



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and  
Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs  
February 5, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

By

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And

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HB 1564 – RELATING TO COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT.

Chairs Lowen and Yamane, Vice Chairs Wildberger and Todd, and members of the committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports key aspects of this legislation provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Supplemental Budget.

This bill addresses the problem of strategically re-aligning our land use along the coast, in a time of accelerating sea level rise.

Regarding the prohibition of shoreline hardening, we support an amendment consistent with that suggested by the Sierra Club for HB 549 – retain a hardship test as a necessary condition in addition to, and not overruling, other requirements including neither adversely affecting beach processes, resulting in flanking of adjacent properties, nor curtailing public access.

Additionally, this bill raises the important question of how to strategically re-align land use along the coast through a mortgage mechanism for existing coastal homeowners. It is unclear, however, how the mortgage mechanism proposed would be provided or guaranteed; whether the additional conveyance tax revenues would be sufficient to cover such a program; and whether this is an appropriate/adequate incentive for existing coastal homeowners within vulnerable properties such that it would maintain the public trust asset of the beach. We also encourage that any such program be means-tested. Thus we request these aspects of the financing mechanism be further analyzed and the bill revised accordingly.