

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 10 2015

RE: H.B. No. 444
H.D. 3
S.D. 2

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 444, H.D. 3, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BEACH PROTECTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to promote beach restoration and conservation.

More specifically, this measure:

- (1) Allocates transient accommodations tax revenues to the special land and development fund and the beach restoration and conservation special fund to finance restoration and conservation activities;
- (2) Enables the effective development and implementation of plans to slow the degradation of Hawaii's beaches; and
- (3) Encourages the restoration of beaches through the coordination of activities involving the counties and the formation of public-private partnerships.

Your Committee received written comments in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaii Tourism Authority, Hawaii Shore and Beach Preservation Association, and The Nature Conservancy. Your Committee received written comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and



Finance, State-County Functions Working Group, and Tax Foundation of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii's beaches are an important and valuable natural resource that are utilized by residents and tourists for recreational and cultural activities. Recent studies conducted by researchers at the University of Hawaii and the United States Geological Survey reveal that Hawaii's beaches have become increasingly threatened by erosion, with seventy percent of beaches undergoing chronic erosion and over thirteen miles of beaches having been completely lost over the past century. Your Committee believes that this measure addresses the need to develop more efficient methods of conserving and restoring the beaches of the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting the requirement that transient accommodations tax revenues be allocated to the beach restoration and conservation special fund;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure; and
- (3) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of consistency, clarity, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 444, H.D. 3, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 444, H.D. 3, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,

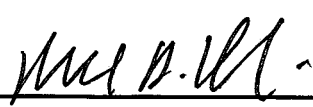


JILL M. TOKUDA, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:* HB444, HD3, SD1	Committee Referral: TSI/WTL, WAM	Date: 3/31/15		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
TOKUDA, Jill N. (C)	✓			
KOUCHI, Ronald D. (VC)	✓			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	✓			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.				✓
ENGLISH, J. Kalani	✓			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood				✓
HARIMOTO, Breene	✓			
INOUYE, Lorraine R.	✓			
RIVIERE, Gil	✓			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	✓			
SLOM, Sam	✓			
TOTAL	9	0	0	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">  </div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes