



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 Higher Education
Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

By

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And

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And

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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 3 HD1 – RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT ON THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU

Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and the Climate Resilience Collaborative (CRC) support House Bill 3 HD1, which extends the deadline for Hawai'i Sea Grant to submit the North Shore Beach Management Plan (NSBMP) to the governor and legislature by one year to December 1, 2026. This extension is necessary in order to ensure the project has sufficient time for community engagement and outreach as part of the NSBMP as detailed in the enacting legislation Act 226, Session of Laws of Hawai'i 2024.

This measure, if passed, will support the NSBMP as an important coastal management, adaptation planning and community engagement model for other coastal communities struggling with coastal hazards and sea level rise and can facilitate improved community-focused coastal planning statewide.

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.

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 and Hawai'i Sea Grant support House Bill 3 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
HIGHER EDUCATION

Wednesday, February 5, 2025
2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 3 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT ON THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU

House Bill 3 House Draft 1 proposes to extend the deadline for the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant program to submit the North Shore Beach Management Plan to the Governor and Legislature. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the bill.**

The Department supports proactive adaptation planning for the impacts of coastal erosion and sea level rise. The development of a dune and beach management plan follows up on the 2022 findings of the North Shore Coastal Resilience Working Group, which was comprised of beach advocates, community members, government officials, and representatives of the University of Hawai'i.

A beach management plan for O'ahu's North Shore presents the opportunity to focus on the ecological health of an iconic beach and on the preservation of the State's public trust resources by addressing the inevitability of beach migration. The Department appreciates that the management plan will outline concrete adaptation and implementation strategies, and believes that the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program possesses the requisite understanding of both beach processes and of human activity in the area to develop an effective plan.

The Department understands that it will be challenging to complete the plan by the current deadline of December 1, 2025, and believes that extending the deadlines to December 1, 2026 presents a more realistic timeline.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.