
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BEACH PARK RESTORATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Kahaluu bay, Hawaii
2 island is located 4.5 miles south of the town of Kailua-Kona and
3 is situated in a major resort area. While the State has
4 jurisdiction of the bay's shoreline until the high water mark,
5 the county of Hawaii owns and operates the Kahaluu beach park
6 facility, which is heavily utilized by both residents and
7 tourists. The legislature further finds that Kahaluu beach park
8 is the top visited beach park in the county of Hawaii, recording
9 over four hundred thousand visitors annually.

10 On January 19, 2022, the University of Hawaii at Manoa's
11 school of ocean and earth science and technology announced a
12 seven-year \$50,000,000 commitment from Dr. Priscilla Chan and
13 Mark Zuckerberg, which will support various groups within the
14 Hawai'i institute of marine biology to research the effect of
15 changing ocean conditions, as well as sea-level rise impacts on
16 coastal resilience. The legislature finds that this funding
17 source can supplement interagency efforts that require sea-level



1 rise studies and reports to preserve vulnerable sections of the
2 State's coastline, including at Kahaluu bay.

3 Kahaluu bay has historically been regarded as a sacred
4 place to native Hawaiians, adorned with heiau, fishponds, and
5 barrier rock walls that provided for better fishing conditions
6 for hunter-gatherers in the area. Due to its historic nature
7 and popularity among visitors, there have been recent efforts by
8 the county of Hawaii, in partnership with the Kohala Center's
9 Kahaluu Bay Education Center, to preserve the beach park for
10 future generations through the promotion of reef-friendly
11 practices. The legislature finds that these efforts have
12 greatly benefited Kahaluu beach's ecosystem; however, they do
13 not shield the park from the impacts of global warming.

14 The legislature further finds that during the 2021 Regular
15 Session, the Senate adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 52,
16 S.D. 1, which requested the department of land and natural
17 resources and county of Hawaii to collaborate to identify sea
18 level rise at Kahaluu bay to avoid further deterioration and
19 damage caused by rising sea levels. The resulting interagency
20 Kahaluu bay restoration working group, comprised of state and
21 county officials, as well as community leaders, have been



1 planning for the restoration of Kahaluu beach park. However,
2 the legislature believes that the group's findings warrant a
3 prioritization of Hawaii island's overall coastal planning, as
4 well as the need for a sea level rise study and coastal
5 engineering input to help guide the planning process. The
6 legislature further believes that as a public resource with
7 intergovernmental jurisdictions, the restoration of Kahaluu
8 beach park should be a state and county partnership and can
9 serve as a model for the restoration of other public resources
10 throughout the State.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to provide match
12 grant-in-aid funds to the county of Hawaii to hire an
13 engineering firm to study, plan, assist, and conduct preliminary
14 design and concept work for a two-phase project to restore the
15 Kahaluu beach park in the county of Hawaii.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for a
19 grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii to hire an engineering firm
20 to study, plan, and assist in phase one of the Kahaluu beach
21 park restoration project in the county of Hawaii; provided that



1 no funds shall be made available under this Act unless the
2 county of Hawaii provides matching funds of for the
3 purpose for which this sum is appropriated.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of
5 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for a
9 grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii to hire an engineering firm
10 to conduct preliminary design and concept work, which includes
11 sequencing of events, studies, and plans, to assist in phase two
12 of the Kahaluu beach park restoration project in the county of
13 Hawaii; provided that no funds shall be made available under
14 this Act unless the county of Hawaii provides matching funds of
15 for the purpose for which this sum is appropriated.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of
17 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

County of Hawaii; Beach Restoration; Kahaluu Beach Park;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for a grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii to hire an engineering firm to study, plan, assist, and conduct preliminary design and concept work for a two-phase project to restore the Kahaluu Beach Park in the county of Hawaii. Conditions the appropriation on the county of Hawaii contribution of matching funds. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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