



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Finance Committee
Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 2:00 pm
By
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and
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SB 3036 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

The UH Sea Grant strongly supports SB 3036 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the University's Board of Regents Approved Executive Biennium Budget. This legislation endeavors to improve the scientific understanding and sustainable management of beach resources along North Shore of O'ahu from Hale'iwa to Kahuku Point. This heavily used coastal stretch is world renown for its beautiful beaches, world-class surf breaks, and marine resources and warrants a dedicated regional beach and dune management plan to conserve and sustainably manage this unique area.

The North Shore community has expressed strong interest and support for a beach management plan. The development of a regional beach management plan requires the support and participation of the community in order to ensure successful implementation of priority management strategies. In this respect UH Sea Grant also supports and encourages the planned "community conversations" to discuss the objectives of the plan and allow an opportunity for the community to share their comments, ideas and concerns for the management of this community resource.

As I'm sure you're aware, the proposed budget of \$400,000 is supported by the Higher Education Committee, which also requested appropriating this amount to your committee. I am happy to address any questions or comments you may have regarding the scope of work or budget for the proposed North Shore Beach Management Plan.

SB 3036 intends to support the development of a coastal processes study and create a north shore beach management plan, with substantial community and stakeholder input, over a two-year period. The University of Hawai'i is well positioned to carry this out and has successfully developed similar beach and dune management plans in Hawai'i including the Kailua Beach and Dune Management Plan and the Beach Management Plan for Maui.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.