of the Kahalu'u Bay Education Center, a program of The Kohala Center (KBEC/TKC). KBEC collaborates with the County and the State of Hawai'i to revive and revitalize Kahalu'u Beach and Bay Park. The Park is the most popular visitor destination in west Hawai'i Island, hosting 400,000 users a year due to ease of access and marine life diversity. Kahalu'u Beach Park and Bay facilities are eroding from storm surges and sea-level rise while the marine life is threatened by both human interactions through trampling, sunscreen exposure, and waste disposal and by ocean acidification, ocean heating, and other climate change effects.

KBEC/TKC has taken a leadership role in the care of the Bay, offering a unique visitor experience that teaches respect for natural and cultural resources through education, public outreach, and research. We believe that to make wise conservation and development investment decisions, we need current information about the forces affecting the bay's marine structure, how those forces are affecting the terrestrial landscape now, and how they are likely to do so in the future. With good data and a carefully crafted master plan, existing educational and stewardship activities can be most effective while future developments to the park facilities and regulations about park and bay use can maximize the potential for conservation and restoration. It is in our best interest to mālama this precious wahi pana (sacred, cherished place) because this reef ecosystem is both a key spawning ground for marine life and a regional economic asset.

To sustain Kahalu'u Bay as a gathering place and marine resource for future generations and to implement and expand pono practices, a strategic preservation plan is critical. In September 2021, KBEC/TKC and Sea Engineering LLC completed a Kahalu'u Beach and Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment Sea Level Rise (SLR) Report. This analysis considered how ocean trends affect the nearshore environment in the face of climate change. The report included recommendations for the restoration of the park. In December 2021, KBEC and Senator Kanuha's office formed a Kahalu'u Bay Working Group with members from State Planning, Army Corp of Engineers, County of Hawai'i Parks, and the Coastal Zone Management Program to work on the next steps for the restoration of the

park. The group consensus was to apply for appropriate funding to begin the preliminary design and concept work.

We ask your **strong support for SB 3380** to appropriate funds for the restoration of Kahalu'u Beach Park in the County of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy
Director
Kahalu'u Bay Education Center



Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea
Post Office Box 188
Hale'iwa, HI 96712

Board of Directors

Denise Antolini
Anne Chung
Sydney Covell
Bob Leinau
Jacqueline Leinau

Advisory Council

Athline Clark
John Cutting
Dr. Alan Friedlander
Debbie Gowensmith
Maxx E. Phillips
Bill Quinlan
Palakiko Yagodich

Staff

Jenny Yagodich, Director of
Educational Programs &
Community Outreach

Federal Nonprofit Organization
501(c)(3) FEIN 27-0855937
www.pupukeawaimea.org
info@pupukeawaimea.org

January 30, 2022

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hearing: Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Re: SB3380 – Kahalu'u Beach Park Restoration – In Support

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the
Committee,

We support SB3380.

Mālama Pūpūkea-Waimea (MPW) is a Hawai'i non-profit organization founded on the North Shore of O'ahu in 2005. Our mission is "working to replenish and sustain the natural and cultural resources of the Pūpūkea and Waimea ahupua'a for present and future generations through active community stewardship, education, and partnerships." For eighteen years, we have focused our stewardship and education efforts on the Pūpūkea Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD), one of only three MLCDs on O'ahu and eleven statewide.

Kahalu'u Beach Park in Kailua-Kona on Hawai'i Island may be many miles away from Pūpūkea on the North Shore of O'ahu, but these two spectacular shallow-water nearshore marine areas are very similar in the richness of marine life, the rising popularity for visitors/snorkeling, and the challenges of maintaining effective management and community education programs. These are unique areas that face many challenges in light of the growth in visitors seeking easy access to snorkeling experiences in areas of marine life abundance.

We strongly support the **Kahalu'u Bay Education Center's** impressive work to steward this important marine area and to improve the beach park facilities that will enhance the education and management programs.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Mahalo nui and best regards,

Denise Antolini
President, MPW



*Dedicated to the conservation of coastal and marine environments,
emphasizing stewardship of the natural resources of Hanauma Bay*

To: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair; Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Water and Land (WTL)

Date: Monday, January 31, 2022

Time: 1 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**Re: STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB3380 RELATING TO BEACH PARK RENOVATION
AT KAHALU'U BAY, HAWAI'I**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and WTL Committee Members,

Friends of Hanauma Bay (FOHB) strongly supports SB3380 to provide match grant-in-aid funds to Hawai'i County for a two-phase project to restore Kahalu'u Bay Beach Park.

Kahalu'u Bay is home to an important coral reef ecosystem containing some of the last remaining massive colonies of *Porites evermanni* along the Kona coast. This fragile coral reef ecosystem also provides a haven for juvenile fish species like the Hawaiian cleaner wrasse and many other marine wildlife species endemic to Hawai'i, and several protected by the Endangered Species Act. Kahalu'u Beach Park and Bay have historically been a gathering place for Native Hawaiians and other local residents, and together are one of the most prominent community resources in all of Hawai'i. Kahalu'u Bay's location and ease of access makes it an ideal Bay for novice and advanced snorkelers alike to pursue a lifelong connection to the ocean. Further, the amazing educational outreach provided by the Kahalu'u Bay Education Center (KBEC) staff and volunteers offers a unique opportunity for all visitors to learn about, and engage in, place-based cultural and marine stewardship.

The County of Hawai'i and KBEC have established an exemplary and enduring public-private partnership that measurably benefits the marine environment, Hawaiian culture, and the protection of Kahalu' u Bay for future generations. Together, they promote and support ocean conservation in the Bay by raising awareness and appreciation of its unique marine environment, and by fostering multidisciplinary collaboration in sustainability efforts. KBEC also inspires the community by taking a leadership role in the care of the Bay, teaching respect for natural and cultural resources through



*Dedicated to the conservation of coastal and marine environments,
emphasizing stewardship of the natural resources of Hanauma Bay*

education, public outreach, and critical research - all done with great generosity and aloha.

This long-standing commitment to Kahalu'u Bay and its adjoining Beach Park have led to the selection of Kahalu'u Bay in 2021 as a Sylvia Earle Mission Blue Hope Spot, only the second Mission Blue Hope Spot in the State of Hawaii. This designation will empower Hawai'i County, KBEC, and the dedicated Kahalu'u Bay community to implement even more far-reaching programs to mentor innovative and dedicated Ocean Champions who will craft the future of ocean conservation.

SB3380's investment in Kahalu'u Bay and Beach Park is critical to ensuring the continued preservation of this much cherished part of Hawaii Island.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB3380 to renovate Kahalu'u Bay Beach Park.**

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop
President
Friends of Hanauma Bay

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 7:15:24 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caren Loebel-Fried	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Aloha,

I strongly support SB 3380 Appropriates funds for a grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii to hire an engineering firm to study, plan, assist, and conduct preliminary design and concept work for a two-phase project to restore the Kahaluu Beach Park in the county of Hawaii.

Thank you,

Caren Loebel-Fried

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 9:57:09 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kathleen Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 p.m., by video conference

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu‘u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and it’s facilities have fallen into complete disrepair. The foundation of the main pavilion where people host weddings, birthdays and celebrations of life is being undercut from rising sea levels, high surf and tides. The roof is rusted and rotting, often dropping pieces of rusty metal onto the beach below. The rock walls are falling apart as rising sea levels continue to creep up the shoreline, creating hazardous conditions for anyone nearby. The small park 4.2 acre park welcomes over 400,000 visitors each year. About 1 in 3 visitors to Hawai‘i come to Kahalu‘u Beach Park during their stay. Restoration of the park is not only a safety issue but will benefit our community socially and economically. The time is right to take this step to honor this sacred and cherished place.

Thank you for considering this important issue.

Kathleen Clark

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 9:57:55 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Kent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 p.m., by video conference

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu 'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 9:59:03 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John Cranshaw	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

John and Michelle Cranshaw

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 10:33:32 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julie Ziemelis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please provide funding for an engineer for Kahaluu Beach Park. Our community needs to have this park functioning, and being a gem stone for conservation education and enjoyment for both visitors and residents alike. This space has so much potential and needs this energy towards making it something we can all be proud of.

Aloha,

I am writing to voice my heartfelt strong support for SB3380. Kahalu‘u Beach Park is a favorite destination for Big Island visitors and Hawaii community members to gather and enjoy water-based recreational activities. The calm clear waters and abundant marine life draw people from all over the world to this special place.

Unfortunately the shoreline land based structures and amenities do not match the natural beauty and appeal of Kahalu‘u Bay. Restoration of the Park is badly needed and long overdue.

Please kickstart this restoration of Kahalu‘u Beach Park by supporting the appropriation of funds outlined in SB 3380.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Vincent J. Carr
75-6009 Alii Drive
Apt F-4
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 11:24:13 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mary Ellen Jaske	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu 'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 11:29:02 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

o: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 p.m., by video conference

I strongly support SB3380.

Kahalu‘u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Pre-pandemic, an average of over 450,000 people visit Kahalu'u Bay annually. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors. Restoration of the park is urgently needed. Kahalu'u Beach Park needs to be preserved and safe for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 11:38:57 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Arthur John Tarsa, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 p.m., by video conference

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu 'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 12:28:08 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
gabriela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 p.m., by video conference

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu 'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Warmly,

Gabriela Flores

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 12:29:30 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paul Montague	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 p.m., by video conference

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu 'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Montague

PO Box 6534

Ocean View, HI 96737

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 12:54:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John Palmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu'u Beach. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed. I have visited at the beach park almost every single day for past 3 years and the rate of decline in the conditions at Kahalu'u is staggering. There are only 2 trash barrels on site for the entire park and both of them are rotted completely through. The small pavilion is fenced off because its been deemed too unsafe to be in. The large pavilion's roof structure is severely rotted and unsafe with large holes everywhere. The rock walls all over the park are falling apart. I observe visitors every day come to the beach and then immediately leave because the park looks so neglected and unsafe. Please help! Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue. John Palmer 808 481 6161

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 1:47:36 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael McGuire	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

Aloha,

I am writing to add my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu'u Beach Park is a valued community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into utter disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

Mahalo you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 2:46:03 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dorothy Norris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu 'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed. In addition, the park is a valuable fish and invertebrate resource acting as a nursery for both.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 4:53:48 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa Bunge	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB3380. I have been snorkeling and enjoying time spent at Kahalu'u for nearly 40 years. It is heartbreaking to see the disrepair and damage there. Restoration is urgently needed for this cherished beach.

Thank you for considering this important community issue.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 5:35:49 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
laurie hillyard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 p.m., by video conference

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu 'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Thank you,

Laurie Hillyard

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 5:37:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paul Herring	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB3380 that begins the process of restoring Kahalu‘u Bay beach park. The Kahalu‘u bay area and the beach park itself is rich in cultural and historically significant sites. The park is an invaluable resource for both local Hawaiian residents and tourists. This park is one of the top tourist sites on the island that attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. Kahalu‘u bay is unique in that it is one of the most pristine near shore reefs and snorkel sites in the Hawaiian islands and at the same time is a prime surfing location. Unfortunately this crown jewel of our island is in desperate need of repair and updating. Most of the facilities in the park are badly damaged by age and the elements and need to be replaced. I strongly support this bill that will initiate this process and begin the design and planning of a park which will be able to withstand the current and predicted rises in sea level and high tides.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 5:51:22 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
James Everglade	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

January 29, 2022, 1:00 p.m., by video conference

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu 'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Cpt. James Everglade

Marine Biologist

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 6:19:17 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jonathan Menton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to strongly support SB3380. Kahalu'u Beach Park is a treasured area along the Kona coastline, both culturally and environmentally. It is one of the most visited and appreciated sites on the Big Island for both local and visiting snorkelers and beach-goers. The facilities at the park are falling into disrepair and could use some much needed restoration, more than simple maintenance. Please strongly consider restoring the park to the treasure it should be!

Mahalo,

Jon Menton

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 7:39:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ann Seed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 p.m., by video conference

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu'u Beach Park is a state treasure which must be preserved. It has immense community, cultural, ecological, and economic significance. The facilities there have deteriorated to the point of being unsightly and unsafe for community members and visitors. This proposed restoration project is sorely needed and the sooner it can be implemented the better.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 8:17:47 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Diane L Duke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 p.m., by video conference

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu 'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 9:02:41 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
R A Culbertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators!

I and numerous other members of our Hawaii Island marine activities section of Sierra Club recognize the important value of the Kahaluu Bay Education Center to our Island. Indeed, it is the 'flagship' marine educational facility on Hawaii island that most visitors will inevitably find their way to. Therefore, it provides a powerful interactive potential to orient and educate first time visitors (and residents) to our conservation practices, both current and traditional. To fully enable its mission, it certainly deserves all the support and financial assistance your offices may provide.

Mahalo nui loa!

R A Culbertson

Honokaa

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 3:31:59 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eleanor Thomas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Eleanor Thomas

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 7:38:02 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yasuko Banville	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have been at Kahalu'u Bay to work for over 6 years as a staff and as a volunteer after laid off by Covid pandemic. What I can say is I have seen Kahalu'u closely during this time, is that many visitors destroy nature.

Misbehavior due to lack of knowledge by our visitors, the sunscreen made by a profit-oriented company and the stores that sell it. Although the reason for the destruction of nature is clearly known, it is difficult to limit it by our own activities. It can sometimes be annoying for visitors who come to the beach for fun, but restrictions are necessary to protect nature. That's why we need backing and more funding for the activity funds required.

Please be our backing!! Please listen to the voice that we love and want to protect Kahalu'u Bay.

Yasuko Banville

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:00:37 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rachel Silverman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I love Kahalu‘u Beach. It is a very special, historically rich and biologically diverse place that is unique on the Big Island of Hawai‘i. I started volunteering at the beach when I moved to the island in 2013. I saw the massive amounts of tourists coming to see the fish and turtles but not knowing any better stepping all over and crushing our beautiful coral. I knew that our work was important. I then got a job working for the Kahalu'u Bay Education Center, my role was to provide educational opportunities for students that visited the bay and in local schools as well as organizing the hundreds of volunteers that help to protect the bay. I have a background in sea turtle conservation and biology so I started giving monthly turtle talks to interested beach visitors. I was the lead investigator in a NOAA study on the impact of tourists on Green Sea Turtles at Kahalu'u Bay. In 2017 I started teaching middle school science and since that time have led many educational programs with my students at the bay including weekly trips to advocate to visitors the importance of giving sea turtles their space, not wearing chemical sunscreens, and keeping your feet off the coral as well as completing beach clean ups every time we are there. Personally I snorkel at the bay weekly for the past 9 years. I love this place.

Unfortunately Kahalu'u Bay has not received that love back from our community. I have been to countless county council meetings where we have been told there is no budget for maintenance of the bay. I have watched as the pavillions at the bay crumbled, I have picked lead paint chips off the sand and out of the water that fall from these broken down buildings. I have written and spoken to county council members, mayors, state representatives and non profits all who told me someone else is responsible. I have watched the rock wall in front of the small pavilion break apart and land in the water. I have seen the lifeguards condemn the small pavilion for potential danger and then reopen it without any repairs to hold junior lifeguards. I have seen the entrances to the main pavilion weather and erode to the point that they are unuseable and now are boarded up with plywood. I have seen roundup sprayed in the parking lot, insecticides sprayed on the pavilions and we have had waste water from the toilets breach their pipes and dump into the bay. This place needs help and I implore the Hawaii Senate to give it the help it needs.

Kahalu'u is a place that almost every tourist to Hawaii Island visits, it is known for being one of the most accessible and calm coral reefs in the entire state. But it is being abused and we need the government to put some investment into this inspiring place. There are upwards of 400,000 visitors to the small bay on an average year and with tourism increases that are expected in the future this number could go way up. Kahalu'u cannot support this level of visitation without an

action plan, there is already a lot of damage that has been done but the bay still has many places that can be saved if we can get our act together now.

I want to first thank The Kohala Center for putting so much time and effort into helping the bay. I want to secondly urge every senator and congressperson to make sure that this bill passes to help protect this unique and important place in west Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Rachel Silverman

808-365-4774

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:12:51 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jason Murray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I moved to Hawaii so I could spend time at this bay. I have raised my daughter and taught her to swim at this bay. I take all of my underwater photography and get most of my exercise at this bay. I love this place. I personally speak with visitors every time I am there asking them to stop stepping on the coral. I pick up garbage from this beach multiple times a week. It hurts me when I see people slipping and falling as they attempt to get in and out of the bay over the lava rocks. There used to be some steps that led to an easy path to get it but they have crumbled and have been blocked by plywood instead of repaired. I watch Reef Teach volunteers trying so hard with almost no help or support from the County or the State. We have even painted the crumbling pavillion to try and improve it but it needs more than a coat of paint. This place needs our attention. Please support this bill to give Kahalu'u the financial and legislative support it needs to survive into the future. I want this place to thrive and have been putting effort into it since I moved here in 2013. Please help this place.

Mahalo,

Jason Murray

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:28:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Fran Warren	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 p.m., by video conference

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. I have been volunteering as an Ambassador of the Hawaiian Ocean at Kahalu'u Beach Park for several years now. This has been an amazing experience for me to watch as the many tourists learn more about our precious natural resources from visiting Kahalu'u Bay. We have visitors from the mainland who stay on the island for a week or so and we have ships that drop off visitors from all around the world for just a day. Many of these visitors often do not speak English but somehow, we manage to communicate.

The Kohala Center has provided literature to help make the visitors' experiences so much richer and so much more unique - something they can share with others when they return to their native homelands. When I first arrived at Kahalu'u many years ago, people were feeding frozen peas to fish and that brought only the aggressive fish to the Bay. And, there was so much sunscreen in the water, you could see the sheen in the shallows. Now, with education and visitor cooperation, we have so many, many more species of fish in the Bay. And with the legislature's marvelous support, one of those horrific chemicals, OXYBENZONE, is no longer in the water. Mahalo.

One of my greatest experiences came just recently when a young engineer from India came out of the water absolutely giggling with excitement about the fish he had seen in the water! It was rough water that day and I had warned him about the currents and guided him to the appropriate reef system. When he came out, he had a difficult time explaining in English, but he said he couldn't imagine that nature could be so beautiful and so unique. That water could be so clean and the beaches so clean too. He wants to go back to India to work on helping to make a place like ours! I was in tears ... as I can imagine all Hawaiians would be proud to know that we are a great example for sharing our malama.

During our sunscreen campaign, I said, no bad chemicals equals more coral and more coral = more fish = more happy tourists = more business. And I think that's working. The tourists visiting the Bay are definitely seeing more fish and are much happier with their visit - and going back home to tell others! Now, I want their experiences and our local residents' experiences to be safer.

The areas entering the water have become more treacherous especially after the latest tsunami and I do worry a bit for people as they enter and exit. As ambassadors, we cannot physically assist, so we can only guide people to the best possible paths - and to avoid the turtle eating and resting places. It would be truly wonderful if we could provide a safer setting for water entry and for turtle areas as well.

I also love the fact that there is a section in this beach park intended for families to set up imu's for traditional family gatherings - though this area is definitely quite hard to identify. It would also be an asset if these traditional family gathering settings were more established to help local residents to reclaim their heritage and talk story. We all can learn from this.

There is so much happening at this beach park today but restoration of the park is urgently needed. Please support this Bill.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 9:28:49 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Louis Harris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Were it not for Covid, my wife and I would currently be celebrating our 54th anniversary in Kona on our 54th trip to Hawaii. Over the great amount of time we have spent in Kona, we have come to know Kahalu'u Beach Park as a joy which represents Hawaii to us. I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

Anything you can do to make SB3380 become a reality will be greatly appreciated by a great number of people. Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 10:26:58 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

My name is Maki Morinoue, from Holualoa. SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration. SB 3380 Appropriates funds for a grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii to hire an engineering firm to study, plan, assist, and conduct preliminary design and concept work for a two-phase project to restore the Kahaluu Beach Park in the county of Hawaii. Conditions the appropriation on the county of Hawaii contribution of matching funds.

This sacred bay is in much need of care, resotoritative actions towards mitigating sweage run off and over tourism to support the thriving of coral and herbavore fish rehabilitation efforts.

There for I am in **STRONG** Support of this Bill.
Mahalo for your time.

Maki Morinoue
96725

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 11:06:51 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
William Graham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a North Kohala resident who is in the ocean a lot. I support funds to be allocated for the Kahaluu Beach Park area restoration and improvement. From an ecological standpoint this is a valuable and rather unique nearshore resource. Plus it is accessible and popular with tourists who wish to see our tropical water inhabitants. Whatever help is needed for restoration is well justified.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 11:16:12 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ira Warren	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 (Kahalu'u Beach Park Restoration)

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I want to express strong support for SB3380. I volunteer at Kahalu'u Beach Park to assist others in snorkeling. This beach park is heavily used by locals and guests, and is perhaps the easiest accessible snorkeling beach, with an incredibly rich and diverse fish population. It is heartwarming when visitors come out of the water wide-eyed at what they have seen. However, the park and facilities are in great need of repair, and the conditions are not as safe as they should be for community members and visitors. Repair is urgently needed.

Thank you for considering this bill which is strongly needed.

Ira Warren

Re: Senate Bill to Begin Restoration of Kahalu'u Beach Park--Support Needed

From: Alina Patterson (charison_inc@yahoo.com)
To: kclark@kohalacenter.org
Date: Sunday, January 30, 2022, 11:19 AM HST

Here is what I submitted today.

Strongly Support SB3380 Kahaluu Beach Park

I am a retired environmental scientist who understands the importance of coastal engineering.

COASTAL ENGINEERING: *I have observed that the breakwater typically protects the bay when the tide is less than a foot. If the waves are large and come straight in, it only protects the bay at around .65 feet.*

When the waves come in with force, they break off coral heads, tear away the substrate near the coral, break up the natural concretion found on the bottom, and then scour away the shoreline relentlessly. Very little concretion remains, and without that barrier, nothing stops the destructive scouring of the sand, rocks, and shoreline walls.

I believe the breakwater needs some major modifications to protect the reef and keep the waves from taking all of the land where the facilities now reside.

FACILITIES: *The facilities themselves need repairs and better designs. For example, the roof is sagging, steps are broken and unusable, and the homeless camp in the bathrooms at night. Some of these homeless people tear out sinks, plug the drains, and threaten anyone who comes to use the restroom during the morning. I have called the police because of the threats of more than one of these people.*

The facilities do not reflect the importance of Kahaluu. Rust is everywhere, the roof needs replacing, the walkways need repair, access to the ocean for the mobility impaired needs to be engineered, and more.

Kahaluu provides an important cultural, gathering, physical fitness, and educational hub on the island. As such, engineering solutions should be made to provide a permanent place for Reef Teach, community gatherings, and cultural enrichment and use. It should also have a layout for bikers, hikers, swimmers, snorkelers, dancers and more.

Mahalo for your consideration

On Saturday, January 29, 2022, 09:50:32 AM HST, Kathleen Clark <kclark@kohalacenter.org> wrote:

Aloha kākou,

We are so excited to share that a Senate Bill (SB3380) has been introduced to appropriate funds for a grant-in-aid to the County of Hawai'i to hire an engineering firm to study, plan, assist, and conduct preliminary design and concept work for a two-phase project to restore Kahalu'u Beach Park.

Kahaluu needs our help. Your testimony is critical to move this bill forward! Here is our chance to show our love for this cherished place and let our voices be heard.

The Senate Water and Land Committee is scheduled to hear SB3380 on Monday, January 31 at 1 pm. **Would you please submit written testimony by Sunday, January 30, 2022?**

To submit testimony:

- Go to click <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>
- Register or Log in
- In the upper left hand corner enter bill no. **SB 3380**
- Click on **Submit Testimony**
- Follow the instructions

Please feel free to use this sample testimony or share your experiences and thoughts as you see appropriate.

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 p.m., by video conference

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Mahalo for your support. And please share this with your family, friends and anyone who has aloha for Kahalu'u to submit testimony.

With deep appreciation,

Kathleen

—
Kathleen Clark
Marine Stewardship and Education Specialist
The Kohala Center
808-887-6411 office
808-885-6707 fax

P.O. Box 437462
Kamuela, Hawai'i 96743
kohalacenter.org | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kohalacenter) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/kohalacenter)

The Kohala Center is an independent, community-based center focused on research, education, and 'aina stewardship for healthier ecosystems. By turning ancestral knowledge and research into action, we cultivate conditions that reconnect us with our place, water, food, and people, so that communities in Hawai'i and around the world can thrive—ecologically, economically, culturally, and socially.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 11:46:18 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ross Wilson Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is an important project for the Kona community. Please kokua! Mahalo.

LATE

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 2:19:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Martha Weissbaum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair; Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Re: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Monday, January 31, 1:00 p.m., by video conference

Position: Strongly Support SB3380

I am submitting testimony to voice my strong support for the above referenced bill. Kahalu'u Beach Park is an island treasure popular with locals and visitors alike. It is rich in aquatic life and of significant cultural and ecological significance. In recent years historical markers and structures, along with park facilities, have deteriorated to a point where they are unsafe, as well as show a lack of respect to Hawaiian culture and the value we place on our island resources.

I thank you for taking the time to review my testimony and urge you to approve this bill.

Mahalo,

Martha Weissbaum

LATE

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 3:20:46 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Inouye and Land and Water Committee Members,

I strongly support restoration and improvements to Kahalu'u Beach Park. This area is a gem for tourists, kanaka maoli, and all residents of Hawai'i. I recently visited the Park to snorkel with a Sierra Club group and we were treated to an excellent discussion of the history, cultural importance and marine life found there. We also learned about issues of over use, degradation of water from pollution and threats to natural behaviors of wildlife such as the turtles avoiding rocky ares with limb that humans traverse to enter the water. Education is essential and positioning facilities away from the water. We need to leave our Parks and nearshore waters in pristine condition for future generations.

Aloha,

Diane Ware, Sierra Club Outings leader,

99-7815 Kapoha Pl

Volcano HI 96785 (Ka'u Moku, Keauhou Ahupua'a)

LATE

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 3:26:03 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
JUNE VAN LEYNSEELE	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To:

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair,

The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and

Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Monday, January 31, 2022, 1:00 pm, by video conference

Position: Strongly, strongly, strongly Support SB3380

I am writing to voice my strongest support possible for SB3380. Kahalu'u Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place, rich in cultural significance and ecological importance. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair, creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors alike. Restoration of the park is urgently needed.

Please give this very important issue the highest priority consideration. Kahalu'u Beach Park is the only remaining public beach in southern West Hawaii where a person can get into salt water safely and fairly easily, and its access is rapidly eroding out of existence.

Thank you.

Please send me updates on the progress of this bill if that is possible.

June van Leynseele

jvanley@aol.com

LATE

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 4:47:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
marjorie erway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge you to **STRONGLY** Support SB3380, as it appropriates funds for a grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii to hire an engineering firm to study, plan, assist, and conduct preliminary design and concept work for a two-phase project to restore the Kahaluu Beach Park in the county of Hawaii.

This beach park is almost always filled with snorklers and on the other side of the 'wall', surfers.

Conditions the appropriation on the county of Hawaii contribution of matching funds.

Mahalo for your consideration.

January 30, 2022

RE: SB 3380 RELATING TO BEACH PARK RESTORATION

LATE

Dear Chair Inouye and the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce strives to enhance the quality of life for our community through a strong, sustainable economy on Hawai'i Island. With over 400 member businesses and organizations, we exist to provide leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i.

We **strongly support** SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration.

Located on the west side of Hawai'i Island, Kahalu'u Bay is important to our quality of life. It's a special place that connects people to nature and cultural resources. Residents and visitors alike enjoy relaxing at its beach, surfing its gentle waves or immersing in its welcoming waters. Receiving 400,000 visitors annually, it's also linked to the success of our local economy.

For decades the County of Hawai'i in partnership with the Kohala Center's Kahalu'u Bay Education Center have worked together to mālama the park and educate visitors about the bay's coral reef ecosystem.

Climate change and sea level rise create new impacts that must be addressed. We believe that the funding request in SB 3380 will greatly assist the restoration efforts of Kahalu'u Bay. We agree that this partnership between state and county government can serve as a model for the restoration of other public resources throughout the State.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Wendy J. Laros, President and CEO
Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce

LATE

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:09:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lindsey Kramer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

I would like to express strong support for SB 3380 (Relating to Beach Park Restoration), which would provide funds to hire an engineering firm to study, plan, assist, and conduct preliminary design and concept work for a two-phase project to restore the Kahalu'u Beach Park in the County of Hawai'i.

Kahalu'u Bay Beach Park hosts an unusually well-developed shallow coral reef ecosystem located a very short distance from shore. Because of the relatively easy access to this well-known coral reef area, Kahalu'u Bay has attracted more than 400,000 visitors annually over the past decade. Improved infrastructure is urgently needed at this Park to better manage and safely host visitors, while protecting priceless natural and cultural resources within and surrounding Kahalu'u Bay.

Additionally, recent sea level rise models indicate that the current infrastructure at the Kahalu'u Bay County Beach Park will need significant improvements in near future due to rising sea levels, particularly during high swell and storm events. This is the ideal time to begin planning for future sea conditions at this highly-visited and critically important reef area.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this bill.

Aloha, Lindsey Kramer (KramerKL@Hawaii.edu)

LATE

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 8:38:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Watson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

I am writing to voice my strong support for SB3380. Kahalu'u Beach Park is an important cultural location to the Hawaiian people, Kama Aina's and tourists alike. Over the last several years, the park and its facilities have fallen into disrepair creating unsafe conditions for community members and visitors. Restoration of the park is urgently needed to ensure this landmark remains a Hawaiian gem for generations to come.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

LATE

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/30/2022 9:49:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dee Fulton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a regular user of the well-loved Kahalu'u Bay Beach Park. Thousands of locals and visitors enjoy this park. It is the home of Reef Teach, an educational program to teach people about how to be reef-friendly while swimming. I would love to see some upgrades made to the current facilities to better serve the needs of the staff and Reef Teach volunteers who are passionate about this special stretch of beach and reef.

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:07:51 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laura Posson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB 3380.

LATE

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:12:11 AM
Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cynthia Urry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

Re: SB 3380 Relating to Restoration of Kahaluu Beach Park Position : Strongly Support

I am writing to voice my strong support for Bill SB3380 . Kahaluu Beach Park is a cherished community gathering place ,rich in cultural significance and ecological importance Over the years , the park and facilities have fallen into disrepair for our community members and thousands of visitors alike. It is being loved to death and desparately needs restoration . Mahalo for taking time to consider this bill.

LATE

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 8:30:04 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Daniel Grumbling	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am a repeat visitor to your wonderful island and to Kahalu‘u Beach Park.. The need to update the amenities here is great. It will be a boon to the beach community, to the tourism industry and to the environment to have these facilities updated.

First and foremost, this is an important spot for locals, visitors and for the economy. One of the reasons for this is the snorkeling and other activities that take place in this location. I was on the ground for not more than fifty minutes during my first visit and I was at the beach, in the water, and enjoying the fish, turtles and other aquatic life. I noted that day and during subsequent visits that some people were the most significant problem at the beach. Infrastructure can help with this.

At present, the facilities and safeguards for this location are not adequate for the local population as well as the visitors and present a problem for the environment. An update to the facilities could keep the charm while at the same time providing a space that will accommodate the visitors. Furthermore, updates will provide the beachgoers with information that will safeguard the very elements they have come to see and enjoy! This is a win for the environment assisting in making this location more sustainable.

I heartily recommend this legislation as a way to assist the locals as well as accommodate the visitors who regardless of how one might feel about them and their activities will continue to come and are an important economic driver.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to the Great State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Daniel Grumbling

SB-3380

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 9:40:32 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2022 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kirstin Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SB 3380 Relating to Beach Park Restoration

Position: **Strongly Support SB3380**

Mahalo for your support!