Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Tourism Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 9:30am By Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor And

Charles Fletcher, Associate Dean and Professor of Geology and Geophysics University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 4 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FIFTIETH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT

Chair Brower, Vice Chair Ohno, and members of the committee:

We support this (bill) provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget for the University of Hawaii.

This bill appropriates \$100,000, to the University of Hawai'i, for updating the existing coastal erosion study of the island of O'ahu, for the purpose of providing decision-makers with the most current data on coastal erosion. Such data is critical for beach conservation, ecosystem management, and public safety.

This funding would augment on-going erosion modeling at the University of Hawai'i in support of the SLR Vulnerability and Adaptation Report jointly managed by OCCL-DLNR and CZM-OP.

We recommend that this bill be coordinated with other bills seeking to enhance beach management and climate adaptation in Hawai'i.