



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

RL:0746

SB 2710
RELATING TO PUBLIC BEACH ENHANCEMENT

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Planning and Environment
Public Hearing - February 17, 1988

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

SB 2710 would provide funds for the preparation of an environmental impact statement and sand inventory study of conditions at Waikiki Beach and Ala Moana Beach pursuant to implementing a sand recovery demonstration project.

This statement does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The importance of sand beaches to the state of Hawaii is obvious. What seems equally obvious is the need to protect, and where environmentally feasible, to restore those beaches. Just as natural conditions of wind and water or improper farming or construction practices produce soil loss and erosion on land, so can natural conditions or man made structures in the shoreline area lead to erosion and sand loss at the beach. In addressing erosion problems on land, or in the coastal areas one must take environmental issues into consideration in determining how losses can be minimized and eroded soils or beaches replenished. Environmentally responsible enhancement of public beaches would be addressed by the studies proposed by SB 2710.

We strongly concur with the intent of this bill. It should be noted that considerable background information exists on the environmental effects of sand recovery systems and the location of nearshore sand deposits. The Environmental Center has been involved with some of these studies and we have provided coordinated reviews of related studies and legislative bills for the past 15 years. Many of the individuals involved

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in these earlier studies continue to be involved in shoreline management research and are available for consultation. We suggest that in carrying out the directives of SB 2710, coordination with individuals involved with the previous environmental and sand inventory studies be encouraged so as to avoid any unnecessary duplication of efforts. If we can be of assistance with regard to the identification of sources of University expertise for either the environmental studies or sand inventories, we will be pleased to assist.