



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, February 6, 2023 at 1:05 p.m.

By

Charles “Chip” Fletcher, PhD
Dean, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

And

Darren T. Lerner, PhD
Director, Sea Grant College Program,
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1389 – RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY DISCLOSURES WITHIN SHORELINE AREAS

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, 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 SB 1389 and offer one comment.**

This measure requires mandatory disclosure of all existing permitted and unpermitted shoreline erosion control structures, the annual erosion rate, and the current actual setback of all structures for shoreline properties prior to real estate transactions. In essence, this measure builds on Act 179, SLH 2021, that required mandatory seller disclosures of sea level rise risk in real property transactions.

Hawai'i Sea Grant and CRC recommend referencing official county databases for historical shoreline erosion rates rather than the CRC Hawai'i Shoreline Study Map. Historical erosion rates are available from the Counties of Kaua'i, Honolulu, and Maui and are already applied in planning and permitting. Hawai'i Sea Grant and CRC have reviewed the Department of Land and Natural Resources's proposed amendment language and agree with it.

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 (NOAA) that promote better understanding,

conservation, and use of coastal resources.

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 working to update coastal models with more recent projections of sea level rise and to take account of other variables that impact Hawai'i's shorelines.

Hawai'i Sea Grant and CRC would be happy to provide updated sea level rise data and projections to the Committee or any lawmaker upon request.

Hawai'i Sea Grant and the Climate Resilience Collaborative support SB 1389 and recommend consideration of the above-mentioned amendment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.