



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

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HB 219  
RELATING TO BEACHES

Statement for  
House Committees on  
Water, Land Use and Hawaiian Affairs  
Health  
Intergovernmental Relations and International Affairs  
Housing  
Public Hearing - February 8, 1991

By  
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center  
Peter Rappa, Sea Grant/Environmental Center  
Ray Tabata, Sea Grant  
Ralph Moberly, Geology and Geophysics

HB 219 would establish a state office on beaches within the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

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

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 long term cyclic 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 cannot concur with the proposed solution.

The creation of a separate state office to address the specific issue of beaches would seem to be inappropriate 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.

In closing we note that "beach" is not defined in the Hawaii statutes.