REPLACEMENT OF SAND ON PUBLIC BEACHES

Statement for
House Committee on
Ocean and Marine Resources

Public Hearing - February 23, 1987

By

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HB 1169 would amend HRS 205-33,by: (1) limiting the taking of beach sand for personal, noncommercial use to one gallon; (2) delete the present restriction for taking of sand for the replenishment of sand on public beaches to only Hilo Bay, Waikiki, Ala Moana and Kailua Beaches, (3) allow clearing of sand from "public improvements for state or county maintenance purposes", and (4) specifically prohibit the mining or taking of sand, coral, rocks, soil, or other beach or marine deposits from specified areas at Hakipu'u sandbar offshore of Molii fishpond, on Oahu.

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

1. We understand from previous years testimony on this issue, that the limitation proposed in paragraph (1) results from present enforcement problems associated with the determination of what is "reasonable" and the removal of truck loads of sand by individuals, "for personal, non commercial use". Because of the need to protect the sand beach resources of the state, the proposed limitation seems appropriate.

2. The proposed amendment deleting the present restrictions on the public beaches where beach replenishment with offshore sand recovery would be permitted is highly appropriate. Under the existing statutes, offshore sand deposits, seaward of the littoral cell, but within 1000 feet seaward of the shoreline area and 30 feet or less in depth, are lost to deep water and can not be recovered for replenishment of public beaches except at Hilo Bay, Waikiki, Ala Moana and Kailua beaches. There are many other public beaches in the state that could benefit by the use of offshore sand deposits that would otherwise be lost to deep water. Furthermore, the
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environmental safeguards provided by HRS 205-33 assure that any such public beach replenishment projects are adequately evaluated prior to any sand recovery operation.

3. It is our understanding that a serious need exists for minor maintenance clearing of sand from public improvements such as the "cribwalls" at Kuhio Beach and the Ala Moana Beach Trench. Presumably there are, or may be, other areas in the state where similar minor clearing would be appropriate. We believe that existing statutes are sufficient to assure that such clearing will be carried out in an environmentally responsible manner and therefore would concur with the intent of the proposed amendment.

4. We assume that the proposed prohibition for the use of offshore sand deposits to restore Kualoa park reflects the wishes of those individuals who have opposed the use of offshore sand for this purpose in the past.

The continued erosion and loss of sand at Kualoa beach park has resulted in significant loss of beach and park lands, including a significant archaeological site, and has required the placement of offshore concrete protective structures in an attempt to slow the remaining sand loss and protect park structures. As has been pointed out over the past many years by specialists in coastal resource processes, much of this loss could have been avoided or mitigated by merely pumping sand from the area where it is accumulating offshore, back on the beach. We continue to believe that the erosion problems at Kualoa could be addressed most environmentally and responsibly if sand deposits now eroding from the beach and accumulating offshore, could be pumped back to the beach from whence they came. Hence we can not concur with the prohibition proposed in paragraph (b).

In summary, the amendments to chapter 205-33 (a) paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 should allow for more environmentally and administratively responsible beach management. The amendment to HRS 205 (b) affecting Kualoa Beach, will limit management options, however, the importance of the other amendments is sufficiently critical that we strongly support the passage of the bill.
SB 599
REPLACEMENT OF SAND ON PUBLIC BEACHES

Statement on
Senate Committee on
Agriculture, Energy and Ocean Resources
Public Hearing - February 25, 1987

SB 599 is identical to HB 1169 on which the Environmental Center presented the attached statement on February 23, 1987 before the House Committee on Ocean and Marine Resources. Our statement remains applicable to SB 599.

Attachment