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HB 470 HD 1 RELATING TO BEACH EROSION

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Energy and Natural Resources
Public Hearing - March 10, 1989

By
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HB 470 HD 1 would provide funds to the school of ocean and earth science and technology to undertake a two-year study on coastal segments of south central and west Maui.

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

As we have often stated in our previous reviews of legislation directed at coastal processes and beach management, there are few (if any) environmental issues of greater importance to the State of Hawaii than protection of our sand beaches. Sand beaches are not static-stationary geographic features but are in a constant state of change. Sometimes accreting other times eroding and the time scales for these changes can vary from hours to many years.

Because coastal areas and particularly those adjacent to sandy shores are favored sites for both residential and resort development, it is clear that informed management of these resources is of utmost importance.

The funds that will be provided by HB 470 HD 1 will permit a full examination of the factors influencing the characteristics of that coastline. We suggest that the results of the study should include specific recommendations to maximize wise planning for both beach protection and land use decision making.

We strongly concur with HB 470 HD 1.