

**From:** [Ricol Akana](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:09:37 PM

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Ricol Akana - Phillips and I **strongly support** the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Ricol Akana - Phillips

Sales Systems Manager  
Outrigger Resorts & Hotels

**From:** [Alohalani Alapai](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Urgency for beach improvements in Waikiki  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 9:21:38 PM

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My name is [Alohalani Alapa'i](#) and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I have my children and ohana in need of enjoying years of enjoyment, fishing and flourishing in these waters of Kalia and Kuhio like I have. We need to keep up with the times and with the tides as best as can. We need a “Can Do” attitude for our sea life and for our human life.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

[Alohalani Alapai | Front Desk Agent](#)  
[OUTRIGGER REEF WAIKIKI BEACH RESORT](#)  
[2169 Kalia Road, Honolulu, HI 96815 USA](#)

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**From:** [Katherine Allen](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:18:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Katherine and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

**Katherine Allen**

Operations Administrator

**OHANA**  
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**From:** [Avery Aoki](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 7:00:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Avery Aoki, a local born, raised, educated and working as in career in the hospitality industry. I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

[Avery Aoki](#) | Executive VP and Chief Financial Officer

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**From:** [Kerriann Bellucci](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:07:03 PM

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Kerriann Bellucci and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Mahalo,

Kerriann Bellucci

Sales Manager, Outrigger Resorts & Hotels

--

**Kerriann Bellucci**

[kerriannbellucci@gmail.com](mailto:kerriannbellucci@gmail.com)

**From:** [Laverne Bisarra](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 8:13:25 AM

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Laverne Bisarra and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Laverne  
Embassy Suites Waikiki Beachwalk

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**From:** [Joe Bock](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:38:34 PM

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Joe Bock and I support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry who has been able to support our community through tourism. A thriving Waikīkī Beach is key to our destination's success.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

**JOE BOCK**  
*partner / gm - hawaii*  
[joe@nmgnetwork.com](mailto:joe@nmgnetwork.com)  
808.351.7387

[NMGnetwork.com](http://NMGnetwork.com) | [@nmgnetwork](https://www.instagram.com/nmgnetwork)

**From:** [Danette Bolosan](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:37:54 PM

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Danette Bolosan and I **strongly support** the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.

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Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Danette Bolosan  
Administrative Assistant  
Outrigger Hospitality Group



**From:** [Shantel Burns](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikiki Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 5:14:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Shantel Burns and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikiki – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikiki Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikiki to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Shantel Burns  
Embassy Suites by Hilton Waikiki Beach Walk

**SHANTEL BURNS**  
Housekeeping Manager

**Embassy Suites by Hilton Waikiki Beach Walk**



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Website: www.waikikibeachservices.com

State of Hawai'i  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

June 20, 2023

**SUBJECT:** (Item K-1) Informational Briefing for Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS). Waikiki Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project. Waikiki Beach, Oahu

Aloha,

Waikiki Beach Services, LLC has been a beach concessionaire in Waikiki since 1955, teaching the Hawaiian arts of surfing and canoe surfing to visitors and locals alike. We have watched many changes take place in Waikiki over the decades, but there is one change that we do not want to see: the loss of beach in Waikiki. We **strongly support** beach improvement and maintenance projects in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian, and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikiki.

These beach improvement and maintenance projects include the construction of new beach stabilization structures, the recovery of offshore sand, and placement of said sand on the shoreline. The objectives of these actions are to restore and improve Waikiki's public beaches, increase beach stability through improvement and maintenance of shoreline structures, provide and improve safe access to and along the shoreline, and increase resilience to coastal hazards and sea level rise. The proposed actions are intended to maintain the aesthetic, recreational, economic, cultural, and historical qualities of Waikiki.



Waikiki has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding making the beach either inaccessible or dangerous to beachgoers. These events have been a preview to the devastating impacts sea level rise will continue to have in Waikiki. Sand replenishment and groin maintenance projects have shown to be integral in preserving the beach at Waikiki.

In 2020, the Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt after 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects; prior to this project, the beach in front of the Royal Hawaiian and Sheraton Waikiki hotels had become almost non-existent due to the constant battering from storms and King Tides. The beach became a minefield of exposed rock, concrete, and pipes that beachgoers had to dodge in order to access the ocean. At one point, access to this area of Waikiki beach was even restricted due to unsafe/unstable conditions. However, after the 2020 Royal Hawaiian groin renewal and sand replenishment, beachgoers have been able to experience safer access to the beach and enjoy the ability to sunbathe, recreate and relax.

Waikiki is *wahi pana*, or a celebrated and storied place, both in ancient and modern Hawai'i;



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Honolulu, HI 96825

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Website: [www.waikikibeachservices.com](http://www.waikikibeachservices.com)

famous surf breaks like *Kalehuawehe* were celebrated in many *mo'olelo* and the surrounding land was prized for its year-round pleasant weather, leading many *ali'i* to erect their summer palaces and homes near the Waikiki shoreline. In the 1900's, when aspects of the Hawaiian culture were near to fading away due to Missionary influence and the taboo on Hawaiian language and past-times, it was Waikiki Beach where Hawaiians still continued to practice the arts of surfing and canoe surfing. Later, when tourism made its way to our islands, Waikiki furthered its cultural significance by becoming the conduit where a group of expert watermen, known as Waikiki Beachboys could not only hone their skills at these ancient Hawaiian watersports, but also share them with a world-wide audience. This practice of sharing our culture continues to this day. Waikiki is known as the birthplace of modern surfing and it is still the only place in the world where a guest can experience the thrill of surfing a wave on a Hawaiian outrigger canoe.

Without our mālama and nourishment of this beach, through public and private partnerships, sea level rise will eventually lead to total beach loss. The economic impact would be devastating--\$2.23<sup>1</sup> billion in visitor expenditures and tens of thousands of lost jobs; but the loss of such a culturally important part of Hawaiian history is incalculable and the reverberations of this loss will be felt by residents and for many generations.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Traci Bush  
Waikiki Beach Services, LLC

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Tarui, N., Peng, M., Eversole, D. (2018). Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikiki Beach. University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program. April 2018.

**From:** [Ryan Chun](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for item K-1:Waikiki Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:12:45 PM

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is [RyanChun](#) and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

**Ryan Chun**  
**Founder & President**  
**Elite Parking Services**



**From:** [Carly Clement](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:40:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Carly Clement and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and

maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Carly Clement

**Carly Clement** | Vice President  
Hawaii Vacation Condos by Outrigger  
OUTRIGGER HOSPITALITY GROUP  
2375 Kuhio Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815 USA  
**T** 808 921-6750 **M** 530 448-2383 **F** 808 921-6565  
[carly.clement@outrigger.com](mailto:carly.clement@outrigger.com)  
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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Rowena and I **strongly support** the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Rowena Colling  
Guest Services Manager, Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort

**From:** [Jason Cutinella](#)  
**To:** [DLNR, BLNR Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikiki Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project (NMG Network)...  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:57:20 PM

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Jason Cutinella and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Thanks again and have a great rest of your week,

**JASON CUTINELLA**  
*founder & CEO*  
[jason@nmgnetwork.com](mailto:jason@nmgnetwork.com)  
808.275.7210

**[NMGnetwork.com](http://NMGnetwork.com) | [@nmgnetwork](https://www.instagram.com/nmgnetwork)**

**From:** [Ash Danao](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for item K-1: Waikiki Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:50:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Ash Danao and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project,

**Ash Danao** | Executive Chef  
OUTRIGGER KONA RESORT & SPA  
78-128 Ehukai Street, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740 USA  
T +1 808 930 4945  
C +1 808 640 4243  
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**From:** [Mari Sawamukai](#) on behalf of [Sean Dee](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 7:31:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Sean Dee. I am a longtime resident of Honolulu and a member of the executive team at Outrigger Hospitality Group.

Besides being based at the OHANA Waikiki East by OUTRIGGER where our entire corporate office is based, our family are active members of the Waikiki community.

Both of my daughters have learned to surf and paddle in Mamala Bay, and more specifically Waikiki Beach.

The health and prosperity of Waikiki Beach are of utmost importance to me both personally and professionally.

I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian, and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism.

I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Sean P. Dee | Executive Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer

OUTRIGGER HOSPITALITY GROUP

2375 Kuhio Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815 USA

**T** +1 808 921-6885 **F** +1 808-921-6655

[sean.dee@outrigger.com](mailto:sean.dee@outrigger.com)

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**From:** [Makana Delara](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 8:46:35 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Makana Delara and I **strongly support** the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.



**MAKANA DELARA**

Revenue & Reservations Coordinator

**Embassy Suites by Hilton Waikiki Beach Walk**

201 Beach Walk, Honolulu, HI 96815

Hotel: 1 808 921 2345 | Direct: 1 808 921 2345

[embassysuiteswaikiki.com](http://embassysuiteswaikiki.com) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

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**From:** [Robin Estrada](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: Support for Item K-1: Waikiki Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:52:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Robin Estrada and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to sell and market Hawai'i's hospitality industry for the past 30+ years. The tourism industry has enabled me and my husband to support our family and allows us to continue to call Hawaii home. I see daily how our guests come to Waikiki enamored by how beautiful our beach is; however I also remember how much more sand our Waikiki beach had for us to enjoy; it's sadly disappearing before our eyes. Many long time return guests and clients have told me they are shocked at how much our beach has shrunk and it's heartbreaking.

I also see firsthand the urgency to improve our beaches and implement maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches.

Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
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- Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Robin Estrada  
Director of Sales & Marketing  
Outrigger Resorts & Hotels

**Robin Estrada** | Director of Sales & Marketing  
Hawaii Vacation Condos by OUTRIGGER  
OUTRIGGER HOSPITALITY GROUP  
2375 Kuhio Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815 USA  
**T** 808 921-6832 **C** 808 230-5295  
[robin.estrada@outrigger.com](mailto:robin.estrada@outrigger.com)  
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## University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program

2525 Correa Road • HIG 238 • Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96822 • Phone: (808) 956-7031 • <http://seagrants.soest.hawaii.edu>

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

July 14, 2023

State of Hawaii  
Board of Land and Natural resources  
Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**SUBJECT:** Item K-1 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project. Waikīkī Beach, Oahu

The University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant (UHSG) program provides the following comments for the proposed Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project by the Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). These comments are meant to provide clarity and to assist in providing the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) with up to date coastal and climate science and data to help make informed decision-making. The proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects are intended to mitigate the forecast impacts of sea-level rise as well as the observed beach loss and associated coastal inundation in Waikīkī. These projects are examples of climate adaptation designs within a dense urban coastal environment and are generally consistent with coastal engineering standards and practices around the world. These measures are part of a broader effort to adapt the built environment of Waikīkī to the predicted impacts of climate change and coastal hazards. Some of these adaptation efforts include the development of the Waikīkī Resilience and Adaptation Plan (WRAP), adaptation urban design architecture charrettes, updates to the Waikīkī Special District Design Guidelines along with other City and State policy changes to facilitate adaptation of Waikīkī.

The Hawai‘i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report<sup>1</sup> found that 3.2 feet of sea level rise will have profound impacts on O‘ahu. \$12.9 billion in structures and land could be lost; 3,800 structures could be flooded, including hotels and resorts in Waikīkī; over 13,000 residents could

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<sup>1</sup> Hawai‘i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. 2017. *Hawai‘i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report*. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc. and the State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands. Pages 152-162.

be displaced; and nearly 18 miles of major roads could be flooded. The report estimates that O‘ahu will account for an estimated 66% of the total statewide economic losses due to sea level rise. The State recommended that private and public entities in Waikīkī should begin planning for sea level rise adaptation, including beach restoration, to prepare for higher sea levels in the future.

Global scientific studies reinforce the urgent need to implement adaptation measures in our plans, policies and projects. According to Working Group I of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) it is “unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean, and land. As a result, widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere, and biosphere have occurred including global sea level rise”. As a result of this scientific information, the City and County of Honolulu (City) Climate Change Commission (Commission) made the following recommendations for the City (updated in February, 2023) for planning for sea level rise<sup>2</sup>. This report builds on findings in the [Hawai‘i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report \(2017\)](#), Sweet et al. (2017), USGCRP (2017), Sweet et al. (2018), and other scientific literature to provide specific policy and planning guidance on responding to sea level rise by the City.

- The City and County of Honolulu **should set as a planning and policy benchmark the interagency Intermediate (1.16 m, 3.8 ft by 2100)** sea level rise scenario, as modeled for the Honolulu Tide Station, as the minimum scenario for all planning and design.
- The City and County of Honolulu **should set as a planning and policy benchmark the interagency Intermediate High (1.78 m, 5.8 ft by 2100) sea level rise scenario for all planning and design of public infrastructure projects and other projects with low tolerance for risk.**

The project is part of a broader collaborative initiative, the “*HO‘OMAU ‘O WAIKĪKĪ KAHAKAI*” (*Waikīkī Beach Renews itself*) which includes development of a community-based beach management plan, economic study of the value of Waikīkī Beach, stakeholder perception surveys, and other related endeavors. These supporting efforts are being carried out in coordination with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District Association (WBSIDA) and the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai‘i Sea Grant). Strategic Outreach efforts define the primary project priorities and strategies. The WBSIDA has developed a Waikīkī Beach Community Advisory Committee to help inform projects and serving as a community representative to the projects<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup>[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e3885654a153a6ef84e6c9c/t/62f46b3fff589f651af14410/1660185409937/HonoluluClimateChangeCommission-SeaLevelRiseGuidance\\_Updated-July2022.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e3885654a153a6ef84e6c9c/t/62f46b3fff589f651af14410/1660185409937/HonoluluClimateChangeCommission-SeaLevelRiseGuidance_Updated-July2022.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wbsida.org/waikiki-beach-community-advisory-committee>

The UHSG offers the following summary of project-specific comments.

1. The stated project objective is to increase the resilience to climate change and coastal hazards, this is an extremely common concern shared by Waikīkī stakeholders.
2. The proposed beach improvement projects in Waikīkī are essential for the stated future goal to maintain a viable beach in these areas.
3. Climate change impacts including sea-level rise projected by the state of Hawai‘i Climate Change Commission indicate significant flooding, wave overtopping and beach erosion in Waikīkī for the coming decades and suggest stakeholders and communities plan for 3.2 feet of sea-level rise now. This project has a strong climate change adaptation component that is consistent with the recommendations of the State Climate Commission.
4. The proposed projects are consistent with existing engineering standards and planning studies for Waikiki Beach improvements and are capable of being implemented as phased or stand-alone projects. The engineering designs of the groins also account for predicted sea level rise, thus providing a minimum level of sea-level rise adaptation and protection. Furthermore, the proposed groin designs allow for future elevation adjustments to provide a minimum level of function for the next 30-40 years but can be adjusted to accommodate increased sea-level rise beyond that.
5. Alternative groin design recommendations, including T-Head groins have been previously assessed and recommended as possible strategies for beach improvements in Waikīkī<sup>4,5</sup>. Other examples such as the Royal Hawaiian Groin, Hawaii Kai channel entrance groin and Iroquois Point at Pearl Harbor all demonstrate the successful use of L and T-head groins in a similar nearshore setting.
6. The recently replaced Royal Hawaiian Groin (August, 2020) is demonstrating to be effective at stabilizing the beach area in the Royal Hawaiian beach cell<sup>6</sup>. Beach volume monitoring by the University of Hawai‘i indicates that the Royal Hawaiian beach is not only stable but has been growing in overall volume since the May, 2021 Waikīkī Beach

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<sup>4</sup> *Beach and Surf Parameters in Hawaii* (Gerritsen, 1978), *Final Environmental Assessment, Kuhio Beach Improvements* (Noda, 1999), *Independent Evaluation Study of Proposed Kuhio Beach Improvements* (Bodge, 2000)

<sup>5</sup> Sea Engineering, Inc. (2008). *Environmental Assessment / Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice for Gray’s Beach Restoration Project*. Waikīkī, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i. Prepared for Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts LP. SEI Job No. 25103. August 2008.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.wbsida.org/projects-royalhawaiiangroin>

Maintenance project was completed<sup>7</sup>. This includes recent beach monitoring data before and after the historic south swell of July, 2022 that increased the overall volume in the Royal Hawaiian Beach by 3%<sup>8</sup>.

7. Without a stabilizing and energy-buffering beach to protect public and private coastal infrastructure, we can anticipate even larger and more expensive structural repair and improvement projects to be required soon to prevent the destruction of threatened coastal structures including critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access amenities.
8. Acknowledging that Waikīkī is a very dense urban coastal environment with extremely high land values, strategic relocation (managed retreat) is an important long-term planning objective but may be a more challenging short and mid-term adaptation option. Recent planning efforts in Waikīkī support developing adaptation pathways, and phased implementation of strategic retreat in the long-term (50+ years). Various forms of adaptation in the short and mid-term may allow more time to develop strategic, rather than forced relocation of coastal development and infrastructure.

Sincerely,



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Dolan Eversole, Extension Agent  
Waikīkī Beach Management Coordinator  
University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program

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<sup>7</sup> <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/occl/waikiki/>

<sup>8</sup> University of Hawai‘i Coastal Resilience Collaborative July, 2022 Beach Monitoring Update

**From:** [Kathy Foley](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:08:20 PM

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Kathy Foley and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Kathy Foley  
Corporate Communications  
OUTRIGGER Hospitality Group





**From:** [Brett Greenberg](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for item K-1 Waikiki improvement, and maintenance project.  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 9:42:56 PM

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Brett Greenberg from Aqualani Beach & Ocean Recreation. I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy. I have been standing on that beach for 12 years and have seen firsthand the devastation that sea level rise has cost to not only our hotel guests our visitors as well as the hospitality and beach service business's.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

These improvements are crucial for everyone.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Brett Greenberg  
Beach Services manager  
Aqualani, beach and ocean recreation  
outrigger Waikiki and previously outrigger reef

**Brett Greenberg**

**Beach Services Manager**  
Aqualani

C: (808)357-2725  
[bgreenberg@aqualani.com](mailto:bgreenberg@aqualani.com)



**HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM**  
**A S S O C I A T I O N**

July 12, 2023

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: BLNR - July 14, 2023 meeting

**SUBJECT: (Item K-1) Informational Briefing for Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS). Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project.**

Dear Board Members:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector tourism organization, I am conveying our unequivocal support for the Waikiki Beach improvement project being proposed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District.

The purpose of the beach project has been well-documented, as have the specific steps recommended to preserve this expanse of our beachfront in the face of continuing erosion, climate change, and other natural factors. From the perspective of the HLTA, this initiative is absolutely vital to the visitor industry, for these reasons:

1. Waikiki is the engine of the state's tourism economy. While we have succeeded in diversifying our island destinations and hotel inventory, Waikiki remains the first choice for millions of travelers every year and will remain so for the foreseeable future.
2. According to a forecast by the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, visitor arrivals for 2023 are projected to rebound to near pre-pandemic levels at more than 9 million. Visitor spending will exceed \$21 billion, infusing our state economy with much-needed money to replenish a depleted treasury. Much of this money will be generated by Waikiki.
3. O'ahu's visitor plant, i.e., hotels and other accommodations, are largely centered in Waikiki. The City and County of Honolulu has invested heavily in the district's infrastructure, public safety, and its overall appeal, largely because of its importance to our economy and because having Waikiki enables us to concentrate this type of urban development.



**HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM**  
**A S S O C I A T I O N**

4. The hospitality industry employs nearly 40,000 residents, with a significant concentration in Waikiki. When you add employment from restaurants, retail establishments, airlines and ground transportation services, and other tourism-dependent businesses, Waikiki's importance becomes all the more evident.
5. Waikiki Beach is a much-frequented recreational site for residents as well as visitors. Losing any more of this precious beachfront—while we have the means and opportunity to enhance it—would be a tremendous loss, if not an outright disservice, to our community.
6. This project will be a public-private partnership, with Waikiki hotels joining the state government in funding an infrastructure effort that was once the exclusive purview of the taxpayers. The state should take advantage of the private sector's willingness to help fund the project.

Waikiki Beach is a symbol of the islands, with the background of Diamond Head representing an iconic image of the beauty and enduring appeal of Hawai'i. We must preserve and sustain this invaluable natural resource, not only for our generation but for future generations as well.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Mufi Hannemann  
President & CEO  
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

**From:** [Pila Hanson](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:10:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Pila Hanson and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and

maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Pila Hanson

Pila Hanson | Director, Organizational Development  
Human Resources

OUTRIGGER HOSPITALITY GROUP

2375 Kuhio Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815 USA

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July 12, 2023

Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawai'i  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Date: July 14, 2023 / Time: 9:15 A.M.  
Location: 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 132 (Kalanimoku Building)

Testimony of Gerard C. Gibson in Support of Beach Improvement  
and Maintenance Projects in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani,  
Royal Hawaiian and Kuhio Beach Sectors of Waikīkī

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board:

My name is Jerry Gibson, and I am the President of the Hawai'i Hotel Alliance. The Hawai'i Hotel Alliance members represent some 40,000 hotel rooms, including from all major brands such as Hilton, Marriott, Outrigger, Hyatt, Disney, Highgate, Springboard and others. We write this testimony in support of the DLNR's proposed Waikīkī Beach Maintenance Program.

Waikīkī is not only a treasured resource to local residents, it is also a vital part of Hawai'i's economy. The Hawai'i Hotel Alliance believes strongly that preserving and protecting Waikīkī Beach is critical to the economic viability of Waikīkī and of Hawai'i generally. Waikīkī is responsible for bringing billions of dollars in visitor expenditures to Hawai'i's economy annually. There are more than 30,000 visitor accommodation units in the resorts, hotels and condominiums in Waikīkī. Tourism-related activities in Waikīkī contribute very substantially to Hawai'i's tax revenues, including General Excise Tax, Transient Accommodations Tax, and income tax from tourism-related employment.

Pacific Guardian Center, Makai Tower – 733 Bishop Street, Suite 1900 – Honolulu, HI 96813  
Telephone: (808) 537-6100 – Fax: (808) 537-5434 – Website: [www.starnlaw.com](http://www.starnlaw.com)

Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
July 12, 2023  
Page 2

The proposed beach improvement projects in Waikīkī are essential for the future goal to maintain a viable beach in these areas. Several beachfront areas in Waikīkī are seeing the rapid deterioration of both public and private backshore infrastructure such as groins, seawalls and walkways. This highlights the need to make long-term investments into beach stabilizing structures throughout Waikīkī in addition to more immediate emergency repairs to damaged infrastructure.

Without a stabilizing and energy-buffering beach to protect public and private coastal infrastructure, we can anticipate even larger and more expensive structural repair and improvement projects to be required soon to prevent the destruction of threatened coastal structures including crucial public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access amenities.

The Hawai'i Hotel Alliance encourages the BLNR to move forward with the Waikīkī Beach Maintenance Program as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,



Jerry Gibson  
President  
Hawai'i Hotel Alliance





ABC Stores  
766 Pohukaina Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5391  
www.abcstores.com

Telephone: (808) 591-2550  
Fax: (808) 591-2039  
E-mail: mail@abcstores.com

July 14, 2023

State of Hawaii  
Board of Land and Natural resources  
Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**FROM:**

Curtis Higashiyama: Employee Relations and Government Affairs  
ABC Stores

**SUBJECT:** Item K-1: Informational Briefing for Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS). Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project. Waikīkī Beach, Oahu

**ABC Stores strongly supports** the proposed beach improvement project by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The DLNR proposes beach improvement and maintenance projects in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian, and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī. The proposed actions are intended to maintain the economic, social, aesthetic, recreational, environmental, cultural, and historical qualities of Waikīkī.

We support comprehensive, forward-thinking improvement projects like those proposed and recognize its urgency. With the combination of beach erosion and King Tides, the backshore is frequently flooded, particularly during high surf events, accelerating damage to backshore infrastructure. Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise is likely to result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century and result in an estimated economic loss of \$50 million to \$150 million per hectare. The loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures<sup>1</sup>. Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawaii's tourism-based economy.

In recent meetings at the Sheraton Hotel and past visits to Halekulani Hotel, quite noticeable is the non-existing walkway that existed before. So much so that one is able to see pilings instead of the walkway. This area has been lost to erosion, with this occurring over recent years. As stakeholders along ocean properties are exposed to the changes in sea level and climate change, help is needed to ensure further degradation of the beachfront and loss to these properties can be abated. One only

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<sup>1</sup> Tarui, N., Peng, M., Eversole, D. (2018). *Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach*. University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program. April 2018.

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needs to see reports on the effects of beach erosion in areas such as in Kaanapali and on the North Shore of Oahu.

Tourism is an economic driver for Hawaii and Waikiki is one of the go to destination for these travelers. While many will visit other areas of the island for their beach activities the beach front in Waikiki is still iconic for many. Visitors and locals both have a vested interest in preserving this iconic coastline.

A well thought out plan for the Waikiki coastline is needed to preserve the area for businesses and future generations of both local and tourists alike. The partnership between WBSIDA and the Hawaii Sea Grants Program is a good start to proper management of the coastline. With the Waikiki Beach Management Plan, and related projects, partnership with DLNR will move forward the much needed long term sustained efforts for long-term capital improvements and comprehensive beach maintenance.

**Summary:**

1. The proposed beach improvement projects in Waikīkī are essential for the future goal to maintain a viable beach in these areas. Several beachfront areas in Waikīkī are seeing the rapid deterioration of both public and private backshore infrastructure such as groins, seawalls and walkways. This highlights the need to make long-term investments into beach stabilizing structures throughout Waikīkī in addition to more immediate emergency repairs to damaged infrastructure.
2. Climate change impacts including sea-level rise projected by the state of Hawai‘i Climate Change Commission indicate significant flooding, wave overtopping and beach erosion in Waikīkī for the coming decades and suggest stakeholders and communities plan for *at least* 3.2 feet of sea-level rise now. This project has a strong climate change adaption component that is consistent with the recommendations of the State Climate Commission.
3. Without a stabilizing and energy-buffering beach to protect public and private coastal infrastructure, we can anticipate even larger and more expensive structural repair and improvement projects to be required soon to prevent the destruction of threatened coastal structures including critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access amenities.
4. There is a need to balance and connect historical recreational beach uses with the maintenance of beach areas in the face of physical processes. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups and needs to consider the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Curtis Higashiyama

ABC Stores



Kelly Olinger  
SVP, Development  
PH: 407.613.3602  
kelly.olinger@hgv.com

Hilton Grand Vacations  
5323 Millenia Lakes Boulevard  
Suite 120  
Orlando, FL 32839

July 12, 2023

Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Date: July 14, 2023 / Time: 9:15 A.M.  
Location: 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 132 (Kalanimoku Building)

Testimony of Kelly Olinger in Support of Beach Improvement  
and Maintenance Projects in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani,  
Royal Hawaiian and Kuhio Beach Sectors of Waikiki

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board:

My name is Kelly Olinger and I am the Senior Vice President, Development, of Hilton Grand Vacations ("HGV"). HGV has developed and operates many timeshare projects throughout Hawaii, including several projects at Hilton Hawaiian Village, and the Hokulani on Kalakaua Avenue. We are currently developing a new project known as Ka Haku in the former King's Village site. We offer this testimony in support of the Waikiki Beach Maintenance Program proposed by DLNR for Waikiki Beach.

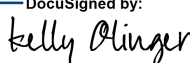
Waikiki is not only a treasured resource to local residents, it is also a vital part of Hawaii's economy. HGV believes strongly that preserving and protecting Waikiki Beach is critical to the economic viability of Waikiki and of Hawaii generally. Waikiki is responsible for bringing billions of dollars in visitor expenditures to Hawaii's economy annually. There are more than 30,000 visitor accommodation units in the resorts, hotels and condominiums in Waikiki. Tourism-related activities in Waikiki contribute very substantially to Hawaii's tax revenues, including General Excise Tax, Transient Accommodations Tax, and income tax from tourism-related employment.

We encourage the Board of Land and Natural Resources to move forward with the Waikiki Beach Maintenance Program as soon as possible.

Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
July 12, 2023  
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
6EA6D8F407314F2...

Kelly Olinger  
Senior Vice President, Development  
Hilton Grand Vacations

**From:** [Joanne Howard](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Soo Stover](#); [gparsons3@yahoo.com](mailto:gparsons3@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] BLNR Testimony for the Waikiki Beach Improvements EIS- July 14th; Urgent Request to Move Sand onto the Beach Fronting the Halekulani and Outrigger Reef Properties  
**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 6:23:57 PM

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Dear Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the significant loss of beach along the Waikiki coastline, particularly the area fronting the Halekulani and Outrigger Reef properties. As someone who has worked on the beach in Waikiki for the past 20 years, I have witnessed the exponential decline in beach size over the past five years, which has created numerous hazards for both workers and tourists alike.

The erosion has reached a critical stage where it is now causing damage to walkways, buildings, and underground infrastructure such as pipes. These ongoing issues not only pose safety risks but also disrupt the smooth operation of businesses in the area. The financial impact on small business owners has been devastating, resulting in massive revenue losses. Consequently, the state is also losing out on taxes and fees that would have been generated by these businesses.

While I understand that there are discussions about the potential addition of a T-groin in the area, I urge you to consider an immediate interim solution to address the pressing issue of beach loss. The upcoming summer swell and king tides are likely to exacerbate the damage and contribute to further losses. Taking prompt action to replenish the beach with sand would provide temporary relief and mitigate the immediate risks faced by businesses and visitors.

I kindly request the Board of Land and Natural Resources to prioritize this matter and initiate the process of moving sand onto the beach fronting the Halekulani and Outrigger Reef properties immediately. This action would not only help safeguard the coastal infrastructure but also protect the livelihoods of countless individuals and contribute to the overall well-being of the local economy.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will give due consideration to the urgency of the situation. I am available to provide any additional information or support that may be required. I look forward to a positive resolution that will ensure the preservation and restoration of our beloved Waikiki beach.

Mahalo,

Joanne Howard

Gone Surfing Hawaii

808.429.6404

[jojo@gonesurfinghawaii.com](mailto:jojo@gonesurfinghawaii.com)

EL TONK









EL TONK

SANG



KESH  
KESH



**From:** [Roland Kam](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:50:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Roland Kam and I **strongly support** the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.



**ROLAND KAM**  
Hotel Manager

**Embassy Suites by Hilton Waikiki Beach Walk**  
201 Beach Walk, Honolulu, HI 96815  
Hotel: 1 808 921 2345 | Direct: 1 808 931 3504  
[embassysuiteswaikiki.com](http://embassysuiteswaikiki.com) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

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**From:** [Sandra Kama](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 5:53:52 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Sandra Kama and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

**SANDRA KAMA**  
Guest Services Manager



**Embassy Suites by Hilton Waikiki Beach Walk**  
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[embassysuiteswaikiki.com](http://embassysuiteswaikiki.com) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

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**From:** [Jeramiah Kamaunu](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikiki Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 6:24:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Jeramiah Kamaunu and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikiki – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikiki Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikiki's public beaches. Specifically:

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikiki to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

[Jeramiah Kamaunu](#) | Assistant General Manager

[Honua Kai Resort & Spa](#)

130 Kai Malina Parkway, Lahaina, HI 96761 USA

**T** +1 808 662-2853 **F** +1 808-662-2871

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**From:** [Sukit Kanaprach](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 5:03:27 PM

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is [SUKIT KANAPRACH](#) and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

[Sukit Kanaprach](#)  
[VP, THE Orchid Lei Company](#)

--

[Sukit Kanaprach, CEO & VP](#)



OLC Logo Design.jpg

**819 Moowaa Street Suite 202 Honolulu, HI 96817**

**| Tel 808 847-1107 | Fax 808 843-2225 | Cell 808 554-0531**

**[sukit@theorchidlei.com](mailto:sukit@theorchidlei.com)**

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**From:** [Blaine Kia](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] KIA Enterprises, LLC  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 8:25:33 AM

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is [Kumu Blaine Kamalani Kia, of KIA Enterprises, LLC \(Hawaiian Cultural Consultant Firm\)](#) and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

[Allow me to close with the fact that I was born and raised in Waikīkī. I am the youngest of nine children. Of which every single one of us have worked and played in Waikīkī.](#)

[My mother, the late Lovey Kia, worked for Tops, Queen Surf, Scooners, and SpenceCliff for forty years, retiring as](#)

one of the legendary bartenders of all time. My father, the late Abraham Kia was a cook and an entertainer in Waikīkī in the days of the original BILTMORE HOTEL. Two of my eldest brothers worked with the Don Ho show in the original

Polynesian Palace raised alongside Sam Kapu's 'ohana, the Tihati 'ohana. In the F&B industry in Waikīkī, it has put each and everyone of us through college and then some!

I have SEEN FIRST HAND the defistation of our shoreline off Waikīkī!!! Today, I am the cultural advisor and entertainment director of the Waikīkī Beach Walk and

Outrigger Resorts & Hotels. I will tell you - THERE IS NO BEACH IN FRONT OF THE OUTRIGGER REEF!!! All my life raised in Waikīkī, I am saddened by the lack of

effort to restore this precious shoreline that is written in history of chants and songs that stretch across MAMALA BAY!

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

***Blaine K. Kia***

Waikiki Beach Walk & Outrigger Resorts - Cultural Consultant/Entertainment Dir.

**Blaine Kamalani Kia**  
**KIA Enterprises LLC**  
FOREIGN TRADE ZONE #9 - HOMER MAXEY BLDG.  
521 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite #321  
Honolulu, HI. 96813

**BLAINE K. KIA DOES NOT ENGAGE IN THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS**  
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Kailua, HI. 96734  
808-358-7656 (mobile)  
[blainekia@gmail.com](mailto:blainekia@gmail.com)  
[blainekia.com](http://blainekia.com)

July 12, 2023

State of Hawaii  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Board Meeting, July 14, 2023, Agenda Item K1: Waikiki Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project**

I would like to express my support for the DLNR proposal to rectify the beach erosion that has taken place, most notably over the last 13 years.

I frequently hear negative comments not just from kamaaina, but also visitors complaining about the shoreline degradation, stones, ocean overrun and dangerous and ugly objects now showing up on the beach.

I have put together three simple photos from 1960, 2010 and from **this week** of the beach areas between the Sheraton and Fort DeRussy to clearly demonstrate the magnitude of the changes.

The drone aided photo below I took this week shows the beach at low tide. Even at low tide, there is very little beach left. When high tide occurs, there is no beach with water directly impacting the coastal properties making it dangerous to walk down this part of the beach.

The time has come to take action and we urge you to give serious consideration to this proposal.

Mahalo,

Bill Kowalski

Please see below, the wide and flat beach as it existed in 1960.



Now please see below, the reduced beach size by 2010 and then the **accelerated reduction** that has occurred, in only 13 years, in the final photo.

In the photo from this week, you can see even at low tide (as shown) only a narrow slither of beach shows. The arrows show the areas where this beach disappears at high tide.

Absent action, we could end up with the need for an ugly wall all the way from the Sheraton hotel to mid-way at Fort DeRussy Park.

That would be around 600 feet of Waikiki Beach coastline loss since the world famous Waikiki Beach was first envisaged.



2010



2023

No Beach at high tide

No beach at high tide

July 2023, Low Tide

**From:** [Luanne Lecker](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] To the BLNR  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 6:58:33 PM

---

I'm a resident of Eastmaui and I oppose BLNR agenda item C1 7/14/23 for the release of lab infected Wolbachia mosquito over Eastmaui. This project should not take place anywhere on our Hawaiian Islands without a full Environment Impact Statement with facts that this lab tested mosquito will not harm human and our food resources.  
Mahalo Nui Loa  
Luanne Lecker  
P.O. Box 696  
Hana,96713  
[luannelecker@yahoo.com](mailto:luannelecker@yahoo.com)

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Luanne Lecker](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Aloha I'm a resident of Eastmaui and I oppose BLNR agenda item C1 7/14/23 for the release of lab infected wolbachia mosquito over Eastmaui. This project should not take place anywhere on our Hawaiian Islands without a full Environment impac...  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 6:41:30 PM

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Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Anne Lee](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 5:14:26 AM

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Anne Lee and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Anne Lee  
Retail Sales Manager/Executive Producer and Host Where Hawaii Eats  
Honolulu Star Advertiser

###

**From:** [Kaiana Lee](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 8:19:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Kaiana Lee and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

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Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.



**KAIANA LEE**  
Front Office Manager

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**From:** [Grace Lovig](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] : Support for Item K-1: Waikiki Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 5:15:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Grace Lovig and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikiki – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikiki Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

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Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Grace Lovig  
Special Events Sales Manager, OUTRIGGER Kona Resort and Spa

**Grace Lovig** | Special Events Sales Manager  
OUTRIGGER KONA RESORT & SPA  
78-128 Ehukai Street, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740 USA  
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[outrigger.com](http://outrigger.com)



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**From:** [Mary Loy](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikiki Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:15:33 PM

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Mary Loy and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikiki – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikiki Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikiki's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikiki has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikiki will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikiki.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikiki. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikiki shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikiki before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikiki Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikiki Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikiki to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

[Mary Loy | Area Director of Leisure Sales](#)  
[OUTRIGGER RESORTS AND HOTELS – Waikiki Collection](#)  
2300 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815 USA  
[mary.loy@outrigger.com](mailto:mary.loy@outrigger.com)

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# STARN · O'TOOLE · MARCUS & FISHER

A LAW CORPORATION

July 12, 2023

Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Date: July 14, 2023 / Time: 9:15 A.M.  
Location: 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 132 (Kalanimoku Building)

Testimony of Ivan Lui-Kwan for Hawaii Hotel Alliance (“**HHA**”)  
in Support of Beach Improvement  
and Maintenance Projects in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani,  
Royal Hawaiian and Kuhio Beach Sectors of Waikiki

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board:

I join HHA in support of the beach improvement and maintenance projects in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kuhio beach sectors of Waikiki proposed by DLNR (“**Proposed Projects**”).

HHA concurs with findings as described below in the Draft Programmatic EIS June 2021 (“**DPEIS**”) which support the Proposed Projects.

**A. Beach Erosion Threatens to Diminish Economic Viability of Waikiki.**

Waikiki is a critical part of Hawaii’s economy.

1. “Loss of Waikiki Beach would result in annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures (Tarui et al. 2018). Beach improvements and maintenance actions are urgently needed to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikiki to continue to support Hawaii’s tourism-based economy and preserve the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic values of Waikiki for future generations”.

Page 1 of Executive Summary of the DPEIS (“**Executive Summary**”).

2846000\_1



2. “Waikiki is recognized as Hawaii’s primary visitor destination and is home to more than 30,000 visitor accommodation units including resorts, hotels, and condominiums which accounts for 90% of all units on Oahu and nearly half of all units in the State of Hawaii (HTA, 2018). In 2002, tourism-related activities in Waikiki accounted for an estimated \$3.6 billion, which was 8% of Hawaii’s Gross State Product. In addition, 12% of all State and County tax revenues and 10% of all civilian jobs statewide can be credited to Waikiki’s attraction of visitors (DBEDT, 2003). In 2015, Waikiki generated 41% of the State’s visitor industry activity and contributed 7% to Hawaii’s Gross State Product (State of Hawaii, 2015; Porr, 2020).”

Page 10 of Executive Summary.

3. “Hospitality Advisors LLC (2008) found that more than 90% of visitors considered beach availability in Waikiki as very important or somewhat important.”

Page 10 of Executive Summary.

4. “The beaches of Waikiki are chronically eroding, and the backshore is frequently flooded, particularly during high tides and high surf events. The beaches of Waikīkī are critical infrastructure and the primary amenity that has established Waikīkī as a world-class tourism destination. Complete erosion of Waikīkī Beach would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures (Tarui et al. 2018). Despite being such a critical component of Hawaii’s tourism-based economy, relatively little has been spent on improving and maintaining the beaches of Waikīkī. From 2006 to 2021, approximately \$10 million dollars has been invested in beach improvement projects in Waikīkī. In 2019, the Hawai‘i State Legislature appropriated \$8.85 million to support beach improvement and maintenance projects in Waikīkī with up to \$3 million of this support provided by the Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement Distract Association (WBSIDA).”

Page 11 of Executive Summary.

5. “Beach improvements are necessary to ensure that the beaches and economy of Waikiki are sustainable and resilient to sea level rise. The proposed actions directly support the recommendations and goals of the State of Hawaii and the City and County of Honolulu to increase resilience to sea level rise.

Page 11 of Executive Summary.

**B. Proposed Projects Are Designed to Accommodate Projected Sea Level Rise.**

“The proposed beach improvement actions are designed to be implemented in phases, with the initial phase being designed for approximately 1.5 feet of sea level rise; thus, in 25 to 30 years following the construction, it may be necessary to raise the projected elevations.”

Page 12 of Executive Summary.

**C. The Proposed Projects Will Be Undertaken by DLNR and Is Supported by the Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Association (WBSIDA) and Waikiki Beach Community Advisory Committee (WBCAC).**

Project Stakeholders and Proponents.

**“The actions proposed for implementation in Waikīkī will be undertaken by the State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), which is responsible for overseeing beaches and submerged lands out to the seaward extent of the State’s jurisdiction. The proposed actions were developed in collaboration with public and private stakeholders with the shared goal and vision of improving the beaches of Waikīkī for current and future generations.”**

Emphasis added.

“Project coordination and implementation is being done in collaboration with the Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District Association (WBSIDA), which is a private non-profit organization that was created in 2015 by City ordinance to preserve and restore Waikīkī Beach, and to serve as a cost-share partner in a public-private partnership with the DLNR. The WBSIDA is governed by a Board of Directors that consists of representatives of Waikīkī’s major resorts, property owners, State and County government designees, and other stakeholders. The WBSIDA provides a mechanism for coordination of the proposed actions with a broad spectrum of Waikīkī stakeholders and securing private funding to support project implementation.”

**“The proposed actions were developed in close collaboration with the Waikīkī Beach Community Advisory Committee (WBCAC), which was formed in 2017 to provide a forum to engage stakeholders and provide guidance and feedback on design criteria and rationale for beach improvement and maintenance projects in Waikīkī. The WBCAC is composed of various stakeholders representing business (34%), government (30%), hotels and resorts (15%), non-profit organizations (12%), and science and engineering (9%). The WBCAC serves as a representative body to communicate the diversity of perspectives and priorities in the broader Waikīkī community, provide guidance and feedback for beach management and planning activities in Waikīkī, and**

ensure that future beach management projects address the issues and concerns of the Waikīkī community and local stakeholders.”

Emphasis added.

“The WBCAC has and continues to serve a vital role in the planning process that led to the selection of the proposed actions. The WBCAC was directly involved in determining the priorities and objectives for each beach sector, establishing planning and design criteria, evaluating conceptual options, and providing feedback on the conceptual designs for the proposed actions. The function of the WBCAC is further enhanced by the role of the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant Program’s Waikīkī Beach Management Coordinator, which provides technical support, education and outreach, and project coordination. The WBCAC held six (6) formal meetings from 2017 to 2021. The meeting agendas and outcomes are included as Appendix A. The WBCAC will continue to provide feedback on the proposed actions throughout the environmental review, final design, and permitting processes.”

Page 13 of Executive Summary.

**D. It Is Not An Acceptable Alternative to Allow Waikiki Beach to Erode.**

1. “The No Action Alternative would consist of not implementing the proposed actions and allowing the beaches to migrate and erode naturally.”

Page 27 of Executive Summary.

2. **“Without the proposed actions, existing shoreline processes would continue, and the beaches would continue to erode. This would result in a continued decrease in usable dry beach area and substantial economic losses. Based on historical and projected erosion rates, the narrower portions of the beaches (e.g., the east ends of the Fort DeRussy and Royal Hawaiian beach sectors) can be expected to be completely gone in 15 to 30 years, with total beach loss occurring before the end of the century.”**

Emphasis added. Page 27 of Executive Summary.

**E. The Proposed Projects Are Interim and Will Provide Sufficient Time to Enable Long-Term Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plans To Be Implemented.**

“The proposed beach improvement and maintenance actions focus on interim solutions to allow sufficient time for long-term sea-level rise adaptation plans to be developed and implemented.”

Page 29 of Executive Summary.

**F. The Beneficial Impacts Far Outweigh the Adverse Impacts.**

1. Significant Beneficial Impacts. “Improving and maintain the beaches of Waikiki will support existing uses and preserve the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikiki. The proposed actions will also decrease vulnerability to coastal hazards, increase resilience to sea level rise, and have a substantial positive impact on the economies of the State of Hawaii and City and County of Honolulu.”

Page 2 of Executive Summary.

2. Potential Adverse Impacts. “The proposed actions have the potential temporarily impact coastal processes, bathymetry, marine habitat and species, water quality, noise, and air quality. The proposed actions also have the potential to temporarily impact commercial operations, shoreline access, ocean recreation, scenic and aesthetic resources, and public services and infrastructure. These impacts are primarily associated with construction activities and are anticipated to be minor and temporary in nature. The potential adverse impacts of the proposed actions are countervailed by the beneficial impacts of preserving and enhancing the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, and aesthetic value of Waikīkī.”

Page 2 of Executive Summary.

**G. Waikiki Beach: Predominantly Engineered.**

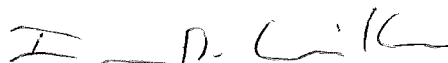
“Waikiki is a predominantly engineered shoreline. The beaches of Waikiki are almost entirely composed of imported sand and the current shoreline configuration is largely the result of part efforts to widen and stabilize the beaches.”

Page 1 of Executive Summary.

Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
July 12, 2023  
Page 6

Mahalo for allowing me to provide this testimony.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ivan M. Lui-Kwan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ivan M. Lui-Kwan

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Zoraida Jose and I **strongly support** the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

NAME Zoraida Jose  
TITLE, PLACE OF WORK

Hskpg Supervisor  
Outrigger Waikīkī Beach Resort

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Arlene F. Geroy and I **strongly support** the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

NAME Mary Arlene F. Geroy  
TITLE, PLACE OF WORK Control Clerk - Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is CAROL LY and I **strongly support** the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

NAME CAROL LY  
TITLE, PLACE OF WORK Housekeeping manager, Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort.





Aloha Board Members,

The picture below shows a small but usable beach fronting the sea wall of the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. The Dept. Of Transportation issued our company a permit to operate a beach catamaran in this location. Picture taken 1978. We used this beach until about 1988, when we were given permission to move our location more ewa at Gray's Beach. This beach started to slowly disappear about 24 years ago.

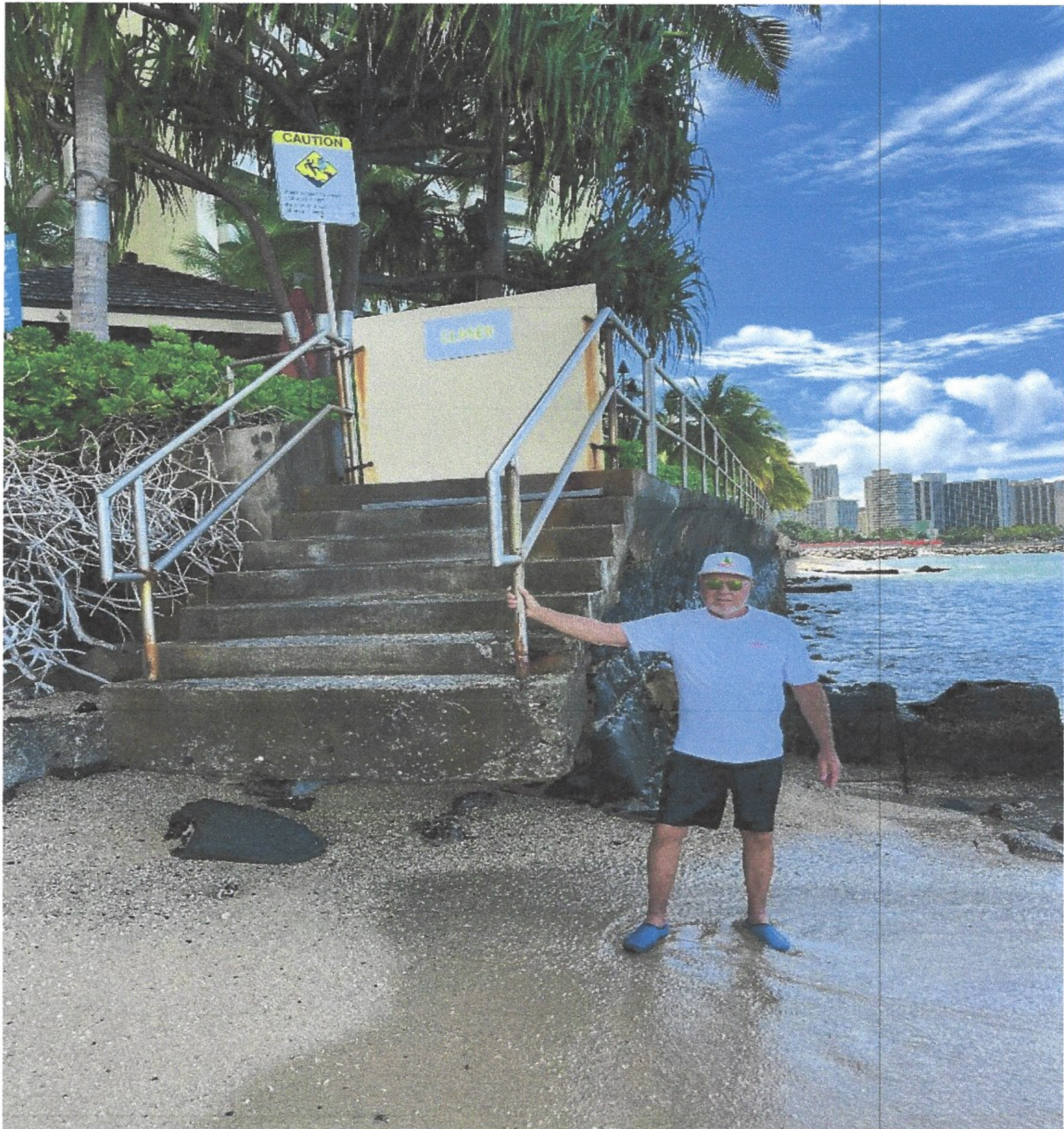


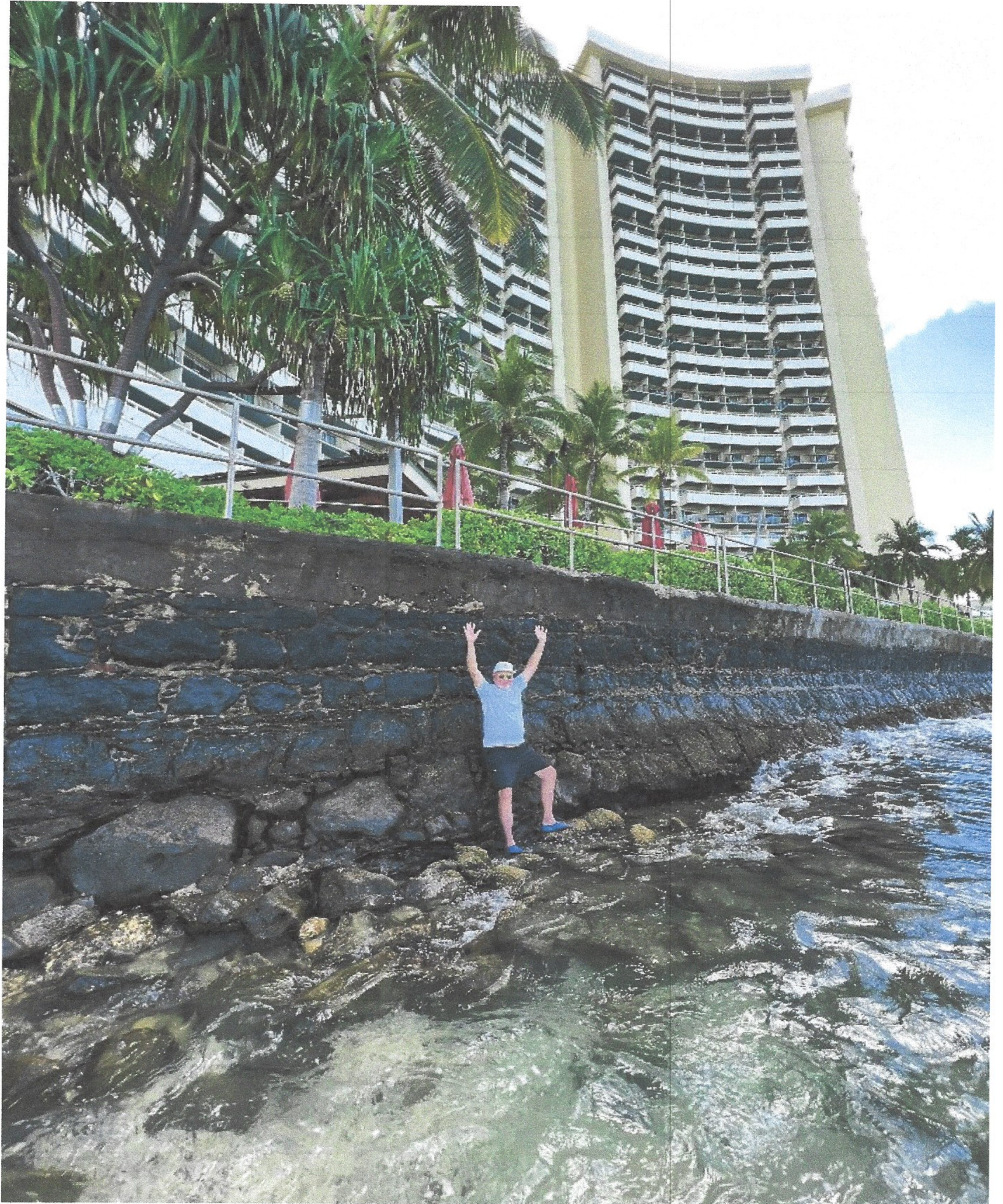
**KING PARSONS ENTERPRISES, LTD., P.O. BOX 8193, Honolulu, Hawaii 96830-0193**  
Office/Reservations: (808) 922-5665 Fax: (808) 926-2229 Toll Free: (800) 462-7975  
e-mail: [sails@leahi.com](mailto:sails@leahi.com) Website: [www.leahi.com](http://www.leahi.com)

Notice the level of sand is just below the smoothed out portion of cement wall, I am standing with my elbows on top of wall. Waikiki Beach Services used to run their outrigger canoe, and surf lessons down by the Hau Tree. This picture taken in 1976



The sand used to come up to at least the third step, bottom of hand rails were buried in the sand. Beach goers now have to traipse around Sheraton Hotel or cut through pool area to get back on Waikiki beach. Notice a small beach is forming on the Ewa end of Royal Hawaiian groin. Picture taken July 5, 2023





For purposes of scale and proportion, I am standing in the general vicinity of where we used to land our catamaran on the beach in 1976. I estimate since 1999 to present day, there has been approximately 7 plus vertical feet of sand(at wall) that has moved either off shore or in Halekulani channel.

I can understand why some businesses and operators want the immediate replenishment of sand without the use of rock T groins. This may very well work in the Kawehewehe sector ( Outrigger Reef Hotel and section of Halekulani Hotel). However in the area of Sheraton Waikiki Hotel (Gray's Beach) the vertical wall is too high, any sand added should be stabilised by T groins.

To our friends in the "Save Our Surf" the sea wall at the Sheraton as it is now, is not helping the surf form at least in the near shore. High tides and surf hit the wall head on and forms a back wave headed seaward disrupting any small surf coming towards shore. In the past this was a favorite spot for beginners and surf instruction.

As a permit holder and catamaran operator for the last 47 years at Gray's beach, I would be in favour of replenishing sand with T groins to help stabilise the beach.

Aloha,  
George Parsons  
President King Parsons Ent. LTD  
Catamaran permit holder since 1976

**From:** [Nicole Marks](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 8:46:38 AM

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Nicole Marks and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
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- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Nicole Marks | Business Manager  
Hawaii Vacation Condos by Outrigger  
OUTRIGGER HOSPITALITY GROUP

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Park Hotels & Resorts Inc.  
1775 Tysons Boulevard  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tysons, VA 22102  
+1 571.302.5757 Main

July 12, 2023

Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Date: July 14, 2023  
Time: 9:15 A.M.  
Location: 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 132 (Kalanimoku Building)

Testimony of Carl A. Mayfield in Support of Beach Improvement  
and Maintenance Projects in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani,  
Royal Hawaiian and Kuhio Beach Sectors of Waikiki

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board:

My name is Carl A. Mayfield and I am the Executive Vice President – Design & Construction of Park Hotels & Resorts (“Park”), the owner of the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki. We offer this testimony in support of the beach improvement and maintenance projects in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kuhio beach sectors of Waikiki proposed by DLNR.

Waikiki is not only a treasured resource to local residents, it is also a vital part of Hawaii’s economy. Park believes strongly that preserving and protecting Waikiki Beach is critical to the economic viability of Waikiki and of Hawaii generally. Waikiki is responsible for bringing billions of dollars in visitor expenditures to Hawaii’s economy annually. There are more than 30,000 visitor accommodation units in the resorts, hotels and condominiums in Waikiki. Tourism-related activities in Waikiki contribute very substantially to Hawaii’s tax revenues, including General Excise Tax, Transient Accommodations Tax, and income tax from tourism-related employment.

Sea level rise and resulting beach loss and erosion threaten Waikiki Beach, and steps should be taken as soon as possible to preserve and protect Waikiki Beach. When Park submitted comments to the draft EIS for the Waikiki Beach Maintenance Program, we asked that the program be expanded to include Duke Kahanamoku Beach (which fronts Hilton Hawaiian Village). While the program was not expanded, we hope that someday it will be expanded, and in the meantime, we believe that the Waikiki Beach Maintenance Program should proceed.



Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
July 12, 2023  
Page 2

In recognition of the importance of addressing sea level rise with appropriate beach nourishment, we further note that Park is in the process of completing a small-scale beach nourishment (SSBN) project for the beach in front of Hilton Hawaiian Village in partnership with the Waikiki Special Improvement District Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Mayfield', written over a horizontal line.

Carl A. Mayfield  
Executive Vice President – Design & Construction

**From:** [Kim Miranda](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:05:30 PM

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Kim Miranda and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Mahalo,  
Kim Miranda  
Royal Sea Cliff Operations Manager

HAWAII VACATION CONDOS BY OUTRIGGER ROYAL SEA CLIFF  
75-6040 Alii Drive, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740  
FDesk 808-329-8021 Ofc +1 808 334-3101 F +1 808-326-1887  
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**From:** [Angela Murphy](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 5:05:12 PM

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Angela Murphy and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

[Angela Murphy | Vice President Sales - The Americas](#)  
[OUTRIGGER HOSPITALITY GROUP](#)  
2375 Kuhio Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815 USA  
**T** +1 808 921-6823  
**F** +1 808 926-4368  
[angela.murphy@outrigger.com](mailto:angela.murphy@outrigger.com)  
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**From:** [Pamela Niesz](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:54:59 PM

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Pam Niesz and I **strongly support** the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Pam Niesz

Paralegal

OUTRIGGER Hospitality Group

**From:** [Madeleine Noa](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:17:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Madeleine Noa and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Madeleine Noa  
Membership Director, OUTRIGGER Resorts and Hotels





**Madeleine Noa**

Membership Director

2169 Kālia Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815 USA

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Kelly Olinger  
SVP, Development  
PH: 407.613.3602  
kelly.olingier@hgv.com

Hilton Grand Vacations  
5323 Millenia Lakes Boulevard  
Suite 120  
Orlando, FL 32839

July 12, 2023

Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
State of Hawaii  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Date: July 14, 2023 / Time: 9:15 A.M.  
Location: 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 132 (Kalanimoku Building)

Testimony of Kelly Olinger in Support of Beach Improvement  
and Maintenance Projects in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani,  
Royal Hawaiian and Kuhio Beach Sectors of Waikiki

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board:

My name is Kelly Olinger and I am the Senior Vice President, Development, of Hilton Grand Vacations ("HGV"). HGV has developed and operates many timeshare projects throughout Hawaii, including several projects at Hilton Hawaiian Village, and the Hokulani on Kalakaua Avenue. We are currently developing a new project known as Ka Haku in the former King's Village site. We offer this testimony in support of the Waikiki Beach Maintenance Program proposed by DLNR for Waikiki Beach.

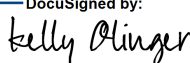
Waikiki is not only a treasured resource to local residents, it is also a vital part of Hawaii's economy. HGV believes strongly that preserving and protecting Waikiki Beach is critical to the economic viability of Waikiki and of Hawaii generally. Waikiki is responsible for bringing billions of dollars in visitor expenditures to Hawaii's economy annually. There are more than 30,000 visitor accommodation units in the resorts, hotels and condominiums in Waikiki. Tourism-related activities in Waikiki contribute very substantially to Hawaii's tax revenues, including General Excise Tax, Transient Accommodations Tax, and income tax from tourism-related employment.

We encourage the Board of Land and Natural Resources to move forward with the Waikiki Beach Maintenance Program as soon as possible.

Chair Dawn Chang and Members of the  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
July 12, 2023  
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
6EA6D8F407314F2...

Kelly Olinger  
Senior Vice President, Development  
Hilton Grand Vacations

**From:** [Russarin Bambie Phumsawat](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:10:11 PM

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Bambie Phumsawat and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
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- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Bambie Phumsawat

Corporate Sales Coordinator, OUTRIGGER Hospitality Group

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**From:** [Keala Raza](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:56:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Aloha mai BLNR Board Members,

My name is Keala and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project. I hope that this project continues to thrive for future generations to experience.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

**Jadelyn “Keala” Raza**

Housekeeping Manager

**OHANA**  
WAIKIKI EAST BY OUTRIGGER.

150 Kaiulani Avenue

Honolulu, Hawaii 96815 USA

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**From:** [Rebecca Robinson](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 4:42:25 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Rebecca Robinson and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikiki – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikiki Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikiki's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and



significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Kind Regards,

*-Rebecca*

**Rebecca Robinson** | General Manager Regency on Beach Walk & Waikiki Shore Resort

Hawai'i Vacation Condos by Outrigger® – Outrigger Hospitality Group

255 Beach Walk, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815 USA

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**From:** [Monica Salter](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 9:12:47 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Aloha Board of Land & Natural Resources

My name Monica Salter and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach, which is known throughout the world, has become the heartbeat of our State's economy. I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches.

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record King Tides that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
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The beaches of Waikīkī are all man made or highly altered, almost entirely composed of imported sand and the current shoreline configuration is largely the result of past construction efforts to widen and stabilize the beaches. Likewise, most of the beaches of Waikīkī are chronically eroding, with frequent backshore flooding, particularly during high tides and high-surf events. Due to Waikīkī Beach being man made, it is critical to have a maintenance strategy in place.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and

maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Best,  
Monica

Monica Salter | VP Global Communications & Social Responsibility

OUTRIGGER HOSPITALITY GROUP

2375 Kuhio Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815 USA

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**From:** [Hitomi Saunders](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:07:38 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Hitomi Saunders and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

**Hitomi Saunders** | Associate Director Public Relations Media - Japan

OUTRIGGER HOSPITALITY GROUP

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**From:** [Michael Spellman](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 7:36:34 PM

---

Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Michael Spellman and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

Mahalo !

**Michael Spellman** | Guest Services Agent  
OUTRIGGER KONA RESORT & SPA  
78-128 Ehukai Street, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740 USA  
Office: +1 808-930-4900  
[michael.spellman@outrigger.com](mailto:michael.spellman@outrigger.com)

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July 13, 2023

State of Hawaii  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**BLNR Meeting (July 14, 2023) Meeting Agenda Item K-1: Informational Briefing for Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS). Waikiki Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project. Waikiki Beach, Oahu**

I am resident at the Waikiki Shore condominium and have followed, almost daily, how the beach has evolved in this area over the last 15 years. I would like to express my support for the Environmental Impact Statement as put forward by the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

To aid your decision making, shown below are **historic** photos of this beach over the past 100 years, **starting in 2010 and going back to 1932**. Here are my conclusions and recommendations:

- There has been constant change to this coastline and use of offshore structures and groins over the last century
- For over 100 years, there has been a substantial beach in front of what is now the Outrigger Reef hotel, the Waikiki Shore condominium and also at the Diamond Head end of Fort DeRussy Park
- Photos show a beach that was consistently wide and also had a gentle decline into the ocean
- However, over the last 10-20 years, substantial and accelerated beach erosion has taken place in this area and this now needs action
- Climate change and wave action has pulled sand down to the Halekoa hotel area, where no beach previously existed
- The proposed DLNR project restores and stabilizes the beach
- It is also an environmentally friendly solution that facilitates natural beach replenishment

We need your urgent help to address this matter to the benefit of both kama'aina and visitors.

Mahalo for your consideration.  
Craig Stevens

# EVOLUTION OF FORT DERUSSY BEACH OVER NEARLY 100 YEARS





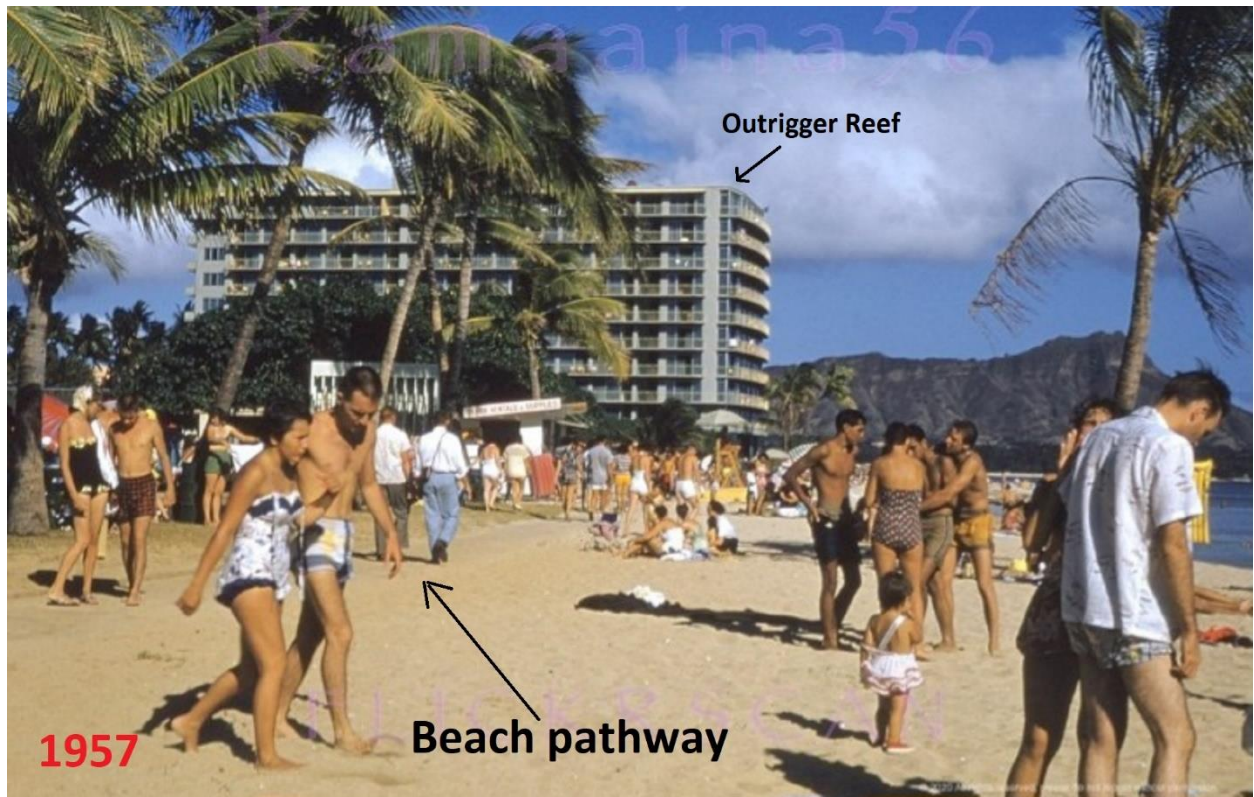


1963

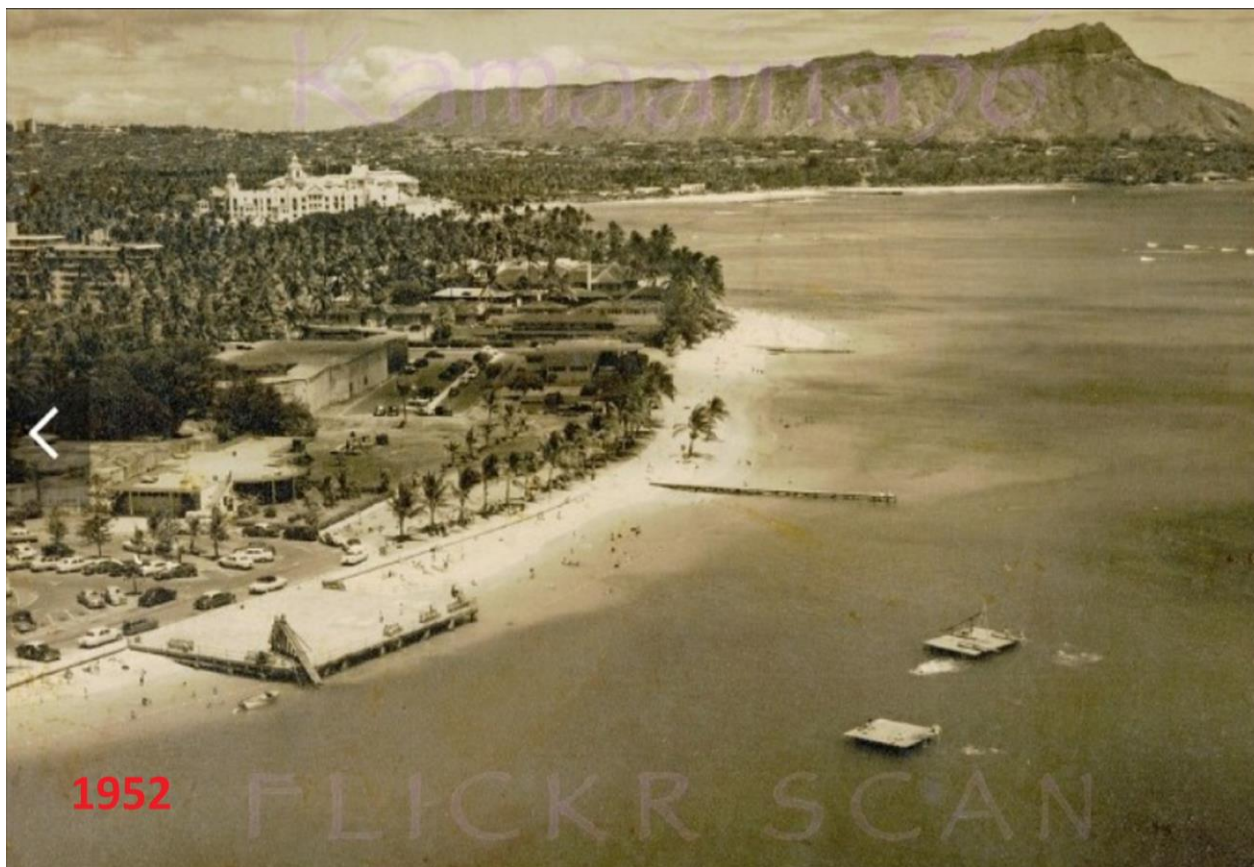
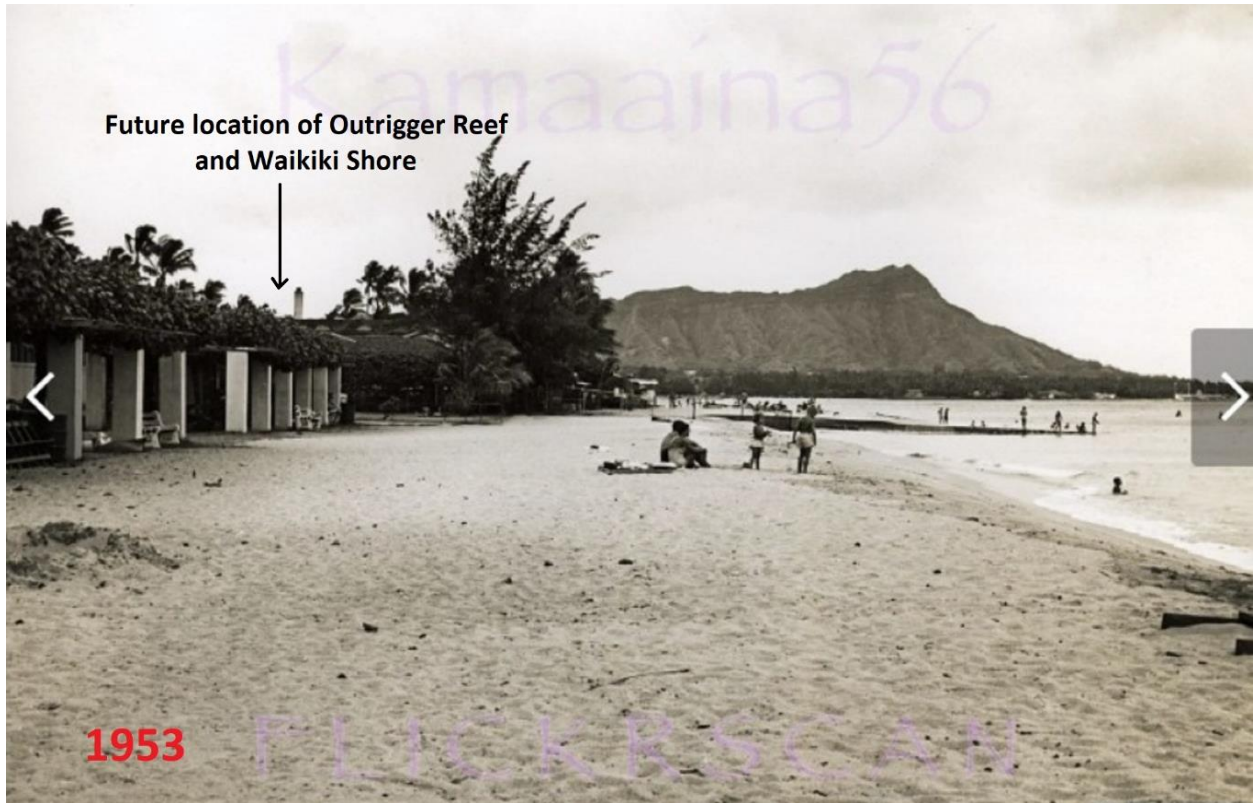


← Outrigger Reef

1958



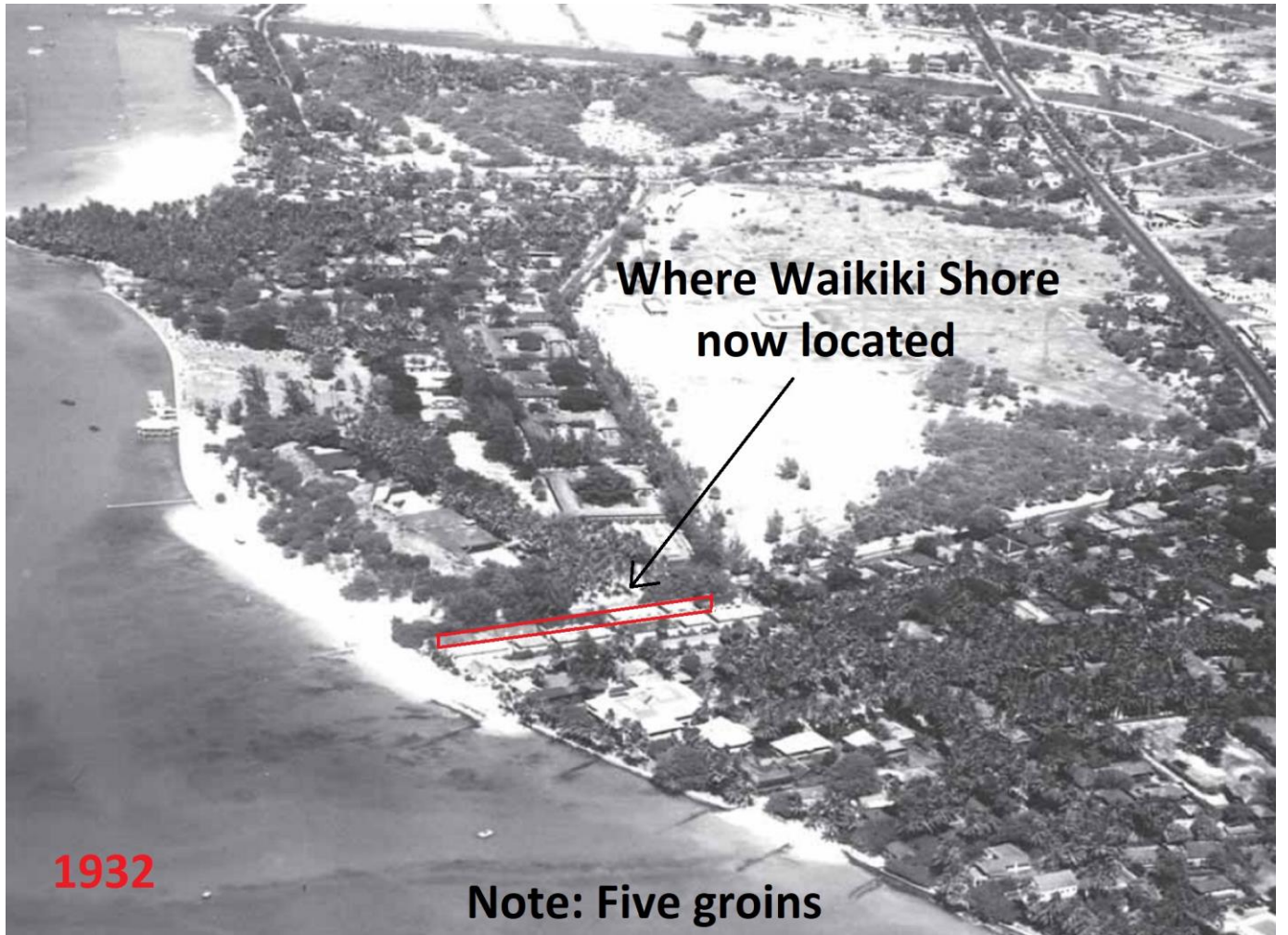
*Outrigger Reef Waikiki Beach under construction  
1954*



1950







Where Waikiki Shore  
now located

1932

Note: Five groins

**From:** [Mari Sawamukai](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Thursday, July 13, 2023 7:36:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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My name is Mari Sawamukai and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian, and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism.

I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic, and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and the creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

[Mari Sawamukai | Administrative Assistant](#)  
[OUTRIGGER HOSPITALITY GROUP](#)  
[2375 Kuhio Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815 USA](#)  
[T +1 808 921-6915](#)  
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**From:** [Mia Taise](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:52:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Mia Taise and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

[Mia Taise | Director of Finance](#)  
[OUTRIGGER HOSPITALITY GROUP](#)  
[FINANCE SERVICE CENTER](#)  
[2375 Kuhio Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815 USA](#)

[mia.taise@outrigger.com](mailto:mia.taise@outrigger.com)

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Victoria Tapiceria and I **strongly support** the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

VICTORIA TAPICERIA  
OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATOR  
OUTRIGGER WAIKIKI BEACH RESORT

**From:** [Asari Tashima](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 3:07:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Asari Tashima and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

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Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

**Asari Tashima** | Director, Market Development - Asia

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July 12, 2023

State of Hawai'i  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project

Dear BLNR Board Members,

On behalf of Outrigger Hospitality Group – this letter is to articulate our **strong support** for the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

Outrigger has been serving Hawai'i for the last 75 years and we remain committed to caring for our hosts with quality careers, caring for our guests with comfortable accommodations, and caring for this place through numerous partnerships and sponsorships that perpetuate Hawai'i's natural environment and rich cultural heritage. With two Outrigger resorts located on Waikīkī Beach, we have a front-row view to the lack of care and attention to this shoreline and understand the urgent need to stabilize this area by restoring the beach that has eroded over time.

Waikīkī is one of the most iconic beach destinations in the world; it has tremendous cultural significance as the birthplace of modern surfing and a place of wellness and rejuvenation for Hawaiian Royalty. Today it is beloved by local residents and visitors alike for its recreational activities and historical context.

However, over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record King Tides that have exacerbated erosion of these iconic and culturally significant lands. These events have highlighted the impacts of sea level rise on the beaches of Waikīkī. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic, and economic value of Waikīkī. .

Waikīkī is the economic engine for the entire State of Hawai'i. Statistics show that Waikīkī generates approximately 42% of the state's visitor industry revenue and is responsible for 8% (\$5 billion) of the Gross State Product. Waikīkī Beach accounts for over \$2 billion in annual income for the local economy. However, a 2008 visitor survey found that 12% of visitors would not return to Waikīkī due, in part, to limited beach area and resulting overcrowding. Those looking for a beach destination will naturally crowd other O'ahu communities and beaches, such as Kailua and the North Shore.

Preserving, restoring and maintaining these beach resources are of critical importance for the social, cultural, economic and environmental value for Hawai'i's communities.

# OUTRIGGER<sup>®</sup>

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HOSPITALITY GROUP

Without a stabilizing and energy-buffering beach to protect public and private coastal infrastructure, we can anticipate even larger and more expensive structural repair and improvement projects to be required soon to prevent the destruction of threatened coastal structures including critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access amenities.

An Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College in April 2018 estimated that the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures.

The beaches of Waikīkī are all man made or highly altered, almost entirely composed of imported sand and the current shoreline configuration is largely the result of past construction efforts to widen and stabilize the beaches. Likewise, most of the beaches of Waikīkī are chronically eroding, with frequent backshore flooding, particularly during high tides and high-surf events. Due to Waikīkī Beach being man made, it is critical to have a maintenance strategy in place.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow. We do not have time to pass this issue to the next session, next council, next board, etc. We need immediate and swift action in order to prevent damage to the future of our State's economic health, along with the ability to preserve the traditions of Hawai'i for our keiki.



Jeff Wagoner  
President and CEO  
Outrigger Hospitality Group



July 14, 2023

State of Hawaii  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**FROM:**

Valerie Haney, Director, Association of Waikiki Shore Beach Condominium Owners

**SUBJECT:** Item K-1: Informational Briefing for Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS). Waikiki Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project. Waikiki Beach, Oahu

The Waikiki Shore Beach Condominiums owners, its managers, and tenants, have been especially interested and supportive of the efforts to improve the condition of this natural resource since the hydraulic dredging project in 2012 to restore sand between the Kuhio Beach Ewa Groin and the Royal Hawaiian Groin. It was expected that some continual beach maintenance would be accomplished regularly, as the value of Waikiki and Waikiki Beach is self-evident from long ago. However, the task is huge, involves a multitude of diverse people, and requires the type of long term management effort that is now before you.

*The leadership behind the establishment of the Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District bears witness to this need:*

The Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District was created on May 18th, 2015 by city ordinance to preserve and restore Waikiki Beach and to provide consistent and credible management for future beach revitalization. Special improvement districts are a proven tool used across the country to fund specific projects within the area that are supplemental to government services. SIDs are among the most effective ways of forming and funding public-private partnerships to muster resources to tackle especially complicated challenges.

Through the facilitation of the Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District Association, a comprehensive Waikiki Beach Improvements Plan was developed, which included all people interested the process. The Waikiki Beach Condominiums Association formally endorsed the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement in June 2021 and we are doing so again in July 2023.





**Waikiki Shore**  
**BEACH CONDOMINIUMS**  
2161 KALIA ROAD  
HONOLULU, HI 96815

To assist your decision making, please see photographic evidence below of the coastal damage and beach erosion at high tides that has taken place over just the last 10 years. The photos below show **beach areas in front of:**

- 1 Waikiki Shore condominium**
- 2 Fort DeRussy park (near pickleball courts)**
- 3 Outrigger Reef hotel**

The need for this project has now reached a critical level. If there is any information or data you need from us to assist in reaching a conclusion, we would be delighted to provide it.

Valerie Haney

### **TESTIMONY PHOTOS (July 14, 2023)**



  
**Waikiki Shore**  
**BEACH CONDOMINIUMS**  
2161 KALIA ROAD  
HONOLULU, HI 96815



**Front of Waikiki Shore  
overrun by ocean**



**Ocean debris  
from high tide**



**Waikiki Shore**  
**BEACH CONDOMINIUMS**  
2161 KALIA ROAD  
HONOLULU, HI 96815





**Waikiki Shore**  
**BEACH CONDOMINIUMS**  
2161 KALIA ROAD  
HONOLULU, HI 96815



**Lost Beach in front  
of Pickleball courts**



**Coastal Path Erosion**

  
**Waikiki Shore**  
**BEACH CONDOMINIUMS**  
2161 KALIA ROAD  
HONOLULU, HI 96815

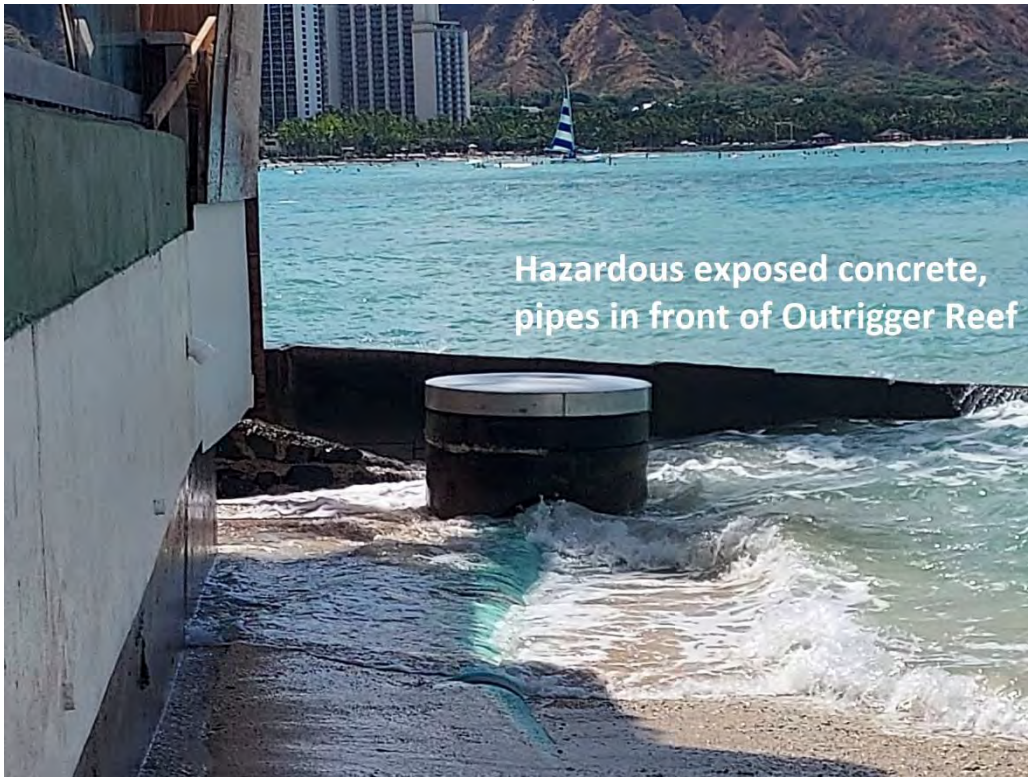




**Waikiki Shore**  
**BEACH CONDOMINIUMS**  
2161 KALIA ROAD  
HONOLULU, HI 96815



**Waikiki Shore**  
**BEACH CONDOMINIUMS**  
2161 KALIA ROAD  
HONOLULU, HI 96815



  
**Waikiki Shore**  
BEACH CONDOMINIUMS  
2161 KALIA ROAD  
HONOLULU, HI 96815

**Beach in front of Outrigger Reef 2004**



**Beach in front of Outrigger Reef 2023**



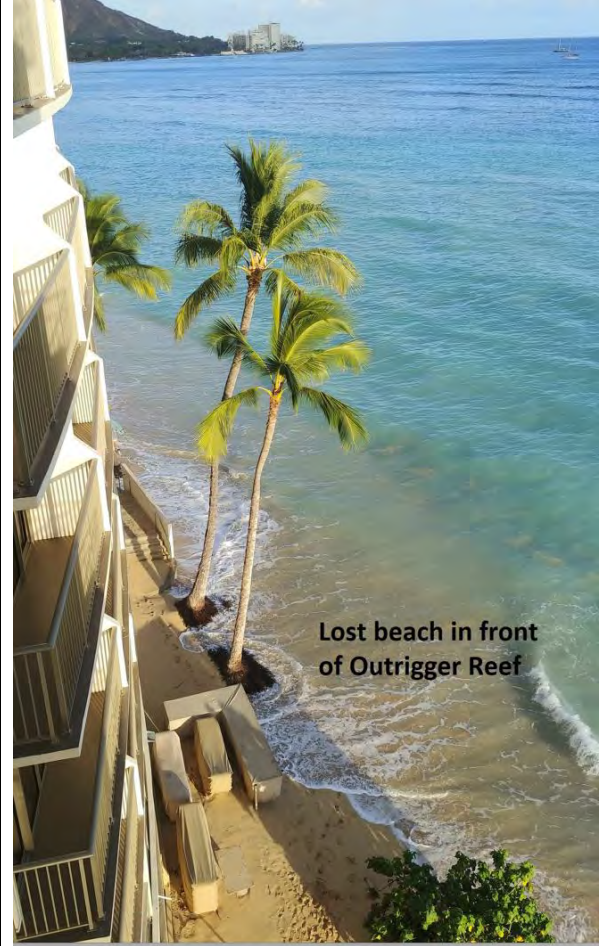


  
**Waikiki Shore**  
**BEACH CONDOMINIUMS**  
2161 KALIA ROAD  
HONOLULU, HI 96815

**2004**



**2023**



  
**Waikiki Shore**  
**BEACH CONDOMINIUMS**  
2161 KALIA ROAD  
HONOLULU, HI 96815

**2004**



**2023**





July 14, 2023

State of Hawaii  
Board of Land and Natural resources  
Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**SUBJECT:** Item K-1 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project. Waikīkī Beach, Oahu

The Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District Association (WBSIDA) **strongly supports** the proposed beach improvement projects by the Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects are an essential component to the overall resilience of this critically important area. The proposed projects in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian, and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī are critical projects to mitigate the forecast impacts of sea-level rise as well as the observed beach loss and coastal inundation already being experienced on a more frequent basis in Waikīkī. The proposed actions to restore and improve Waikīkī’s public beaches and increase beach stability through improvement and maintenance of shoreline structures will greatly enhance safe access to and along the shoreline and greatly reduce the vulnerability of Waikīkī to coastal hazards and sea level rise. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.

The Hawai‘i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report<sup>1</sup> found that 3.2 feet of sea level rise will have profound impacts on O‘ahu. \$12.9 billion in structures and land could be lost; 3,800 structures could be flooded, including hotels and resorts in Waikīkī; over 13,000 residents could be displaced; and nearly 18 miles of major roads could be flooded. The report estimates that O‘ahu will account for an estimated 66% of the total statewide economic losses due to sea level rise. The State recommended that private and public entities in Waikīkī should begin planning for sea level rise adaptation, including beach restoration, to prepare for higher sea levels in the future, the WBSIDA whole-heartedly agrees.

The WBSIDA supports comprehensive, forward-thinking improvement projects like those proposed in the FPEIS and recognizes its urgency. With the combination of beach erosion and

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<sup>1</sup> Hawai‘i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. 2017. *Hawai‘i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report*. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc. and the State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands. Pages 152-162.

King Tides, the backshore is frequently flooded, particularly during high surf events, accelerating damage to backshore infrastructure. Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise is likely to result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century and result in an estimated economic loss of \$50 million to \$150 million per hectare. The loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures<sup>2</sup>. Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the FPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawaii’s tourism-based economy.

The project is part of a broader collaborative initiative, the “*HO’OMAU ‘O WAIKĪKĪ KAHAKAI*” (*Waikīkī Beach Renews itself*) which includes development of a community-based beach management plan, economic study of the value of Waikīkī Beach, stakeholder perception surveys, and other related endeavors. These supporting efforts will be carried out in coordination with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District Association (WBSIDA) and the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai‘i Sea Grant). Strategic Outreach efforts define the primary project priorities and strategies. The WBSIDA has developed a Waikīkī Beach community advisory committee to help inform project development, serving as a community representative to the project team.

Waikīkī Beach is one of the most internationally recognized beaches in the world, renown for the recreational beach activities and offerings to visitors and residents alike. Waikīkī’s history is also closely associated with ocean recreation, beach use and access to the ocean; the intent of the project is to couple the historical and modern beach use. The history of Waikīkī as a predominantly engineered shoreline is an important environmental consideration and rationale for a project of this scale and nature. The beaches of Waikīkī are all man made or highly altered, almost entirely composed of imported sand and the current shoreline configuration is largely the result of past construction efforts to widen and stabilize the beaches. Likewise, most of the beaches of Waikīkī are chronically eroding, with frequent backshore flooding, particularly during high tides and high surf events.

Over the past several years, Waikiki has experienced record high tides (referred to as King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. These events have highlighted the impacts of sea level rise on the beaches of Waikīkī. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic, and economic value of Waikīkī. The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years without any new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. The proposed improvements in this project come at a critical time of renewal and much-needed maintenance of critical beach-stabilizing structures throughout Waikīkī Beach. These measures also will facilitate projected sea level rise impacts to the beaches of Waikīkī.

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<sup>2</sup> Tarui, N., Peng, M., Eversole, D. (2018). *Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach*. University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program. April 2018.

Waikīkī Beach is a globally recognized icon of Hawai‘i and is the state’s largest tourist destination. Waikīkī generates approximately 42% of the state’s visitor industry revenue and is responsible for 8% (\$5 billion) of the Gross State Product<sup>3</sup>. Beaches are a primary attraction for visitors to Waikīkī and we know that Waikīkī Beach accounts for over \$2 billion in annual income for the local economy. However, a 2008 visitor survey found that 12% of visitors would not return to Waikīkī due, in part, to limited beach area and resulting overcrowding<sup>4</sup>. Waikīkī Beach also has tremendous cultural significance as a former playground of Hawaiian royalty and the birthplace of the sport and culture of surfing. The beaches and myriad of world-renowned surf breaks and reef ecosystem located offshore are valuable natural resources that support the culture and lifestyle of Hawai‘i, and the idyllic image of Waikīkī. Preserving, restoring and maintaining these beach resources are of critical importance for the social, cultural, economic and environmental value for Hawai‘i’s communities.

The ongoing partnership between WBSIDA and the Department of Land and Natural Resources has resulted in a number of successful projects. The Royal Hawaiian groin which was completed in August of 2020 is working better than anyone had anticipated. The Kuhio Beach sandbag groin (completed November, 2019) and the Waikiki Beach Maintenance project (completed May, 2021) collectively have greatly stabilized the Royal Hawaiian Beach Sector. These are just some of the successful projects that the WBSIDA is proud to have been a part of. On May 9, 2023, the Waikiki Neighborhood Board unanimously adopted a resolution to support the DLNR’s efforts to strengthen and improve Waikiki Beach and we ask the board to include that resolution in the record as well. Further a number of residents have submitted supportive testimony but are unable to attend today and we would like to acknowledge those testimonies.

The WBSIDA offers the following summary of project-specific comments.

1. The stated project objective to increase the resilience to climate change and coastal hazards cannot be overstated, this is an extremely common concern shared by Waikīkī stakeholders.
2. The proposed beach improvement projects in Waikīkī are essential for the future goal to maintain a viable beach in these areas. Several beachfront areas in Waikīkī are seeing the rapid deterioration of both public and private backshore infrastructure such as groins, seawalls and public walkways. This highlights the need to make long-term investments into beach stabilizing structures throughout Waikīkī in addition to more immediate emergency repairs to damaged infrastructure.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.waikikibid.org/waikikiprofile.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Waikīkī Improvement Association (2008) *Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikiki Beach, Final Report*.

3. Climate change impacts including sea-level rise projected by the state of Hawai'i Climate Change Commission indicate significant flooding, wave overtopping and beach erosion in Waikīkī for the coming decades and suggest stakeholders and communities plan for 3.2 feet of sea-level rise now. This project has a strong climate change adaptation component that is consistent with the recommendations of the State Climate Commission.
4. A project benefit to cost analysis was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2002 to determine Federal interest in restoring and improving Waikiki Beach, with a ratio greater than one indicating that benefits exceed costs<sup>5</sup>. The overall benefit to cost ratio for all of Waikiki was about 6 to 1. The total Waikiki Gross National Product (GNP) contribution to the annual Federal economy is an estimated \$3.3 billion. This estimate excludes spending by mainland west coast visitors.
5. The proposed projects are consistent with existing engineering standards and planning studies for Waikiki Beach improvements, and are capable of being implemented as phased or stand-alone projects.
6. The WBSIDA has agreed in concept, to provide a partial project match of up to \$3 million as part of a public-private partnership demonstrating the value and economic importance of this project to the stakeholders and community of Waikīkī.
7. Alternative groin design recommendations, including T-Head groins have been previously assessed and recommended as possible strategies for beach improvements in Waikīkī<sup>6,7</sup>. Other examples such as the Royal Hawaiian Groin, Hawaii Kai channel entrance groin and Iroquois Point at Pearl Harbor all demonstrate the successful use of T-head groins in a similar nearshore setting.
8. Without a stabilizing and energy-buffering beach to protect public and private coastal infrastructure, we can anticipate even larger and more expensive structural repair and improvement projects to be required soon to prevent the destruction of threatened coastal structures including critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access amenities.
9. The WBSIDA supports all the proposed projects in the FPEIS but would like to highlight and emphasize the urgent need for mitigation to wave and tide-induced impacts in the Halekulani (Gray's Beach) cell. The WBSIDA supports prioritizing some form of improvement in this section since this region demonstrates the most severe impacts which

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<sup>5</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2002). *Waikīkī Beach Erosion Control Reevaluation Report: Island of O'ahu, Hawai'i*. Honolulu District.

<sup>6</sup> *Beach and Surf Parameters in Hawaii* (Gerritsen, 1978), *Final Environmental Assessment, Kuhio Beach Improvements* (Noda, 1999), *Independent Evaluation Study of Proposed Kuhio Beach Improvements* (Bodge, 2000)

<sup>7</sup> Sea Engineering, Inc. (2008). *Environmental Assessment / Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice for Gray's Beach Restoration Project*. Waikīkī, O'ahu, Hawai'i. Prepared for Kyo-ya Hotels & Resorts LP. SEI Job No. 25103. August 2008.

are impacting lateral public access in addition to other structural impacts to shoreline structures in the area. There are significant public safety issues related to lateral beach access to and along public walkways present in this section that require immediate attention in addition to long-term stabilization efforts.

WBSIDA is a 501©3 non-profit which has committed to partially supporting beach improvement projects in the Waikīkī district as a public-private partnership. The WBSIDA looks forward to further developing the project scope in partnership with the DLNR. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Egged', written over a horizontal line.

Rick Egged, President  
Waikīkī Beach Special Improvement District Association

**From:** [Jenny Wessels](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:26:25 PM

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Jenny Wessels and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

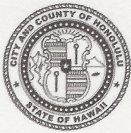
Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

**Jenny Wessels | Front Desk**  
[Hawaii Vacation Condos by OUTRIGGER](#)  
69-250 Waikoloa Beach Dr., Suite B13  
Waikoloa, HI 96738-5711  
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WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 09


c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION OFFICE  
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July 14, 2023

State of Hawaii  
Board of Land and Natural resources  
Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**FROM:**  
Waikiki Neighborhood Board

  
Robert Finley  
Chair

**SUBJECT:** Item K-1: Informational Briefing for Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS). Waikiki Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project. Waikiki Beach, Oahu

The **Waikiki Neighborhood Board strongly supports** the proposed beach improvement project by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The DLNR proposes beach improvement and maintenance projects in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian, and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikiki. These projects include the construction of new beach stabilization structures, and the recovery of offshore sand and its placement on the shoreline. The objectives of the proposed actions are to restore and improve Waikiki's public beaches, increase beach stability through improvement and maintenance of shoreline structures, provide and improve safe access to and along the shoreline, and increase resilience to coastal hazards and sea level rise. The proposed actions are intended to maintain the economic, social, aesthetic, recreational, environmental, cultural, and historical qualities of Waikiki.

Over the past several years, and as recently as this year, Waikiki has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. These events have highlighted the impacts of sea level rise on the beaches of Waikiki. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic, and economic value of Waikiki. The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikiki. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikiki shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.

We support comprehensive, forward-thinking improvement projects like those proposed and recognize its urgency. With the combination of beach erosion and King Tides, the backshore is frequently flooded, particularly during high surf events, accelerating damage to backshore infrastructure. Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise is likely to result in total beach loss in Waikiki before the end of the century and result in an estimated economic loss of \$50 million to \$150 million per hectare. The loss of Waikiki Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor



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expenditures. Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawaii's tourism-based economy.

We offer the following summary of project-specific comments.

- The Waikiki Beach Special Improvement District has been a frequent presenter at the Waikiki Neighborhood Board and the board has voted to support this proposed Environmental Impact Statement to restore and improve the area known at Waikiki Beach.
- As described this project, or series of improvements is essential to the preservation of this area of Waikiki used by our residents for healthy exercise and to our visitors who travel thousands of miles to Waikiki.
- Unlike many communities that find fault with government projects, the cooperation between DNLR, the WBSIDA and the Waikiki Neighborhood Board, which represents the 25,000 or so residents, could be used as a model for future Beach preservation attempts in Hawaii.
- The body of this testimony addresses the monetary loss to the State of Hawaii but there is also the potential damage to our historic water front that includes so many World-Famous Hotels, the traditional Beach Services that host generations of Water men (and Water women) who hospitality is legendary in Waikiki.

1. The proposed beach improvement projects in Waikīkī are essential for the future goal to maintain a viable beach in these areas. Several beachfront areas in Waikīkī are seeing the rapid deterioration of both public and private backshore infrastructure such as groins, seawalls and walkways. This highlights the need to make long-term investments into beach stabilizing structures throughout Waikīkī in addition to more immediate emergency repairs to damaged infrastructure.

2. Climate change impacts including sea-level rise projected by the state of Hawai'i Climate Change Commission indicate significant flooding, wave overtopping and beach erosion in Waikīkī for the coming decades and suggest stakeholders and communities plan for *at least* 3.2 feet of sea-level rise now. This project has a strong climate change adaption component that is consistent with the recommendations of the State Climate Commission.

3. Without a stabilizing and energy-buffering beach to protect public and private coastal infrastructure, we can anticipate even larger and more expensive structural repair and improvement projects to be required soon to prevent the destruction of threatened coastal structures including critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access amenities.

4. There is a need to balance and connect historical recreational beach uses with the maintenance of beach areas in the face of physical processes. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups and needs and needs to consider the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

**From:** [Wilbur Wong](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikīkī Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:00:42 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is Wilbur and I **strongly support** the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikīkī Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

**Wilbur Wong** | Senior Content Strategist

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**From:** [Alan Yamamoto](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Waikiki beach improvements and maintenance  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 11:22:25 PM

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July 12, 2023

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources board members -

My name is Alan Yamamoto and I **strongly support** the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the State Department of Land and Natural Resources in Waikīkī – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

As a producer and consultant for Hawai'i's hospitality industry, I know Waikīkī is the heartbeat of our State's economy.

There is a tremendous urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikīkī's public beaches. As many of my colleagues have documented:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Over the past several years, Waikīkī has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikīkī will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikīkī.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikīkī. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikīkī shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikīkī before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikīkī Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikīkī Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are vital to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikīkī to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on these concerns.

Alan Yamamoto  
808-371-2910

**From:** [Agathi Yap](#)  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for Item K-1: Waikiki Beach Improvement and Maintenance Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 4:15:07 PM

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Aloha BLNR Board Members,

My name is [Agathi Yap](#) and I strongly support the proposed beach improvement and maintenance projects by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in the Fort DeRussy, Halekulani, Royal Hawaiian and Kūhiō Beach sectors of Waikiki – including the construction of new beach stabilization structures.

I am proud to be one of many workers in Hawai'i's hospitality industry that has been able to support their family and community through tourism. I see firsthand how a thriving Waikiki Beach which is known throughout the world has become the heartbeat of our State's economy.

I also see firsthand the urgency for these beach improvement and maintenance projects to restore Waikiki's public beaches. Specifically:

- Over the past several years, Waikiki has experienced record high tides (King Tides) that have exacerbated erosion and flooding. As sea levels continue to rise, beach loss in Waikiki will progressively degrade the recreational, social, cultural, environmental, aesthetic and economic value of Waikiki.
- If something isn't done now to protect the coastal infrastructure, we will face larger and more expensive improvement projects in the future to save critical public access walkways and beaches that serve as important recreational and lateral access for residents.
- The Royal Hawaiian groin was rebuilt in 2020, after nearly 50 years of no new beach stabilization projects in Waikiki. We are now at a crossroads with a clear and increasingly urgent need to implement maintenance and improvements to the Waikiki shoreline in order to preserve and protect this unique and highly prized natural resource.
- There can be a balance between maintenance of the beach areas with historical recreational beach uses. This balanced management needs to account for the needs of a variety of user groups while considering the impacts of the effects of climate change and coastal storms.
- Without beach improvements and maintenance, sea level rise will result in total beach loss in Waikiki before the end of the century. According to an Economic Impact Analysis of the Potential Erosion of Waikiki Beach by UH Sea Grant College, the loss of Waikiki Beach alone would result in an annual loss of \$2.223 billion in visitor expenditures. This is money that goes to support workers such as myself as well as our families and communities through taxes and creation of jobs and opportunities.

Improvements and maintenance like those proposed in the DPEIS are necessary to restore and maintain the beaches of Waikiki to continue to support Hawai'i's tourism-based economy and significant cultural relevance for generations to follow.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

[Agathi Yap](#) | Senior Systems Analyst  
OUTRIGGER HOSPITALITY GROUP

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