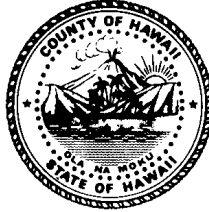


Dr. Holeka Goro Inaba
Council Member, District 8, N. Kona



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 23, 2022

Committee On Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

Re: **Support** for SCR174 & SR167 - SUPPORTING THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I'S EFFORTS TO PURSUE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE RESTORATION OF KAHALU'U BAY IN HAWAI'I ISLAND.
Videoconference Hearing: March 29, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the above referenced Committee,

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8 in North Kona, I express support for the above referenced resolutions, and submit a brief testimony as follows:

We support these resolutions that would support Hawai'i County's efforts to pursue funding by the United States Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program for the restoration of Kahalu'u Bay on Hawai'i Island.

Kahalu'u Bay has historically been regarded as a sacred place to native Hawaiians, adorned with heiau, fishponds, and barrier rocks walls that provide for better fishing conditions for hunter-gathers in the area, and it is necessary that any and all efforts be made to preserve the beach park for future generations to come.

Thank you, as we reiterate our support for SCR174 and SR167.

Sincerely,

DR. HOLEKA GORO INABA, Council Member
District 8, North Kona



RE: SCR 174 and SR 167 SUPPORTING THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I'S EFFORTS TO PURSUE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE RESTORATION OF KAHALU'U BAY ON HAWAI'I ISLAND

Tuesday, March 29, 2022, by videoconference

Position: **Strongly Support SCR 174 and SR 167**

To: The Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara Chair, The Honorable Senator Lynn De Coite, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Public Safety intergovernmental & Military Affairs Committee

I am the director of the Kahalu'u Bay Education Center, a program of The Kohala Center (KBEC/TKC). KBEC collaborates with the County of Hawai'i, the Federal Government, 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.

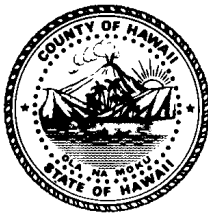
To sustain Kahalu'u Bay as a gathering place and marine resource for future generations and to implement and expand pono practices, a strategic preservation plan is critical. In September 2021, KBEC/TKC and Sea Engineering LLC completed a Kahalu'u Beach and Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment Sea Level Rise (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.

This opportunity to pursue United State Army Corps of Engineers' continuing authorities program funding is critical to the restoration of Kahalu'u Beach and Bay Park on Hawai'i Island.

The Kahalu'u Bay Education Center/Kohala Center stands in **strong support for SCR 174 and SR 167.**

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

REBECCA VILLEGAS
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District 7, Central Kona



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LATE

March 28, 2022

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS

COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

ON SR167, RELATING TO SUPPORTING THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I'S EFFORTS TO PURSUE
UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM
FUNDING FOR THE RESTORATION OF KAHALU'U BAY IN HAWAI'I ISLAND

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to SUPPORT SR167. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management Committee.

Kahalu'u Bay has historically been regarded as a sacred place to native Hawaiians, adorned with heiau, fishponds, and barrier rock walls that provided for better fishing conditions for hunter-gatherers in the area. Because of its historic nature and popularity among visitors, there have been recent efforts by the County of Hawai'i, in partnership with the Kohala Center's Kahalu'u Bay Education Center, to preserve the beach park for future generations through the promotion of reef-friendly practices.

Kahalu'u Bay Restoration Working Group, comprised of state and county officials and community leaders, planned for the restoration of the Kahalu'u Beach Park, the Kahalu'u Bay Restoration Working 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.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs to Support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council