



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

June 29, 2020

2:00 PM

Room 329

In **SUPPORT** of **SB2060 HD1**: Relating to Coastal Zone Management

Aloha Chair Luke and Vice-Chair Cullen,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports SB2060 HD1** Relating to Coastal Zone Management.

This bill updates Chapter 205A-the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Act, to incorporate sea level rise within its objectives, policies, and permitting processes related to Special Management Areas and Shoreline Setbacks. This is necessary and timely, as sea level rise is here and will continue, at increasing rates, in future years. Its impacts are already being felt, especially in the form of narrowing or loss of beaches--a public trust resource which should be afforded the highest levels of protection.

As noted in Section 1 of the bill, a study by UH researchers titled "Failure to protect beaches under slowly rising sea levels" documents that over the time period covered by the study (1925-2015) more than thirteen miles of beach statewide have been completely lost to erosion fronting seawalls and revetments. This is due in part to a history of county agencies ("authorities" under Chapter 205A) frequently granting shoreline setback variances where the authorities have made a finding that denial of such variances would present a hardship to the private property applicants. SB 20260 HD1 strengthens provisions of Chapter 205A regarding the granting of variances and other permits.

We strongly support SB2060 HD1. Its provisions are necessary to halt, and reverse, the narrowing and loss of beaches and public access caused in large part by granting of shoreline setback variances, especially as we enter a new era of sea level rise. As the sea level rises we can expect a dramatic increase in the number of variances sought to armor coastal properties. It is appropriate to take measures now to guard against further coastal armoring and promote managed retreat alternatives where feasible.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on **SB2060 HD1**.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Raney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Raney

Co-Chair

Sierra Club Climate Adaptation and Restoration Team

SB-2060-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/28/2020 10:20:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaiian Affairs Cauca	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii supports SB2060, SD2 HD1 that would amend coastal zone management laws to further protect against impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion. This measure is in line with the Democratic Party of Hawaii Platform on the environment and protection of our valuable coastal ecosystems and reefs. This bill also provides important guidance to the counties to help to prevent seawalls and other shoreline hardening structures that destroy beaches, cultural resources, and coastal ecosystems. Please support this measure.

Respectfully

JUANITA BROWN KAWAMOTO, Luna Ho'omalua (Chair), Hawaiian Affairs Caucus

SB-2060-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 4:07:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Huntemer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Finance Committee, I strongly support SB2060, which amends our coastal zone management laws to protect against impacts from sea level rise and coastal erosion. This bill also provides important guidance to the counties to help to prevent seawalls and other shoreline hardening structures which destroy beaches, cultural resources, and coastal ecosystems.

Thank you, Angela Huntemer MEd, Kahuku

SB-2060-HD-1

Submitted on: 6/27/2020 4:51:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 6/29/2020 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Finance Committee,

As a native Hawaiian, I strongly support SB2060, which amends our coastal zone management laws to protect against impacts from sea level rise and coastal erosion. This bill also provides important guidance to the counties to help to prevent seawalls and other shoreline hardening structures that destroy beaches, cultural resources, and coastal ecosystems.

Mahalo,

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

From: [Debbie Ward](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2060 Coastal Zone Management update
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 11:28:26 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Finance Committee,

I support SB2060, which amends our coastal zone management laws to protect against impacts from sea level rise and coastal erosion. This bill also provides important guidance to the counties to help to prevent seawalls and other shoreline hardening structures which destroy beaches, cultural resources, and coastal ecosystems. Please support this bill.

Thank you,
Deborah Ward

From: [Susan Chouljian](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2060 Coastal Zone Management update
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 2:42:10 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Finance Committee,

I support SB2060, which amends our coastal zone management laws to protect against impacts from sea level rise and coastal erosion. This bill also provides important guidance to the counties to help to prevent seawalls and other shoreline hardening structures which destroy beaches, cultural resources, and coastal ecosystems. Please support this bill.

Thank you,
Susan Chouljian

From: [Leif Erickson](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2060 Coastal Zone Management update
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 8:56:38 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Finance Committee, I support SB2060, which amends our coastal zone management laws to protect against impacts from sea level rise and coastal erosion. This bill also provides important guidance to the counties to help to prevent seawalls and other shoreline hardening structures which destroy beaches, cultural resources, and coastal ecosystems. Please support this bill. Thank you, Leif Erickson.

Leif Erickson

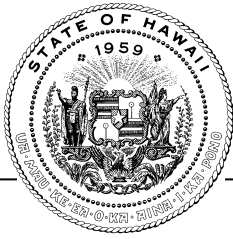
From: [Renee Goff](#)
To: [FINtestimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2060 Coastal Zone Management update
Date: Saturday, June 27, 2020 3:21:02 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Finance Committee,

I support SB2060, which amends our coastal zone management laws to protect against impacts from sea level rise and coastal erosion. This bill also provides important guidance to the counties to help to prevent seawalls and other shoreline hardening structures which destroy beaches, cultural resources, and coastal ecosystems. Please support this bill.

You have the resources (people) who have alternative means to protect housing ale development naturally. Seawalls are the opposite requiring regular maintenance and actually contribute to what is trying to be inhibited (receding shorelines).

Thank you,
Renée Goff



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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS
Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE



Monday, June 29, 2020
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

in consideration of
SB 2060, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT.

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

The Office of Planning (OP) serves as the lead agency of the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, which was approved by the federal government in 1978. The OP **supports SB 2060, SD2, HD1** and respectfully provides following recommendation:

1. **Page 4, line 11-14**, unlike land use policies including state land use districts, county general plans, development plans and zoning, the Hawaii CZM Program does not serve as a mechanism to enable development or increase building surface area as stated in the findings of SB 2060, SD2, HD1. For clarity, the OP recommends amending the statement as follows:

The average building surface area has increased by twenty per cent [~~following the establishment of the State's coastal zone management program~~] since the 1970s and, combined with sea level rise, this development increases the likelihood of mass structural failure and deposit of debris on public beaches.

We appreciate the previous Committees' incorporation of OP's comments and recommendations. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaiian
Electric

LATE

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**Written Testimony in Opposition
S.B. 2060, SD2, HD1
Relating to Coastal Zone Management**

Monday, June 29, 2020
2:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

Kerstan J. Wong
Director, Transmission & Distribution Engineering Division
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kerstan Wong and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (Hawaiian Electric) **in opposition of S.B. 2060, SD2, HD1 Relating to Coastal Zone Management**. Hawaiian Electric understands the anticipated effects of climate change - including increased storm activity and rising sea levels – therefore these important issues are part of our long-range planning and our ongoing work to enhance the resilience of our infrastructure.

S.B. 2060, SD2, HD1 potentially prohibits the construction of shoreline hardening structures, including seawalls and revetments. The Bill also increases the shoreline setback boundary thereby encompassing more facilities that will be required to comply with this Bill and other existing related statutes such as variance permits. Thus, more costs and time will be required to maintain existing facilities.

Hawaiian Electric has facilities near the shoreline that are critical to provide electricity. Occasionally, these facilities require upgrades or repairs to ensure electricity can be generated and delivered. Thus, this Bill could impede Hawaiian Electric's ability

to keep electricity flowing to customers and also increase the cost of electricity.

As an example, our Kahe Generation Facility on Oahu, which is in the shoreline setback area, produces the most firm and reliable electricity on the island. This facility is critically needed at night when the electrical load on Oahu is at its peak and all photovoltaic generation shuts down. Accordingly, Hawaiian Electric opposes S.B. 2060, SD2, HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

LATE

June 29, 2020

Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: Senate Bill 2060 SD2 HD1
Relating to Coastal Zone Management

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee,

AIA **OPPOSES** a "revised definition of development " in HRS 205A-22 making the Owners of many single-family homes subject to greatly increased building permit cost and extended time schedule. AIA concern is focused on added language "is not situated on a shoreline parcel or a parcel impacted by waves, storm surges, high tide, or shoreline erosion"

1. Assuming future single-family residences are designed with increased science-based shoreline setback and resilient building design guidelines taking into account sea level rise vulnerability; including the word "parcel" has effect of changing relatively minor approvals into major permits for all ocean-front single-family residences. Shoreline setback of most counties already includes calculations related to sea level rise and other natural hazards.
2. The added language fails to take into account the size of the parcel or the location of a residence which may be well away from oceanfront based on county-enforced shoreline setback. That's the regulatory purpose of shoreline setback.
3. Full SMA permit is redundancy which can be ill-afforded by many Owners of parcels abutting the shoreline. The legislature is operating under the impression that all owners of shoreline parcels are wealthy off-shore investors.
4. Counties already have discretionary authority to require SMA permit. On specific parcels "...whenever the authority finds that any excluded use, activity, or operation may have a cumulative impact, or significant environmental or ecological effect on a special management area, that use, activity, or operation shall be defined as "development' for the purpose of this part" per existing HRS 205A-22.

AIA has no other comments to offer at this time on rest of Senate Bill 2060. Thank you for the opportunity to **OPPOSE** the specific revision in 205A-22.