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# HSBPA

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## HAWAII SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION



The ***Hawaii Shore & Beach Preservation Association (HSBPA)*** is an organization of private sector, academic, government professionals, students, and local community members dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Hawaii's beaches and coastal environments.

## THE LATEST HSBPA NEWS

### President's Update

Aloha everyone,

I hope everyone had a wonderful 2015 and is enjoying the spring weather!

The Hawaii Shore and Beach Preservation Association (HSBPA) continues to develop our young Chapter. This past year has seen some wide-ranging projects and interests move through our organization as we stretch our legs and look for the most productive and efficient means for engaging our community.

The 2015 year started with our annual elections. We were fortunate in that all of our incumbent "At-Large" Directors were willing to volunteer their time and effort again. We recently held our 2016 elections for both the "At-Large" and "Island Representative" board members, with two new Directors, Rob Porro and Michael Foley, joining the group.

In January 2015, the HSBPA engaged the State legislative process through our Legislative Committee, chaired by Brad Romine, PhD. This committee tracked and provided comments on a series of State bills that affect Hawaii's

attendance to provide verbal support for our written testimony. Dolan Eversole took the lead on attending the sessions. This committee has also been very active during the 2016 session, working closely with State agencies, members of the public, and the private sector to craft needed testimony for shoreline bills in both the State Legislature and the City and County of Honolulu Council.

As part of this effort, our Chapter put together a white paper for local legislators, government agencies, and the public, summarizing the findings from our 2014 workshop on beach nourishment. After the white paper was finalized it was provided to State legislators as a key reference for discussions on beach nourishment activities in Hawaii. This document has assisted legislators and the general public with State bills related to moving or placing sand on the beaches of Hawaii.

Last year, our Chapter drafted and submitted a proposal to host a workshop at the upcoming International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress which will be held in Honolulu in September 2016. The focus of our workshop is on Living Shorelines, with an emphasis on tropical shorelines. HSBPA's committee for this effort is being led by Ruby Pap, and Matt Barbee was instrumental in putting together the proposal package. The proposal was accepted by the IUCN and HSBPA will be conducting a two hour workshop from 2:30 – 4:30 pm on September 2, during the international conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. The workshop hopes to attract individuals representing a broad spectrum of tropical island environments, from the Pacific to Caribbean and beyond. Along with other organizational partners, HSBPA is working with members of the University of Hawaii's (UH) School of Architecture to develop workshop materials. Wendy Meguro, Assistant Professor of Sustainable Building and Community Design and member of the UH Sea Grant College Program, has

Our Annual Meeting was held on November 13, 2015. This was an exciting meeting for the Chapter with a great turnout. Chuck Blay, PhD, was kind enough to volunteer his time and expertise and presented some fascinating results from coastal studies he has conducted on the Island of Hawaii. We had the opportunity to gather our Board of Directors together, at the same place at the same time, which is never a trivial matter in the islands. Collectively, we were able to tighten our focus for 2016 and narrow our interests to several areas. In 2016 the HSBPA will be focusing all of our efforts on four key topics: membership engagement, Legislative engagement, the IUCN Livings Shorelines workshop, and an annual beach report that is under development now with Dolan Eversole's leadership.

Please feel free to reach out to your Chapter with ideas, or volunteer your time to help on any of the committees. We look forward to seeing more of everyone this year and will be reaching out to you more often as 2016 progresses.

## Legislative Update

The 2016 State Legislative Session is drawing to a close. Your HSBPA Legislative Committee and Executive Committee have been busy tracking legislation and providing testimony in support of bills which are supportive of HSBPA's mission and goals. Unfortunately, none of the bills that HSBPA tracked were ultimately passed this year. However, Legislative hearings and HSBPA's testimony provided important opportunities to educate State legislators on issue of importance to our membership.

HSBPA provided written testimony in support of House Bill (HB) 2145 and companion Senate Bill (SB) 2245, which would amend the definition of "water pollutant" in Chapter 342D Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to exclude locally-

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committee hearings in the House and Senate, the bill died when final hearings were not provided before the Judiciary Committees. While it is disappointing that the bill was not passed, the committee hearings did provide an important opportunity for legislators to gain understanding about the challenges faced when trying to secure a 401 Water Quality Certification for beach restoration projects from the Hawaii Department of Health.

HSBPA also provided written testimony in support of SB 2972, which would provide funds for a beach management plan for the North Shore of Oahu. The bill progressed through the Committee on Ocean and Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs but died when it did not get a critical final hearing before the House Finance Committee. Similar bills were introduced in 2013, 2014, and 2015 and to the City and County of Honolulu in 2015. Clearly there is strong motivation for improved beach management planning on the north shore. Perhaps the effort can find funding through other government and/or community support.

HSBPA also provided its white paper “Beach Restoration in Hawai‘i: Challenge and Opportunities” from the 2014 Beach Restoration Workshop to several State legislators to help inform politicians and decision makers about HSBPA’s collective goals for improving beach conservation and management in Hawaii.

The Legislative Committee thanks HSBPA President Chris Conger and the Executive Committee for their quick response on reviewing and approving written testimony. Thank you to HSBPA Vice President Dolan Eversole for attending several Legislative Committee hearings to provide verbal testimony in support of the measures described above.

For questions or more information on the 2016 or

Brad Romine at [romine@hawaii.edu](mailto:romine@hawaii.edu).

## Island News

### Reporting from Maui: Is this finally the end of El Niño (aka Darth Niño) beach erosion?

Story by: Tara Owens

According to NOAA, El Niño is still hanging around, but has weakened and is expected to dissipate by spring or early summer. Hopefully that provides some short term relief from the critical shoreline erosion that has impacted some sites in Hawaii this winter season. As one example from Maui, Kahana Beach in West Maui reached a critical state this winter from a combination of environmental factors, including:

- Already reduced beach width and volume with from long-term (chronic) erosion.
- Increased frequency and magnitude of large swells and wave runup this winter season due to El Niño conditions, leading to extensive beach and land loss.
- One particular swell, in late March, which originated from about 350 degrees (no energy buffering from Lanai and Molokai islands), was very damaging to West Maui.
- Higher than predicted tides from late March through April, adding stress to the already reduced beach width and volume.

Several multi-story condominiums resorted to emergency measures as short term mitigation in response to this season's erosion. One of those properties had extensive sections of their pool deck undermined. Another has come to within 5 feet of the eroded bank at one corner of the building. Several long-term erosion mitigation

the feasibility of regional beach nourishment for Kahana Beach. One bit of recent good news out of that study is the conclusive identification of large quantities of clean beach sand in the nearshore area. There is more to come on this evolving situation. Please feel free to contact Tara Owens ([taram@hawaii.edu](mailto:taram@hawaii.edu)) if you have questions.



## Committees

HSBPA members are welcome to participate on any of the committees below. This is a great way to get to know your fellow HSBPA members and work towards preservation and restoration of Hawaii's beaches and coastal environments! Please contact Committee Chairs if you have questions, feedback, or are interested in contributing.

**Budget** - Chair Ben Reder ([ben.reder@noaa.gov](mailto:ben.reder@noaa.gov))

**Press Release** - Chair Rob Walker

([walkerra@hawaii.edu](mailto:walkerra@hawaii.edu))

**Membership Engagement** - Chair Tara Owens

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([abohlander@seaengineering.com](mailto:abohlander@seaengineering.com))

**Legislative** - Chair Brad Romine ([romine@hawaii.edu](mailto:romine@hawaii.edu))  
and Ruby Pap ([rpap@hawaii.edu](mailto:rpap@hawaii.edu))

**ASBPA and HSBPA Document Editing** - Chair Chris  
Conger ([cconger@seaengineering.com](mailto:cconger@seaengineering.com))

**HSBPA Bylaws** - Chair Rob Walker  
([walkerra@hawaii.edu](mailto:walkerra@hawaii.edu))

**Workshops and Meetings** - Chair Dolan Eversole  
([eversole@hawaii.edu](mailto:eversole@hawaii.edu))

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