



Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on WATER AND LAND and
HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
Tuesday, February 10, 2015

By
HAWAII SHORE AND BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 204 RELATING TO BEACH MANAGEMENT FOR THE NORTH SHORE

Senate Bill 204 appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Program to create a beach management plan for the north shore of Oahu stretching from Kawailoa to Waiale'e.

The Hawaii Shore and Beach Preservation Association (HSBPA)* supports Senate Bill 204. Recent dramatic beach erosion events on Oahu's North Shore have threatened homes and property. Many HSBPA members have been active participants in observing the events and advising homeowners and government agencies on how best to preserve their property, yet maintain the unique character of the North Shore coastal environment. This environment is dynamic and complex. A comprehensive assessment and modern management plan would benefit the North Shore community and offer a path forward to understand and preserve one of Hawaii's most valuable treasures.

The North Shore community has recently expressed strong interest and support for a beach management plan. The development of a regional beach management plan requires the support and participation of the larger community in order to ensure successful implementation of priority management strategies. In this respect, the HSBPA also supports and encourages the planned "community conversations" to discuss the objectives of the plan and allow an opportunity for the community to share their comments, ideas and concerns for the management of this community resource.

Thank you for considering our testimony on the bill.

*The Hawaii Shore and Beach Preservation Association (HSBPA, <https://sites.google.com/site/hisbpa/>), formed in 2014 is an organization of private sector, academic, and government professionals, students and local community members dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Hawaii's beaches and coastal environments. The HSBPA aims to bring together various members of the coastal community to foster dialogue and cooperation on beach and coastal resource conservation, management, and regulation; supporting professional development of chapter members; and providing education to students and community members on Hawaii's beaches and coastal environments.