



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 Finance
Monday, February 26, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

By

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And

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And

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HB 2248 HD1 – RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT ON THE NORTH SHORE OF OAHU

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, 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 2248 HD1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program to develop a north shore beach management plan for the north shore of O'ahu from Sunset point to the Kapo'o (Sharks Cove) area.

Hawai'i Sea Grant has developed similar beach and dune management plans for Maui County, Kailua Beach Park and the Hawai'i Dune Restoration Manual as recent examples of similar work.

A common element of coastal management planning involves the evaluation and assessment of climate adaptation pathways, triggers and implementation strategies. This is an important component of any coastal planning effort and a consideration for this bill as it would serve to provide professional merit as a comprehensive climate adaptation plan rather than just a beach management plan. This expanded focus could be referenced as a climate adaptation plan in addition to beach management throughout the bill.

The measure, if passed, can serve as an 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 would be happy to provide updated sea level rise data and projections to the Committee or any lawmaker upon request.

CRC and Hawai'i Sea Grant support House Bill 2248 HD1, provided its adoption does not impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.