

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM 'ÕNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAI'I

Legislative Testimony Hōʻike Manaʻo I Mua O Ka ʻAhaʻōlelo

> Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Water & Land Tuesday, January 28, 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

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

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 Climate Resilience Collaborative (CRC) support House Bill 3, which extends the deadline for Hawaii 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 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, 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.