

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

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LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Thursday, March 13, 2025
09:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 411 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1456
RELATING TO RESTORATION OF BEACH LANDS

Senate Bill 1456 proposes to amend the definition of “beach restoration” used to include activities undertaken to improve eroded beaches and degraded dune systems through the management of sand and native vegetation, placement of sand, and activities undertaken to remove abandoned and remnant materials that pose a risk to public and ecosystem health. The proposed House Draft 1 would allocate funds for two projects in West Maui. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports the original bill and has significant concerns with the proposed House Draft 1.**

The Department administers the beach restoration program for the State via the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL). The beach fund can be used to provide grants to counties, nongovernmental organizations and the University of Hawai‘i for the restoration of beach lands.

Currently “beach restoration” by definition is limited to the placement of sand on a beach from outside sources such as streams, harbors, quarries, and offshore sand sources. In recent years community organizations have expressed an interest in conducting related nature-based activities, such as dune restoration, to promote a naturally resilient shoreline.

The Department supports broadening the types of community-supported activities covered by the definition of “beach restoration.” Including dune restoration, sand pushing, removal of derelict structures in the definition of “beach restoration” will enable OCCL to support a full suite of nature-based activities proven to enhance the public trust, promote resilience, and encourage community engagement.

The proposed House Draft 1 would also appropriate funds for two projects in West Maui, one in the ahupua‘a of Kahana and one in the ahupua‘a of Hanakaō‘ō.

Section 3 of House Draft 1 proposes an appropriation for a “sand replenishment and dune replenishment pilot project” to be undertaken seaward of the parcels located at and between tax map key numbers 2-4-3-005-027-0000 and 2-4-3-009-052-0000, on the island of Maui. There are six parcels in this stretch: Hololani Resort, Royal Kahana Maui by Outrigger, Valley Isle Resort, Sands of Kahana, Kahana Beach Resort, and Pōhaku Beach Park (aka S Turns).

The sandy shoreline along this stretch of coast has disappeared over the past decades, as shoreline development has caused the transport of soils and sands away from the coast. Today little of the shoreline remains in its natural condition. Four of the parcels have Emergency Conservation District Use Permits for the installation of sandbag walls to protect their property. These sandbag walls currently line approximately 1200 linear feet of the shoreline.

To address these issues the Kahana Bay Steering Committee, a coalition representing area property owners, published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)¹ in October 2021 for the “Kahana Bay Erosion Mitigation” project. The DEIS noted that beach nourishment along the coast was unlikely to be successful without engineered structures to hold the sand in place and proposed to create six coves bounded by a total of seven rock groins and one reinforced rock headland. The total cost of the project was estimated to be between 26 and 40 million dollars.

The DEIS noted that there were several unresolved issues, including whether there would be public financing of the project, the ownership of any new infrastructure, and how liability and public access would be managed.

The Department believes that it is premature to appropriate State funds for this project until after a Final Environmental Impact Statement is completed.

Section 4 of House Draft 1 proposes a “sand restoration and dune replenishment pilot project” at Hanakaō‘ō Beach Park. The Department believes that a restoration project at this popular county park has a greater potential of success. However, we would not consider this a “pilot” project. The science of coastal dune restoration in Hawai‘i is well established, and the County of Maui has a demonstrated record of success in restoring other coastal areas on the island.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of, and comments on, this measure.

¹ https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/EA_EIS_Library/2021-11-08-MA-2nd-DEIS-Kahana-Bay-Erosion-Mitigation.pdf



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Water and Land
Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

By

Charles “Chip” Fletcher, PhD

Interim Dean

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

And

Darren Lerner, PhD

Director, Sea Grant College Program

And

Michael Bruno, PhD

Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1456 PROPOSED HD1 – RELATING TO RESTORATION OF BEACH LANDS

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and the Coastal Research Collaborative (CRC) support the intent of the proposed HD1, but prefer the Senate version as introduced, which amends the definition of beach restoration to include activities undertaken to maintain and improve eroded beaches and degraded dune systems through the management of sand and native vegetation, placement of sand, and activities undertaken to remove abandoned and remnant materials that pose a risk to public and ecosystem health. Hawai'i Sea Grant and CRC defer to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' testimony regarding the additions in the proposed House draft.

Hawai'i Sea Grant and CRC support this measure because it will enable the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to more effectively maintain and improve beaches and the health of coastal resources and support sustainable climate adaptation statewide. Broadening the definition of beach restoration provides more flexibility to utilize dedicated funds for the best use for beach management and allows for more comprehensive coastal management strategies to be applied statewide. Hawai'i Sea Grant and CRC support the amendments proposed by DLNR to improve this bill.

Hawai'i Sea Grant's mission is to provide integrated research, extension, and education activities that increase understanding and use of ocean and coastal resources of the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands and support the informed personal, policy, and management decisions that are integral to realizing this vision. Hawai'i Sea Grant is part

of a national network of 34 university-based programs associated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that promote better understanding, conservation, and use of coastal resources.

CRC is a multi-investigator research project at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa focused on sea level rise adaptation and climate resilience. CRC is updating coastal models that project the impacts of sea level rise.

The research that goes into identifying Hawai'i's exposure to sea level rise and the historical patterns of coastal erosion have been developed by the University of Hawai'i, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology. CRC and Hawai'i Sea Grant are available to provide updated sea level rise data and projections and examples of relevant adaptation to the Committee or any lawmaker upon request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

KE KE'ENA LOLI ANIAU MĀLAMA 'ĀINA A ME KE OLA LOA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



BENJAMIN SULLIVAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
PO'O HO'OKŌ & KAHU OLA LOA

KEALOHA FOX
DEPUTY DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
HOPE PO'O & HOPE KAHU OLA LOA

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025, 9:00 A.M.

STATE OF HAWAI'I
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1456
RELATING TO RESTORATION OF BEACH LANDS

BY,

BENJAMIN SULLIVAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee:

The City and County of Honolulu ("City") Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency ("Resilience Office") **supports** SB1456, which amends the definition of "beach restoration" to include activities undertaken to maintain and improve eroded beaches and degraded dune systems through the management of sand and native vegetation, placement of sand, and activities undertaken to remove abandoned remnant materials that pose a risk to public and ecosystem health.

Over five miles of sandy beach on O'ahu have already been lost to erosion, and 60 percent of O'ahu beaches are in a chronic state of erosion. Future projections of up to 5.84 feet of sea level rise by the end of the century will have significant impacts on coastal properties and environmental resources. *Climate Ready O'ahu*, the City's climate adaptation strategy, recognizes the critical role dune ecosystems play in providing shoreline erosion control and seeks to strengthen partnerships with local community groups to provide additional capacity for local beach restoration.

Expanding the current definition of beach restoration to include additional activities that promote a naturally resilient shoreline will enable broader community participation in restoration efforts by providing more flexibility to utilize dedicated funds for dune restoration and beach cleanups, two common community-driven efforts at the local level on O'ahu that often occur in partnership with the City.

Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Lamosao
SB1456
March 13, 2025
Page 2

Mitigating the impacts of sea level rise and coastal flooding on our beaches and coastal communities will require coordination and commitment for generations to come. Increasing support for and collaboration with community organizations for more diverse beach restoration projects is a necessary step towards strengthening our environmental and community resilience.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1456.

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao and Committee Members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on **Senate Bill 1456, House Draft 1**. While we support the original intent of SB 1456 to broaden the definition of “beach restoration” to include nature-based solutions such as dune restoration and removal of derelict structures, we **recommend an Amendment to Section 2**

We strongly recommend deleting “*with or*” from Section 2, item 2 of the bill’s definition of “beach restoration” to ensure that stabilizing structures are not included as part of the restoration definition. The current language reads:

(2) Place sand on an eroded beach from an approved outside or adjacent source, with or without stabilizing structures; or

By removing “*with or*”, the bill would maintain its focus on true restoration efforts rather than opening the door for permanent hard structures that contradict natural coastal resiliency strategies. This amendment is essential to ensure that beach restoration efforts align with the best available science and established state policies against shoreline armoring.

Section 2, Suggested Amendment:

(2) Place sand on an eroded beach from an approved outside or adjacent source, with or without stabilizing structures; or

We strongly oppose the inclusion of Section 3, which seeks to appropriate state funds for a “sand replenishment and dune replenishment pilot project” at Kahana Bay.

The proposed Kahana Bay T-groin and beach nourishment project is highly controversial within the West Maui community. Many residents and stakeholders have raised serious concerns about the project’s long-term feasibility, cost, liability, environment impacts, and its failure to adequately address public access, public benefit, and public parking in the area. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) published in 2021 acknowledged unresolved issues regarding ownership, liability, and financing of the proposed infrastructure, yet no satisfactory resolution has been reached. Additionally, neither the State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) nor the County of Maui has agreed to take on ownership or responsibility for the multiple T-groins structures proposed across the bay.

With projected costs ranging from \$26 to \$40 million, this project represents a significant financial burden, with ongoing maintenance and liability concerns that have yet to be fully addressed. There is no guarantee of long-term success, as the DEIS itself recognizes that beach nourishment alone is unlikely to be sustainable without engineered structures. This

type of shoreline armoring conflicts with the state’s broader coastal resiliency goals and sets a dangerous precedent for publicly funded hardening of our beaches. The proposed Kahana Bay project remains deeply divisive, and state funds should not be allocated to a project that lacks broad community support, clear governance, and a viable long-term maintenance plan.

Rather than committing taxpayer dollars to a highly contentious and unresolved project, funding should be prioritized for proven nature-based restoration efforts, such as the successful dune restoration initiatives carried out by the County of Maui at many locations where government agencies and community stakeholders have already demonstrated positive outcomes and is proposed in Section 4 for Hanaka’ō’ō Beach Park.

Therefore, we **strongly support the inclusion of Section 4 with some minor amendments.**

Section 4, Suggested amendments:

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for a ~~sand restoration dune replenishment pilot restoration project and adaptation pathways planning~~ to be undertaken ~~seaward of~~ at Hanakaoo Beach Park on the island of Maui.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to **amend Section 2** to prevent the inclusion of stabilizing structures under the definition of “beach restoration” **remove Section 3** funding for the Kahana Bay proposed project and **amend and support Section 4** for a dune restoration and adaptation pathways planning at Hanaka’ō’ō Beach Park.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Hanaka’ō’ō Beach Park is one of the last remaining gathering spaces for our community. It is a place for healing, culture, and recreation, including our cherished wa’a traditions. Protecting this area is vital to preserving Lahaina’s connection to its shoreline and ensuring its sustainability for future generations.

This is the only public beach park along Ka’anapali Beach and is home to all the canoe clubs in West Maui and where the State Championships are held when on Maui.

The Hanaka’ō’ō Beach Park Dune Restoration & Adaptation Pathways Masterplan stands as a proactive measure to address the significant challenges posed by sea level rise and coastal erosion, particularly in West Maui, an area that has been at the forefront of climate-related impacts in Hawai’i. This initiative is aligned with broader State and County adaptation strategies, the Maui Island Plan, and the West Maui Community Plan,

highlighting the commitment to preserving not only the beach and physical infrastructure of the park but also the cultural, subsistence, and recreational values that it supports.

The project's foundation lies in the understanding that beaches and beach parks are vital components of community infrastructure, contributing significantly to the quality of life and health of residents and visitors. The emphasis on dune restoration as a nature-based, low-impact solution reflects a thoughtful approach to balancing environmental sustainability with cultural and recreational needs. By focusing on re-naturalizing the shoreline through vegetation management and dune restoration, the initiative aims to create a resilient system that can protect against coastal hazards like erosion, high waves, and storm surge while ensuring healthy beaches and public access.

Moreover, this project is embedded within a broader framework of adaptation pathways designed to offer flexible, phased responses to the challenges of climate change. Adaptation pathways allow for long-term planning while remaining responsive to evolving environmental conditions. Through this approach, the project integrates measures to address immediate vulnerabilities while setting the stage for future adaptive actions, such as monitoring shoreline changes, enhancing dune stabilization efforts, supporting the landward migration of beaches, and planning for potential managed retreat scenarios if necessary. These pathways ensure the resilience of public infrastructure and ecosystems under various climate scenarios.

The project also underscores the importance of community engagement, education, and interagency collaboration. The discussions and educational sessions held, leading up to the conceptual presentations, demonstrate a commitment to involving the community and stakeholders in shaping the future of their coastal landscape. This collaborative approach not only helps in garnering support and consensus but also ensures that the restoration efforts are grounded in local knowledge and practices.

Hanaka'o'o Beach serves as a critical space for Hawaiian outrigger canoeing and is the home for all West Maui canoe clubs, in addition to cultural practices, and community gatherings, the restoration project also stands as a testament to Hawai'i's legal obligation to preserve and protect traditional and customary practices. Outrigger canoe paddling, the official state sport of Hawai'i, holds significant cultural and historical value, and Hanakao'o Beach plays a pivotal role as the host site for the State Championships when held on Maui. The preservation and enhancement of this site through adaptation pathways underscore the importance of maintaining both its ecological and cultural integrity while preparing for future challenges posed by environmental changes.

In conclusion, the Hanaka'o'o Beach Dune Restoration & Adaptation Pathways Masterplan represents a forward-thinking and holistic approach to coastal management and community resilience. By leveraging nature-based solutions, emphasizing adaptation pathways, and fostering community involvement, the project aims not only to protect physical and infrastructural assets but also to preserve the cultural, subsistence, and recreational practices that define the character and spirit of West Maui. This initiative serves as a model for adaptive, inclusive, and sustainable coastal management strategies that can be replicated in other vulnerable regions facing similar environmental challenges.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kai Nishiki and Sarah Freistat Pajimola, Co-Executive Directors,

Maui Nui Resiliency Hui

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COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 7, 2024

Hawaii Climate Commission
Honolulu, Hawaii

To Whom It May Concern,

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED HANAKAO'O
BEACH PARK DUNE RESTORATION PROJECT**

As a resident of West Maui and a member of the Maui County Council, I am writing to lend my support to the proposed Hanakao'o Beach Park Dune Restoration Project.

Parks, and especially beach parks, are part of the county's critical infrastructure and serve as an important gathering place for our community. Now, more than ever, West Maui needs and cherishes spaces that allow us to gather together and find respite. Hanakao'o Beach Park, in particular, plays a special role in our community. It is home to all West Maui canoe clubs and one of the most popular beaches for our residents.

The proposed dune restoration project would protect this community asset from erosion while maintaining public access and a healthy beach ecosystem. The project represents more than a chance to minimize the impacts of climate change; it embodies a progressive approach to increasing the resilience of our infrastructure.

I am proud to stand behind this project and look forward to witnessing its positive impact on the people of Maui. Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (808) 270-5504 or tamara.paltin@mauicounty.us.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara A. M. Paltin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TAMARA PALTIN
Councilmember

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

PATRICK S. MCCALL
Director

SHANE T. DUDOIT
Deputy Director



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
COUNTY OF MAUI
700 HALI'A NAKOA STREET, UNIT 2
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

March 8, 2024

Honolulu Climate Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

Since 2020, the County of Maui Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has been working on a plan to address climate change and specifically for sea-level rise at our beach parks. Our department prepared a Park Vulnerability and Adaptation Study in November 2021 with assistance from TetraTech, Inc.

The study described six adaptation strategies, which were elaborated upon in subsequent phases. The overall recommendations for Hanakao'o Beach Park now include restoring its natural shoreline and habitat, relocating the park outside of hazard areas, and revegetating with native plants, shrubs, and grass species.

The grant request, to restore the dune system at Hanakao'o Beach Park, is consistent with the policies and actions in our plan and as a result, we support the application. We look forward to working with the applicants, especially because it maintains public access and existing traditional uses.

Please feel free to contact me at Patrick.S.Mccall@co.maui.hi.us or (808) 270-7230 should you have any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,

PATRICK S. MCCALL
Director of Parks and Recreation

c: Shane T. Dudoit, Deputy Director
David Yamashita, Planner VI

PSM:DYM:Inm



University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program

2525 Correa Road • HIG 238 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822 • Phone: (808) 956-7031 • <http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu>

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

March 7, 2023

Hawaii Climate Commission
Honolulu, Hawaii

To Whom It May Concern:

The University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program (Hawaii Sea Grant) would like to express support for and commitment to the proposed project to restore dunes in Hanakao'o Beach Park.

Hawaii Sea Grant is one of 33 Sea Grant programs nationwide that comprise a functional network within our nation's universities and colleges. Hawaii Sea Grant's goal is to promote enhanced understanding, conservation and wise use of marine and coastal resources for sustainable coastal economies. We have a twenty-four year long partnership with the County of Maui to provide on-site specialized expertise and technical assistance to support planning, decision making, and outreach related to coastal and climate resilience activities.

In my role as Extension Faculty with Hawaii Sea Grant, and more specifically as the Coastal Dune Restoration Specialist, I and my co-workers assist a variety of stakeholders by providing technical assistance and guidance. We regularly work with coastal property managers interested in using the tools of dune restoration to create productive dune habitat, and restore dunes and the ecosystem services they provide. We work regularly in beach parks throughout the county, and Hanakao'o is an excellent place to conduct dune restoration as it will provide resilience and infrastructure protection from high wave events, as well as moderate and provide a natural buffer against the effects of sea level rise.

Sea Grant will be providing technical guidance, assistance with restoration native plant choices and dune layout and design. We will work closely alongside project managers to ensure a successful restoration project that meets the needs and desires of the local community which includes park users, canoe clubs, lineal descendants of the area and long-time residents.

Please consider this proposal with our enthusiastic support! If it would be helpful to your deliberations, please feel free to reach out with questions to wcrile@hawaii.edu or (808) 357-3689.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Wesley Crile". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Wesley Crile; Extension Faculty, Coastal Dune Restoration Specialist
University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program
County of Maui Planning Department

*The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program supports an innovative program of research, education, and extension services directed to the improved understanding and stewardship of coastal and marine resources of the state, region, and nation.
Science serving Hawai'i and the Pacific since 1968.*



DATE: March 12, 2025

TO: Representative Mark Hashem
Chair, Committee on Water & Land

Representative Rachele Lamosao
Vice Chair, Committee on Water & Land

FROM: Mihoko Ito

RE: **S.B. 1456, Proposed H.D.1 – Relating to Restoration of Beach Lands**
Hearing Date: Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room: 411

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

We submit this testimony on behalf of the Association of Apartment Owners of Hololani (“Hololani”) **in support of S.B. 1456, Proposed H.D.1 with amendments.** The proposed H.D.1 addresses beach restoration by: 1) amending the definition of “beach restoration” to include activities undertaken to maintain and improve eroded beaches and degraded dune systems through the management of sand and native vegetation, place sand on an eroded beach, and remove abandoned remnant materials that pose a risk to public and ecosystem health, and 2) appropriating funds for sand restoration and dune replenishment pilot projects.

Hololani is in support of Section 3 of the bill, which proposes to have the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) implement an erosion mitigation pilot project in the Kahana Bay area. In 2017, at the urging of the Maui County Department of Planning, the nine condominium projects, through their owners’ associations, and the owner of the remaining kuleana parcel along the Kahana Bay shoreline, formed the Kahana Bay Steering Committee in order to develop, plan and implement a regional erosion mitigation project. The Kahana Bay Steering Committee retained Oceanit in 2018 to assist in developing a regional erosion mitigation project, and has invested significant time, effort and money in the project.

However, the County of Maui indicated that it was unwilling to assume the liability risks of owning the proposed groins that would be required to keep the restored sand in place, and DLNR’s Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) informed Oceanit that it would not participate in discussions of a path forward for the project. Currently, many of the condominium properties along this shoreline are relying on emergency sandbags as their only protection against further erosion of the shoreline. DLNR has not acted on any applications to repair the emergency sandbags, leaving the properties exposed to further, and potentially catastrophic, erosion.

We support the appropriation concept of Section 3, and would suggest that the appropriation language track the language in SCR 76, which urges DLNR to work with the Kahana Bay Steering Committee and other stakeholders to find a path forward to fund and develop a beach erosion mitigation project.

In addition, this bill amends the definition of “beach restoration” to broaden its scope beyond placing sand on an eroded beach from an approved outside or adjacent source, with or without stabilizing structures. While we do not oppose the expansion of the beach restoration definition, we would propose an amendment to clarify that the “removal of abandoned remnant remains” does not include removal of emergency erosion protection measures were installed pursuant to permits issued by DLNR.

Our proposed amendments to this bill are included with our testimony. We appreciate your consideration of the proposed amendments, and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure.

SB 1456 PROPOSED HD1 Amendments

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's leading authority on climate science, in its Assessment Report 6 (2021) stated that it has high confidence that global sea level is committed to rise for centuries to millennia, regardless of whether humans slow carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

The legislature also finds that the state climate change mitigation and adaptation commission, created by Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, stated in its 2022 report to the legislature that Hawaii is projected to likely experience between 3.9 and 5.9 feet of sea level rise by the year 2100. The legislature finds that sea level rise poses a serious and imminent threat to Hawaii's coastal communities and residents and to Hawaii's natural resources, primarily beaches and coastal ecosystems. The legislature recognizes that the State has an affirmative duty to preserve beaches as a public trust resource for the people of Hawaii, and that beaches are both culturally important and provide natural resilience to sea level rise and associated coastal flooding.

The Legislature further finds that including beach restoration pilot projects would further the objectives of this measure. One such project would address coastal erosion in Kahana Bay. Currently, emergency sandbag structures are the only protection for many condominium properties against the severe erosion of the Kahana Bay shoreline. The owners of units in the nine condominium projects and one residential parcel on Kahana Bay formed and funded the Kahana Bay Steering Committee in 2017 in order to develop and implement a regional project to restore the eroded beaches on Kahana Bay. The Kahana Bay Steering Committee retained Oceanit in 2018 to assist in the engineering, planning, permitting and implementation of the Project. Oceanit engaged in extensive community and agency consultation and, in 2021, published the Kahana Bay Erosion Mitigation Project Second Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Kahana Bay Steering Committee proposed to fund the \$26 million to \$40 million estimated cost the project through Community Facilities District financing pursuant to Chapter 3.75, Maui County Code, which would require that the rock

groins required to hold the replenished sand in place be publicly owned. For various reasons, the project has stalled.

The legislature further finds that another pilot beach restoration project is dune restoration at Hanakaoo beach park, which will build resilience and infrastructure protection from high wave events and function as a natural buffer against the effects of sea level rise. In addition to cultural practices and community gatherings, Hanakaoo beach is a prime location for Hawaiian outrigger canoeing and is the home for all west Maui canoe clubs. The emphasis on dune restoration as a nature-based, low-impact solution reflects a thoughtful approach that balances environmental sustainability with cultural and recreational needs. The legislature further finds that, for effective dune restoration, the park needs further technical guidance and assistance in using the tools of dune restoration to create productive dune habitat and to restore dunes and ecosystem services.

The purpose of this Act is to:

(1) Amend the definition of "beach restoration" to expand the types of activities the State recognizes as restorative and beneficial to beach lands in response to increasing threats of sea level rise and beach loss; and

(2) Appropriate funds for sand restoration and dune replenishment pilot projects.

SECTION 2. Section 171-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending the definition of "beach restoration" to read as follows:

""Beach restoration" means [the placement of sand, with or without stabilizing structures, on an eroded beach from an outside source such as offshore sand deposits, streams, channels or harbor mouths, or an upland sand quarry.] an activity undertaken to:

(1) Maintain and improve beaches and dune systems through management of sand and native dune vegetation;

(2) Place sand on an eroded beach from an approved outside or adjacent source, with or without stabilizing structures; or

(3) Remove abandoned remnant materials from beaches and dunes that pose a risk to public health and coastal ecosystems, **provided that emergency erosion protection structures originally permitted by the department shall not be deemed abandoned.**

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for a ~~sand restoration and dune replenishment pilot project to be undertaken seaward of the parcels located at and between tax map key numbers 2-4-3-005-027-0000 and 2-4-3-009-052-0000, on the island of Maui.~~ beach restoration pilot project to be undertaken seaward of the parcels between and including tax map key numbers 2-4-3-010:001 at the southern end and 2-4-3-005:029 at the northern end, on the island of Maui.

The department of land and natural resources shall consult with the Kahana Bay Steering Committee, the County of Maui and the Army Corps of Engineers regarding a path forward for the Kahana Bay beach restoration pilot project.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for a sand restoration and dune replenishment pilot project to be undertaken seaward of Hanakao Park on the island of Maui.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Water and Land
Thursday March 13, 2025 at 9:00 am
By

Rick Egged, President
Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District Association

SB 1456 HD1 – RELATING TO RESTORATION OF BEACH LANDS

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao and honorable members of the committee:

The Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District Association (WBSIDA) is pleased to provide this testimony in support of SB 1456 HD1, which amends the definition of beach restoration to include activities undertaken to maintain and improve eroded beaches and degraded dune systems through the management of sand and native vegetation, placement of sand, and activities undertaken to remove abandoned and remnant materials that pose a risk to public and ecosystem health.

The WBSIDA supports this measure because it will empower the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to more efficiently maintain and enhance our beaches, strengthen the health of coastal resources, and promote sustainable climate adaptation efforts across the state. Expanding the definition of beach restoration will provide greater flexibility in utilizing dedicated funds for optimal beach management, allowing for the implementation of more comprehensive coastal management strategies statewide including Waikīkī Beach. The WBSIDA defers to the DLNR on the application of these funds for specific parcels as included in the proposed HD1 draft.

Expanding the definition of beach restoration offers significant benefits by allowing the DLNR to address a broader range of coastal challenges. It enables the DLNR to adapt to the changing needs of Hawaii's beaches and shorelines, from mitigating erosion to enhancing natural habitats and addressing the impacts of climate change. With more flexibility in funding and strategy implementation, DLNR can respond more effectively to urgent and evolving coastal concerns, improving the resilience of beaches and protecting vital ecosystems for future generations. This expansion ensures a more holistic approach to coastal management, fostering long-term sustainability for both the environment and local communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**
Before the House Committee on
Water and Land

In Consideration of Senate Bill No. 1456 HD1 Proposed
RELATING TO DUNE RESTORATION

To Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao and the honorable members of the committee,

We are writing on behalf of Lāhainā Strong, an organization deeply rooted in our community's resilience and advocacy. Originally formed in 2018 following the Hurricane Lane fire in Lahaina and revitalized after the devastating fires of August 8, 2023, Lāhainā Strong has become the largest grassroots, Lahaina-based community organization, with over 35,000 supporters. Our mission is to amplify local voices and champion community-driven solutions, which are more critical than ever as we continue rebuilding and recovering.

Lāhainā Strong, **offers amendments on Senate Bill 1456 HD1 Proposed**, which seeks to amend the definition of beach restoration, and now includes appropriations for sand restoration and dune replenishment projects on Maui. While we strongly support the intention of SB1456 to amend the definition, and we strongly support the inclusion of appropriating funds for the Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park dune restoration project on Maui, we cannot support the inclusion of the highly controversial Kahana Bay project.

We strongly oppose the inclusion of Section 3, which seeks to appropriate state funds for a "sand replenishment and dune replenishment pilot project" at Kahana Bay.

The Kahana Bay T-groin and sand replenishment project has faced strong opposition from the West Maui community due to its massive cost, environmental impact, and failure to provide a lasting, community-driven solution. Residents have consistently raised concerns about its long-term feasibility, lack of public benefit, and its risks to coastal ecosystems. The 2021 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) highlighted major unresolved issues—including ownership, liability, and funding for the

proposed structures—yet these critical concerns remain unanswered. Neither the State of Hawai'i nor the County of Maui has committed to taking responsibility for maintaining the T-groins, leaving the future of these structures in limbo. With projected costs between \$26 to \$40 million, this project is an irresponsible use of public funds, especially given the ongoing maintenance and liability risks. Even the DEIS acknowledges that sand replenishment alone won't last without permanent structures, setting the stage for shoreline armoring—directly contradicting the state's own coastal resiliency goals. Moving forward with this project would set a dangerous precedent for prioritizing engineered interventions over nature-based, community-supported solutions.

Rather than committing taxpayer dollars to a highly contentious and unresolved project, funding should be prioritized for proven nature-based restoration efforts, such as the successful dune restoration initiatives carried out by the County of Maui at many locations where government agencies and community stakeholders have already demonstrated positive outcomes and is proposed in Section 4 for Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park.

We strongly support the inclusion of Section 4 with the following amendments:

There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for a ~~sand restoration dune replenishment pilot~~ restoration project and adaptation pathways planning to be undertaken ~~seaward of~~ at Hanakaoo Beach Park on the island of Maui.

The Hanaka'ō'ō Beach Park Dune Restoration & Adaptation Pathways Masterplan offers a proactive, sustainable alternative to contentious sand replenishment efforts, prioritizing long-term resilience over short-term fixes. As the only public beach park along Ka'anapali Beach and home to all West Maui canoe clubs, Hanaka'ō'ō is a vital cultural and recreational hub, hosting the State Championships when held on Maui and serving as a gathering place for the community. This initiative aligns with State and County adaptation strategies, emphasizing dune restoration as a nature-based solution to mitigate sea level rise and coastal erosion while preserving public access. By fostering a resilient shoreline through vegetation management and dune stabilization, the plan protects both infrastructure and the cultural practices tied to this sacred space, including Hawaiian outrigger canoeing. Furthermore, its adaptation pathways approach allows for phased, science-based responses to climate change, ensuring that the beach remains accessible and functional for future generations. Rooted in community engagement and traditional knowledge (unlike the Kahana Bay T-groin project), this

project upholds Hawai'i's legal and ethical obligation to safeguard its coastal resources while setting a model for sustainable shoreline management.

For these reasons, we appreciate your consideration of these **amendments on SB1456 HD1 Proposed**.

Mahalo for your consideration and your commitment to our 'āina.

Sincerely,

Lāhainā Strong

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 1:23:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Michael kayem | KBSC | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear elected officials, I am asking you to please move forward with the Kahana Beach Restoration. The situation is grave, the area is looking bad with sand bags are delapidated, our beach is gone. Many of us visit the island regularly, including thousands of tourist. The Kahana Bay Area buildings have over 900 condos with many tourists and residents whom, including myself, want to see the restoration of our beautiful beach. I am asking to please have Bill 1456 move forward. I support the amendment of this bill in to include naming KBSC and other projects as pilot Beach Restoration projects for BLNR to move forward in a timely fashion. Thank **you**



March 12, 2025

Aloha,

The Valley Isle Resort located at 4327 Lower Honoapiilani Rd strongly supports the amendment to SB1456/HD1 section3 to include naming KBSC and other projects as pilot Beach Restoration projects for BLNR to move forward in a timely fashion.

We stand with our neighbors and community in supporting these restoration projects. They maintain a healthy environment while keeping the ability to enjoy the Maui beaches that are the lifeline of the island for all residents and visitors to enjoy. These beaches help support many businesses and create substantial tax revenue during these tough times. Maui needs the tax revenue created by these beaches.

Please join us in supporting this amendment.

Sent on behalf of our Board of Directors

Sterling Honea – President

Norb Wolszon – Vice President / Secretary

Colleen Sutton – Treasurer

Joseph Bolster - Director

Gary Klebs – Director

Mason Blake – Director

Michael Kayem - Director



March 12, 2025

Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Rachele F. Lamosao, Vice Chair
House Committee on Water & Land

Support of SB 1456 Proposed HD1 RELATING TO RESTORATION OF BEACH LANDS (Amends the definition of "beach restoration" to include activities undertaken to maintain and improve eroded beaches and degraded dune systems through the management of sand and native vegetation, place sand on an eroded beach, and remove abandoned remnant materials that pose a risk to public and ecosystem health. Appropriates funds for sand restoration and dune replenishment pilot projects. [PROPOSED HD1])

**WAL Hearing: Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 411 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned growth in the economy, agriculture, housing, and renewable energy, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural, and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF supports SB 1456, Proposed HD1, which amends the definition of beach restoration to expand the types of activities the State recognizes as restorative and beneficial to beach lands in response to increasing threats of sea level rise and beach loss.

LURF's Position. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), county agencies and non-governmental organizations restore beaches and sand dunes across the state. However, the current definition of "beach restoration" in section 171-151, HRS, is limited to the placement of sand on eroded beaches and does not specifically include other actions that are restorative and beneficial to the public trust shoreline resources, such as sand management, native vegetation management, and removal of abandoned materials from public beaches. This bill will provide flexibility in maintaining and managing Hawaii's beach resources and provide funding for sand restoration and dune replenishment pilot projects.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports SB 1456, Proposed HD1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this matter.

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:27:37 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| KELLY LOVATO | Maui Luxury Realty LLC | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Subject: Support for HD1 Bill and Kahana Bay Shoreline Conservation

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a real estate professional and property owner in the Kahana Bay area of West Maui, where I also manage oceanfront properties for 24 condo owners. As both a business owner and a member of the local community, I, along with my clients, strongly support the HD1 Bill in its amended form.

We particularly endorse the amendments to Section 3, which designate the Kahana Bay Shoreline Conservation (KBSC) Regional Beach Erosion Mitigation and Beach Restoration project as a pilot project that the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) should prioritize. Addressing coastal erosion in our area is critical to preserving our shoreline, protecting property, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue.

Mahalo,
Kelly Lovato
14 Puu Hale St.
Lahaina, HI 96761
(808) 740-5740

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 2:09:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Maureen Brock | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support Senate Bill 1456 which includes appropriating funds for dune restoration at Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park.

In 2021, County of Maui Department of Parks and Recreation conducted a Beach Park Vulnerability and Adaptation Study with TetraTech, Inc. In that study Hanaka‘ō‘ō Beach Park was highlighted as one of the parks with highest vulnerability, with the park infrastructure and viability in jeopardy and low potential to withstand impacts of sea level rise compared to other parks.

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:05:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Denise E Antolini | Individual | Support | In Person |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Committee members,

I strongly support the original simpler version of SB1456 and have concerns about the proposed HD1 sections requesting appropriations for certain pilot projects.

The original bill version, passed unamended (with no "no" votes) by the Senate, made a few elegant but important amendments to the definition of "beach restoration" to catch up with the scope of the problems being faced on our beaches.

In particular, the addition below is key to clarifying state authority to address severe beach debris issues up here on the North Shore of O‘ahu, where homes have collapsed into the public beach leaving dangerous materials (metal, glass, lumber, nails, wire, concrete, plastic) embedded in the sand and littering the reef:

"(3) Remove abandoned remnant materials from beaches and dunes that pose a risk to public health and coastal ecosystems."

There should be no debate that the definitional changes are important to broaden the purposes of the fund and should be easily approved by the House as they have been by the Senate.

I note with concern, however, the addition of the pilot measures with unspecified appropriations in the proposed HD1. The location, scope, and nature of these projects is unclear and not transparent to the public. In addition, the determination of appropriate projects that use the beach restoration fund should be made by DLNR OCCL, which administers the fund, and vetted for appropriate environmental and cost considerations.

I am not against these pilot projects - I just cannot tell what they are, nor can the Committee, DLNR, or public assess their merit or appropriateness under the fund purposes.

I believe it would also be prudent for the Committee to ask the AG if adding a "second purpose" of this type to the original bill is allowed (that is adding appropriations and pilot measures to a bill that was aimed only at definitional changes).

I recommended deleting the pilot measures sections of this bill and sticking with the original version.

Mahalo,

Denise Antolini

North Shore, O‘ahu, Pūpūkea resident

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:50:57 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Jesse Olpindo | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Jesse, and I am a resident and owner in Hololani. I am writing in support of **S.B. 1456, Proposed H.D.1**, with suggested amendments.

Living in Maui for years, I have seen firsthand the severe coastal erosion affecting our shoreline. Section 3 of this bill is crucial because it would have the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) implement an erosion mitigation pilot project in the Kahana Bay area. The community has been working on a solution for years—investing time, money, and effort into a regional erosion mitigation plan. But progress has stalled due to legal and liability concerns, leaving many properties relying on temporary sandbags for protection. Without action, the erosion will only get worse.

I support the intent of this bill and urge that the language in **SCR 76** be used to ensure DLNR collaborates with the Kahana Bay Steering Committee and other stakeholders to move forward with a long-term erosion solution.

Additionally, while I don't oppose the expanded definition of "beach restoration," I ask that it be clarified to ensure that removing "abandoned remnant materials" does not include the removal of **emergency erosion protection measures** that were legally installed with DLNR permits.

Thank you for your time and for considering this important issue.

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:59:16 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ed Jones | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee on Health,

My name is Ed Jones, and I am a concerned owner of Hololani in Kahana. I am writing to strongly support **S.B. 1456, Proposed H.D.1** because our community desperately needs help addressing the ongoing coastal erosion

Temporary sandbags are only short term protection, but they are not a long-term ecologically friendly solution. Section 3 of **S.B. 1456, Proposed H.D.1** is critical to funding an erosion mitigation project for Kahana Bay.

We need DLNR to step up and work with us to implement a real solution. Section 3 of this bill is critical because it provides funding for a **pilot project in Kahana Bay**—something that could finally move us forward. I urge you to **ensure DLNR actively works with the Kahana Bay Steering Committee and local stakeholders** to make this project a reality.

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 8:54:00 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Dr Marion Ceruti | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Whereas I don't support the assumptions about climate change and sea-level rise stated in section I, none of these assumptions is necessary to observe how wave impacts and currents have eroded beaches all over Hawaii, including the shoreline makai of my home at Kahana Bay, Maui.

Beach restoration measures are needed at Kahana Bay urgently to stop the erosion loss and to preserve the remaining buildings that are vulnerable and severely threatened. If nothing is done the County of Maui could be facing another catastrophic loss of coastal homes, with a tax-revenue loss to go with it. Recent experience with the Lahaina fire has demonstrated the great importance and economic advantages of disaster prevention compared to the high costs of disaster recovery.

Some of the residents who lost their homes in the fire are now living in coastal areas threatened by severe erosion. What our neighbors do not need now is another home loss, this time due to erosion.

Now is not the time for procrastination. Vote YES on SB1456 and add the Kahana Bay Beach restoration project to the list of urgent actions pursuant to this bill.

Dr. Marion Ceruti, Maui resident and retired scientist.

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 9:40:53 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Bud Daumen | Kahana Reef AOA | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My wife and I live full time at Kahana Reef. We have owned our unit and have lived here since 2004. We have contributed to the Maui community for over 23 years. My wife was a special ed teacher in Lahaina. She is now retired. I have worked for a non-profit as a manager of a group home for special needs adults for over 23 years and I'm still working there. I have also been a coach for special olympics on Maui for many years. We will be celebrating our 50 year wedding anniversary this May. This is our retirement home. We are not going anywhere else. We love Maui. We realize the ocean is at our doorstep. That is why we support Kahana Bay Regional Beach Restoration (Erosion Mitigation) Project as a suggested pilot project to protect our home. Please help us live out our dream and stay at Kahana Reef for many more years.

Thanks - Bud and Nancy Daumen

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 10:28:50 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Julie Brockman | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

As a property owner and 18 year resident of Maui it is of the utmost importance that we allow beach restoration projects to provide recreation, cultural practices, and prevent the erosion of land and protection of properties.

Mahalo for your time,

Julie Brockman

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 11:22:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Natalie Fobes | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To whomever it may concern:

I support this bill. I own property on Kahana Bay and have been saddened and alarmed by the ongoing beach erosion.

This erosion not only has resulted in the beaches around the Bay disappearing but it also threatens the lower Honoapiilani Road and the power, water and sewer utilities running above and below the street. This area has suffered much erosion, undermining, and storm flooding in the past few years.

The firm Oceanit was hired by the condo associations and a private family to come up with a plan to mitigate erosion and restore the beaches around Kahana Bay. That plan is developed and could be implemented quickly.

The condo associations would pay for the restoration through additional property taxes on their condos.

Without beach restoration the county will be forced to move all utilities mauka. This will be very expensive.

Using the already developed Kahana Bay Restoration and Erosion Control Plan as a pilot project would prevent the need to move these utilities. And millions of taxpayer dollars would be saved.

Thank you.

Natalie Fobes

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 11:34:19 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lenore E Houston | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

Aloha, I have lived at Hololani Resort for 2-1/2 years. I support HD 1 as amended to include the Beach Restoration projects along the Kahana Coastline as the Kahana Bay Steering Committee proposed. I also ask that the BLNR to please move forward on these projects.

Mahalo to the members for their consideration and support!

Lenore Houston

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 11:34:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| keone downing | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

SB 1456 Restoration of Beach land

WE OPPOSE this Bill as presented.

House version did not include the listing of lots using TMK's that senate Bill has added. Why use TMK's for this, instead of letting public know what private landowners are also being included. It gives a false illusion that these numbers are for the park.

Section 3 starts off in saying State would appropriate money for a sand restoration and dune replenishment pilot project, yet it only lists TMKs, but doesn't list the private landowners: Hololani Resort, Royal Kahana, Valley Isle, and Sands of Kahana.

Section 4 would put State money for a "sand restoration and dune replenishment pilot project" at Hanakaoo county park on the Island of Maui.

Why are we appropriating monies through a bill when these private landowners tried through appropriate channels and been denied.

We STRONGLY OPPOSE this Bill as presented.

Mahalo,

Keone Downing

SAVE OUR SURF

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 1:07:51 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Norbert Wolszon | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support the ammendmnet of this bill in section 3 to include naming KBSC and other projects as pilot Beach Restoration projects for BLNR to move forward in a timely fashion and I encourage all of you to support it as well, This is a win win situation for the residents of Maui and our envirnmmment.

I thank the members in advance for their consideration and support!

Mahalo

Norb Wolszon

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 1:28:05 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ana Cristina Ramos Pinheiro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My testimony will make clear that I support the amendment of this bill in section 3 to include naming KBSC and other projects as pilot Beach Restoration projects for BLNR to move forward in a timely fashion

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 1:42:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jodi Nehring | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao and Members of the Committee on Water and Land

I am an owner at Valley Isle resort in the Kahana area of west Maui. We have owned property in Maui since 2016 and over this time I have seen continual degradation of our beaches in the Kahana Bay Area. I have studied the proposals and believe the best thing for this area is supporting the HD1 Bill in its amended form, including the amendments to Section 3 which names KBSC Regional Beach Erosion Mitigation and Beach Restoration project as a Pilot Project. I believe that this has been delayed too long and further damage is being done on a daily basis. We cannot wait, I'd ask the BLNR to make this an urgent priority.

Thank you to all the members, I know this is a challenging area and I very much appreciate the work you are doing.

Regards,

Jodi Nehring

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 1:44:59 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Meghan Griffiths | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of S.B. 1456, Proposed H.D.1, specifically the amendment in Section 3 to include the Kaanapali Beach Sand Channel (KBSC) project, along with other critical shoreline projects, as pilot beach restoration initiatives under the authority of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

The timely implementation of these pilot projects is essential for preserving Hawaii's valuable coral reef ecosystems, protecting coastal properties, and safeguarding property values for homeowners and businesses alike. The ongoing erosion along our beaches poses significant threats not only to the natural environment but also to the economic vitality and sustainability of our coastal communities.

Naming KBSC and similar projects as pilot initiatives within this bill will allow the BLNR to take prompt and effective action, ensuring vital beach restoration work can proceed without unnecessary delays. These efforts are critical for maintaining Hawaii's renowned shorelines, preserving marine habitats, and supporting a resilient local economy reliant on tourism and coastal recreation.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support this important legislation, including the proposed amendment to explicitly incorporate KBSC and other necessary restoration projects as pilot programs.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Meghan Griffiths

909-273-7074

Meghan@HardinCarterGroup.com

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 1:47:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Karen Braun | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

March 12, 2025

Rep Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep Rachele F. LaMosao

I am an owner and community member in the Kahana Bay Area of Maui. I support the HD1 Bill in its amended form, including the amendments to Section 3, which names the KBSC Regional Beach Erosion Mitigation and Beach Restoration project as a Pilot Project that BLNR should make a priority.

Thank you to all committee members for your considertaion and support.

Karen Braun

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 2:04:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Larry Kapchinsky | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee: I am writing in strong support of S.B. 1456, Proposed H.D.1, specifically the amendment in Section 3 to include the Kaanapali Beach Sand Channel (KBSC) project, along with other critical shoreline projects, as pilot beach restoration initiatives under the authority of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

The timely implementation of these pilot projects is essential for preserving Hawaii's valuable coral reef ecosystems, protecting coastal properties, and safeguarding property values for homeowners and businesses alike. The ongoing erosion along our beaches poses significant threats not only to the natural environment but also to the economic vitality and sustainability of our coastal communities.

Naming KBSC and similar projects as pilot initiatives within this bill will allow the BLNR to take prompt and effective action, ensuring vital beach restoration work can proceed without unnecessary delays. These efforts are critical for maintaining Hawaii's renowned shorelines, preserving marine habitats, and supporting a resilient local economy reliant on tourism and coastal recreation.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support this important legislation, including the proposed amendment to explicitly incorporate KBSC and other necessary restoration projects as pilot programs.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Larry Kapchinsky

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

As a condo owner enjoying my golden years at Valley Isle Resort, I am writing in strong support of S.B. 1456, Proposed H.D.1, specifically the amendment in Section 3 to include the Kaanapali Beach Sand Channel (KBSC) project, along with other critical shoreline projects, as pilot beach restoration initiatives under the authority of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

Time is of the essence in the implementation of these pilot projects. This bill is essential for preserving Hawaii's valuable coral reef ecosystems, protecting coastal properties, and safeguarding property values for homeowners and businesses alike. We have all seen what happens after the fact when preventable disasters are mismanaged and costly delays take its toll on lives, property and on the land. The ongoing erosion along our beaches poses significant threats not only to the natural environment but also to the economic vitality and sustainability of our coastal communities.

Naming KBSC and similar projects as pilot initiatives within this bill will allow the BLNR to take prompt and effective action, ensuring vital beach restoration work can proceed without unnecessary delays. These efforts are critical for maintaining Hawaii's renowned shorelines, preserving marine habitats, and supporting a resilient local economy reliant on tourism and coastal recreation.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support this important legislation, including the proposed amendment to explicitly incorporate KBSC and other necessary restoration projects as pilot programs.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully,

Janice Kapchinsky

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 2:27:13 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Maria Carter | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of S.B. 1456, Proposed H.D.1, specifically the amendment in Section 3 to include the Kaanapali Beach Sand Channel (KBSC) project, along with other critical shoreline projects, as pilot beach restoration initiatives under the authority of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

The timely implementation of these pilot projects is essential for preserving Hawai'i's valuable coral reef ecosystems, protecting coastal properties, and safeguarding property values for homeowners and businesses alike. The ongoing erosion along our beaches poses significant threats not only to the natural environment but also to the economic vitality and sustainability of our coastal communities.

Naming KBSC and similar projects as pilot initiatives within this bill will allow the BLNR to take prompt and effective action, ensuring vital beach restoration work can proceed without unnecessary delays. These efforts are critical for maintaining Hawai'i's renowned shorelines, preserving marine habitats, and supporting a resilient local economy reliant on tourism and coastal recreation.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support this important legislation, including the proposed amendment to explicitly incorporate KBSC and other necessary restoration projects as pilot programs.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Maria Carter

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 2:27:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Justin hardin | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of S.B. 1456, Proposed H.D.1, specifically the amendment in Section 3 to include the Kaanapali Beach Sand Channel (KBSC) project, along with other critical shoreline projects, as pilot beach restoration initiatives under the authority of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

The timely implementation of these pilot projects is essential for preserving Hawaii's valuable coral reef ecosystems, protecting coastal properties, and safeguarding property values for homeowners and businesses alike. The ongoing erosion along our beaches poses significant threats not only to the natural environment but also to the economic vitality and sustainability of our coastal communities. Protecting our coastal properties will also ensure our housing issues on Maui can get better, not worse.

Naming KBSC and similar projects as pilot initiatives within this bill will allow the BLNR to take prompt and effective action, ensuring vital beach restoration work can proceed without unnecessary delays. These efforts are critical for maintaining Hawaii's renowned shorelines, preserving marine habitats, and supporting a resilient local economy reliant on tourism and coastal recreation.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support this important legislation, including the proposed amendment to explicitly incorporate KBSC and other necessary restoration projects as pilot programs.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 2:35:49 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Gary L Gonder | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Letter in Support of HD1 Bill

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing to you as a deeply concerned voting citizen who cares profoundly about the preservation of our beaches and properties. I am thrilled to express my unwavering support for the HD1 Bill in its amended form. The amendments to Section 3, which recognize the KBSC Regional Beach Erosion Mitigation and Beach Restoration project as a Pilot Project that the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) should prioritize, are of utmost importance to me.

Our coastline is not merely a geographic boundary; it is a cherished treasure that holds significant ecological, cultural, and economic value. The beaches are where families gather, where the community bonds, and where the natural beauty of our region is displayed in all its splendor. However, the increasing threat of beach erosion has cast a shadow over this precious resource, endangering both the environment and the properties that many of us call home.

The HD1 Bill, with its vital amendments to Section 3, represents a beacon of hope for our community. By designating the KBSC Regional Beach Erosion Mitigation and Beach Restoration project as a Pilot Project, we are taking a crucial step toward addressing the pressing issue of coastal degradation. It is imperative that BLNR makes this project a priority, ensuring that the necessary measures are implemented to protect and restore our beaches.

The amendments to Section 3 are particularly noteworthy as they underscore the significance of the KBSC project. This initiative is not just a local concern; it serves as a model for other regions facing similar challenges. By supporting this Pilot Project, we are fostering innovation and leadership in the field of beach erosion mitigation, setting a precedent for future efforts across the state and beyond.

As a voter, I urge our lawmakers and decision-makers to consider the long-term benefits of prioritizing the KBSC project. The protection of our beaches is intertwined with the well-being of our community, the stability of our economy, and the health of our environment. It is a responsibility that we must embrace with dedication and urgency.

I implore you to support the HD1 Bill in its amended form and to champion the amendments to Section 3. Together, we can make a difference in safeguarding our coastline for present and future generations. Let us honor the natural heritage of our region by taking decisive action to protect our beaches and properties.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. Your commitment to this cause will have a lasting impact on our community and our cherished coastline.

Sincerely,

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 2:54:16 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Robert Ruble | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a 70-year-old retired Aerospace Engineer. On 05 AUG 2019, I purchased a condominium at Valley Isle Resort, 4327 Lower Honoapiilani Rd., Lahaina, HI. I am a full-time resident.

I support the subject 1456 bill because the building that I live in is subjected to shoreline erosion. I cannot understand why anyone would support a position resulting in the neglect of personal safety of Mauians living at Valley Isle Resort and their financial investment.

The shoreline absolutely needs to be restored by any and all means necessary for the safety, and protection of the property owners and residents. Thank you.

Aloha,

Robert Ruble

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 3:02:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Robert Shaw | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To: Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the House of Representatives Committee on Water and Land

Subject: Support for SB 1456, in the form of H.D. 1 (As Amended) Relating to Beach Restoration

Honored Representatives –

I am writing today to support the house version of SB 1456 / H. D. 1 As amended to include modifications to definitions in Section 2 and the addition of Pilot projects in Section 3.

It is of vital importance to our coastal communities that projects to restore and protect coastal lands may be moved forward in an orderly and timely manner, allowing for Beach Restoration BOTH with and without stabilizing structures. Long term restoration and erosion mitigation projects with protective stabilizing structures will help restore community beach resources and further protect them from ongoing ocean erosion and storm events.

As an owner and community supported in the Kahana Bay Area I strongly support the addition of the KBSC Regional Erosion Mitigation and Beach Restoration project to the list of encourage pilot projects to be supported and progressed, as in the proposed amendment to Section 3. This project is a long standing development concept originally studied by County of Maui in 2015 and 16, and as further defined, refined, and developed through the cooperation of County of Maui Planning, The Kahana Bay Steering Committee, and its Engineering partner at Oceanit. The benefits are many and support the local community and economy.

Please Approve this bill as amended!

Thank you for your consideration and support for this measure.

Robert Shaw

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 3:08:02 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Michael Asbery | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Good morning, Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Water and Land.

My name is Michael Joseph Asbery, and I am an owner and concerned member of the Kahana Bay Area community of Maui. My wife Sondra and I own a condo unit at Valley Isle Resorts in Kahana and are frequent visitors to Lahaina and Kahana area. I am writing today to express my strong support for S.B. 1456, Proposed H.D.1 – Relating to the Restoration of Beach Lands Bill in its amended form, including the amendments to Section 3 which names the KBSC Regional Beach Erosion Mitigation and Beach Restoration project as a Pilot Project that BLNR should make a priority. I also support the BLNR to move forward on this project and other projects as pilot beach restoration projects in a timely fashion.

I believe that the Bill will significantly benefit our community by restoring beach lands that will help protect our coastal ecosystems that are vital for biodiversity. Healthy beaches act as natural barriers against storm surges and erosion, safeguarding inland areas. In addition, ensuring the preservation and restoration of these beaches can enhance the area's appeal to visitors and tourism, supporting local businesses and contributing to the economy. Finally, proactive restoration of Hawaii's beaches can mitigate impacts of rising sea levels and increased storm activity, making the area more resilient to climate change. As owners and frequent visitors to the Kahana Bay Area, Sondra and I have a vested interest in the long-term health and vibrancy of the beaches and ecosystem in this area. We strongly support this Bill that outlines a plan to achieve our shared goals.

In conclusion, I urge you to progress this Bill, with the Section 3 amendments noted above as soon as possible. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Michael Joseph Asbery

mike.asbery@seablueventures.com

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 3:20:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Danny Cox | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill for the restoration of the beach because it is used by so many people who enjoy it.

It is also important to the many condo's along the beaches who depend on a nice beach.

Thank you!

Danny Cox & Cheryl Novak

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 3:48:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Joseph Bolster | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a local Lahaina resident that was born here in Maui and lived for many years of my life in Kahana. I am writing this testimony in support of SB 1456. I think it is important that the State, Federal, and local government get together to find out how to best resolve the issues of erosion. I support changing the definition of beach restoration so that we can best address the issues that we are facing. Kahana Bay is a perfect example of beach erosion that is threatening the safety and wellbeing of local residents and visitors. While the main focus in the last year and a half has been on how to rebuild after the Lahaina fires, I think we should not let the response to one disaster prevent us from taking action to prevent another impending disaster. I believe that we are only one big storm away from experiencing this disaster in the Kahana area and our constant pleas for government support are too frequently ignored. It is only a matter of time until the government agencies will need to take action regarding the beaches and buildings of Kahana, and I can only hope that it is not too late for our community at that time.

Please take every action necessary to preserve Kahana and help the lives of the people that call this area home including myself. Take this opportunity to explore how we can expand this model to other beaches in Hawaii, using Kahana beach as a pilot program. Please, save Kahana Beach.

Mahalo,

Joseph Bolster

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:05:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jovanae Hauschild | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair and Vice Chair,

I am an owner and community member in the Kahana Bay Area of Maui. I support the HD1 Bill in its amended form, including the amendments to Section 3 which names the KBSC Regional Beach Erosion Mitigation and Beach Restoration project as a Pilot Project that BLNR should make a priority.

My testimony will make clear that I support the amendment of this bill in section 3 to include naming KBSC and other projects as pilot Beach Restoration projects for BLNR to move forward in a timely fashion.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Mahalo,

Jovanae Hauschild

March 12, 2025

Hearing: S.B. 1456, Proposed H.D.1. Relating to the Restoration of Beach Lands

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Please accept our testimony in support of the above referenced bill to include the amendment in section 3 to include naming the Kahana Bay Regional Beach Restoration (erosion mitigation) Project as a suitable pilot project for beach restoration with stabilizing structures. We also respectfully ask that BLNR move forward in a timely fashion.

We understand that studies have shown that that stabilizing structures will enhance the ocean sealife of Kahana Bay, as well as providing beautiful and safe restored beach areas for recreation, exercise, and property preservation.

We own two units within the Valley isle Resort. Our family of nine stayed in the units in October for ten days of family time. We have three small grandchildren. The first afternoon we were able to play in the water along Kahana beach. After a strong wave event , the second day we were there, much of the sand had been drawn off shore and it was not safe to have the children play on the beach and/or in the water. This also causes great concern for the future affect on the building structures, requiring the constant placement of sandbags.

We strongly support the addition of and specific mentioning of the KBSC to be included in the proposed pilot project.

Thank you very much to all of the members of this committee for your careful consideration and support of this project.

Respectfully,

Rey and Carla Munoz
2050 Ross Drive
Auburn, CA 95602

Owners of two units at the Valley isle Resort

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:24:33 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kevin Hauschild | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair and Vice Chair,

I am an owner and community member in the Kahana Bay Area of Maui. I support the HD1 Bill in its amended form, including the amendments to Section 3 which names the KBSC Regional Beach Erosion Mitigation and Beach Restoration project as a Pilot Project that BLNR should make a priority.

My testimony will make clear that I support the amendment of this bill in section 3 to include naming KBSC and other projects as pilot Beach Restoration projects for BLNR to move forward in a timely fashion.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Mahalo
Kevin Hauschild

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:39:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pantawan Sriwong | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Committee,

I am writing to express my support for SB1456 HD1.

Amending the definition of "Beach Restoration" will equip the government with the necessary tools and resources to combat beach erosion, which is increasingly evident in areas like Kahana Bay. I also strongly support the allocation of funds for sand replenishment and dune nourishment projects, as these efforts are critical to addressing this issue.

As a resident of Lahaina, I have personally witnessed the detrimental effects of coastal erosion on our community. I appreciate your efforts to address the safety and environmental concerns tied to this problem. I respectfully urge you to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Pantawan Sriwong

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:42:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Debbie gigliotti | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am so happy to see this issue being addressed. We have waited so many years and watched the sand erode and the ocean eat our land, lapping at our building foundation. There are so many reasons to vote yes on this bill. We have loved the beach there on West Maui and spent thousands of owners dollars to do what only a bigger entity can do...move the water away from the land in a ecological manner so everyone can enjoy the coast, the sand the views and protect millions in tax dollars from being washed into the sea for even more environmental damage. I can't see any reason to vote No or such a logical bill. We have owned for over 25 years and want to be able say that for another 25 years.

Sincerely Debbie and Vic White

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 4:52:06 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Serena Reiss | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I have confirmed that the Water and Land Committee will hold its hearing on the BLNRs Senate Bill 1456. They will hear testimony and make amendments as H.D. 1 This is a house draft version of the senate bill, and then it will later be reconciled

In order to ADD mention of the KBSC as a suitable pilot project for Beach Restoration with stabilizing structures (allowed in their revised definition) Hololani will be supporting the Chairs amendment to Section 3 of H.D. 1 which adds The Kahana Bay Regional Beach Restoration (Erosion Mitigation) Project as a suggested pilot project for the BLNR to advance.

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 5:24:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Dr. Colleen Sutton | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I own a small home in Kahana and have been a member of the community since I was a child. I support amending sections 2 and 3 of the bill and adding the KBSC beach restoration project to the bill.

In 2013 a hurricane (made more intense by climate change) washed away many yards of beautiful sandy beach in Kahana. My ohana hoped that things would be resolved and the beach returned. More than a decade later, I still hope to see that beach in Kahana again.

The Kahana Bay Steering Committee hired capable engineers. These engineers assessed the way water flows around different types of structures. They have prepared appropriate plans and considered the potential impacts to the environment. The proposed plan will provide a balanced approach and restore some of the habitat that was lost when the hurricane washed away the Kahana beach.

I am grateful for the opportunity to share my hope that my children and generations to follow will have the chance to experience the same wonderful beach that I knew.

Mahalo,

Dr. Colleen Sutton

THE SENATE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 1456
H.D. 1
PROPOSED

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RESTORATION OF BEACH LANDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the
2 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's leading
3 authority on climate science, in its Assessment Report 6 (2021)
4 stated that it has high confidence that global sea level is
5 committed to rise for centuries to millennia, regardless of
6 whether humans slow carbon emissions into the atmosphere.
7 The legislature also finds that the state climate change
8 mitigation and adaptation commission, created by Act 32, Session
9 Laws of Hawaii 2017, stated in its 2022 report to the
10 legislature that Hawaii is projected to likely experience
11 between 3.9 and 5.9 feet of sea level rise by the year 2100.
12 The legislature finds that sea level rise poses a serious and
13 imminent threat to Hawaii's coastal communities and residents
14 and to Hawaii's natural resources, primarily beaches and coastal
15 ecosystems. The legislature recognizes that the State has an
16 affirmative duty to preserve beaches as a public trust resource
17 for the people of Hawaii, and that beaches are both culturally



1 important and provide natural resilience to sea level rise and
2 associated coastal flooding.

3 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 4 (1) Amend the definition of "beach restoration" to expand
5 the types of activities the State recognizes as
6 restorative and beneficial to beach lands in response
7 to increasing threats of sea level rise and beach
8 loss; and
- 9 (2) Appropriate funds for sand restoration and dune
10 replenishment pilot projects.

11 SECTION 2. Section 171-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by amending the definition of "beach restoration" to
13 read as follows:

14 ""Beach restoration" means [~~the placement of sand, with or~~
15 ~~without stabilizing structures, on an eroded beach from an~~
16 ~~outside source such as offshore sand deposits, streams, channels~~
17 ~~or harbor mouths, or an upland sand quarry.] an activity
18 undertaken to:~~

- 19 (1) Maintain and improve beaches and dune systems through
20 management of sand and native dune vegetation;



1 (2) Place sand on an eroded beach from an approved outside
2 or adjacent source, with or without stabilizing
3 structures; or

4 (3) Remove abandoned remnant materials from beaches and
5 dunes that pose a risk to public health and coastal
6 ecosystems."

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
10 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
11 year 2026-2027 for a sand restoration and dune replenishment
12 pilot project to be undertaken seaward of the parcels located at
13 and between tax map key numbers 2-4-3-005-027-0000 and 2-4-3-
14 009-052-0000, on the island of Maui.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
16 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
21 year 2026-2027 for a sand restoration and dune replenishment



1 pilot project to be undertaken seaward of Hanakao Park on the
2 island of Maui.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



Report Title:

Restoration of Beach Lands; Sand Restoration and Dune Replenishment Pilot Projects; Appropriation

Description:

Amends the definition of "beach restoration" to include activities undertaken to maintain and improve eroded beaches and degraded dune systems through the management of sand and native vegetation, place sand on an eroded beach, and remove abandoned remnant materials that pose a risk to public and ecosystem health. Appropriates funds for sand restoration and dune replenishment pilot projects. (PROPOSED HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/12/2025 6:36:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Koshu Madnani | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

S.B. 1456, Proposed H.D.1 – Relating to the Restoration of Beach Lands

Hearing Date: Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Conference Room: 329

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao and Members of the Committee on Water and Land

My testimony will make clear that I support the amendment of this bill in section 3 to include naming KBSC and other projects as pilot Beach Restoration projects for BLNR to move forward in a timely fashion.

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 4:18:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Lori Colwell | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamasao, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land

Hawai'i State Legislature

Subject: Support for SB1456 as Amended H.D.1 – Beach Restoration

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamasao, and Members of the Committee,

As an owner at Hololani, I am writing to express my strong support for the amended version of SB1456 H.D.1, particularly the updates to **SECTION 3**, which introduce a list of **Pilot Projects for Beach Restoration**.

In particular, I urge the Committee to include the **Kahana Bay Regional Beach Erosion Mitigation and Beach Restoration Project** in this section. Coastal erosion has had a devastating impact on our community, threatening homes, infrastructure, and public access to the shoreline. This project, which combines stabilizing structures with the replenishment of beach sand from offshore sources, offers a critical solution to preserving and protecting Kahana Bay for the benefit of residents, visitors, and the local ecosystem.

I respectfully ask the Committee to encourage the **Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)** to take all necessary actions to ensure this project moves forward efficiently and without delay. Its successful implementation will provide long-term environmental and economic benefits, safeguarding our coastline and ensuring continued access to one of Maui's most cherished natural resources.

I sincerely appreciate your time and consideration of this matter. Thank you, Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamasao, and Members of the Committee, for your leadership and support in passing this important legislation.

Respectfully,

Lori Colwell

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 6:31:47 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bob Alessandrelli | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I own a condo on Kahana Bay, practically next door to the Hololani complex and have seen first-hand the erosion that has taken place over the past few years. It's truly horrible and very concerning. Anything that the Legislature can do to help the entire Kahana Bay area would be appreciated. Mahalo for your concern and efforts on behalf of all Maui, and Kahana Bay, residents.

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 6:43:19 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Spencer Schmerling | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

As a homeowner, resident, and registered voter at Hololani, I strongly support the amended version of SB 1456. Including the Kahana Bay Regional Beach Erosion Mitigation and Beach Restoration Project in the list of pilot projects is critical to protecting our shoreline. This project will enhance public safety by reducing risks associated with coastal erosion. I urge the committee to encourage the BLNR to expedite this effort. Ensuring our beach's stability through replenishment and structural measures benefits everyone in our community. Please support and pass this amended bill.

SB-1456

Submitted on: 3/13/2025 6:45:04 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/13/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sarah Schmerling | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

As a homeowner, resident, and registered voter living in Kahana, I fully endorse the amended SB 1456, specifically the inclusion of the Kahana Bay Beach Restoration initiative as a priority pilot project. This effort is vital for maintaining our coastline and protecting our local environment and community. Additionally, a restored beach will help preserve local wildlife habitats. I kindly ask the committee to recommend swift action by the BLNR to facilitate this important restoration work. Please approve this beneficial amendment to safeguard our beaches for future generations.