



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 16, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

By

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And

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And

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SB 1068 SD2 – RELATING TO BEACHES

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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 Senate Bill 1068 SD2 and respectfully offer one comment.**

This measure includes in the State's policies for the physical environment under the Hawai'i State Planning Act, the promotion of statewide beach assessments and beach and shoreline restoration and conservation and the pursuit of compatible relationships among activities, facilities, Native Hawaiian traditional practices mauka to makai, and natural resources. The measure appropriates funds to the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development for the development of a statewide beach assessment study and shoreline restoration and conservation plan. The measure also appropriates funds.

CRC and Hawai'i Sea Grant believe that the State should be able to expressly consider coastal adaptation approaches which help to protect natural resources and our public trust beaches in the State's assessments of beaches and shorelines. With that goal in mind, CRC and Hawai'i Sea Grant respectfully offer the following amendment on Page 2, Lines 12-15:

(10) Promote statewide beach assessments and beach and shoreline adaptation, restoration, and conservation to develop feasible beach and shoreline adaptation, restoration, or conservation options.

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 SB 1068 SD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.