



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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SB 570  
RELATING TO BEACHES

Statement for  
Senate Committee on  
Tourism and Recreation  
February 12, 1991

By  
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SB 570 would establish a state office on beaches within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). DLNR is directed to submit an interim report prior to January 10, 1992 and a final report prior to January 10, 1993 regarding budget and staffing requirements for the office on beaches. This report is also to address any proposed legislation for cost sharing, with private shoreline property owners, of beach stabilization projects.

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

The Environmental Center submitted testimony on a companion bill, HB 219, and our previous statement remains applicable to SB 570.

We concur with the findings of this bill as presented in Section 1. There are a number of environmental problems related to the piecemeal management of shoreline protection devices including the eroding of adjacent property, interruption in long shore sand transport, and interference with natural long term cycles of beach erosion and accretion. We also concur that better methods of beach stabilization exist, particularly the use of offshore sand as a more cost effective and less environmentally damaging alternative. Unfortunately, we do not concur with the proposed solution.

The creation of a separate state office to address the specific issue of beaches would seem to be unnecessary and to set an inappropriate precedent for dealing with other narrowly focussed issues. One might argue for a state office on marinas, bikeways, or any other special area/topic.

Rather than set up a separate Office of Beaches, we suggest that the Office of Coastal Zone Management be directed to review the apparent overlapping jurisdictions between the counties and state and to make a recommendation on the appropriate placement of responsibility.

We note that "beach" is not defined in the Hawaii statutes.

SB 570 directs the DLNR to come up with recommendations by January 10, 1993. This differs from the house version that requires recommendations by January 1, 1992.

Given the funding to support the review, and the information resident within DLNR, the county planning departments, the Office of State Planning/Coastal Zone Management and specialists in beach processes at the University, it would appear that a reporting date of January 1, 1992 might be feasible.