HB 1829

RELATING TO COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

By

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HB 1829 would amend Chapter 205A to clarify definitions and to expand planning oversight to encompass coastal high hazard and non point source pollution management.

Our statement on this bill does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Coastal zone management appropriately engages a broad oversight responsibility, due to the variety and extent of the forces that are brought to bear on this sensitive environment. Since its enactment, the CZM law has made substantial contributions to the state’s economic welfare through enhancement and protection of some of our most attractive resources. The management responsibilities strengthened by this measure reflect both the recognition of coastal zone significance to the state and the experiences of the past two decades. In particular, lessons of Iniki are incorporated in the strengthening of oversight provisions related to coastal high hazard areas, and in view of our susceptibility to sudden and severe losses due to natural events, these precautions are more than justified. Thus, we strongly support the amendments proposed in HB 1829.