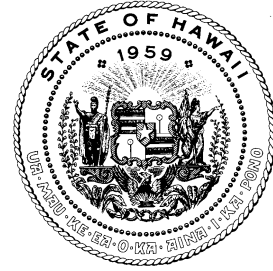


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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

March 6, 2012

### HAWAII STATE SENATE PASSES OCEAN SAFETY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING BILL

OAHU – The Hawaii State Senate passed SB 2967 (SD1), which seeks to establish a separate collective bargaining unit for Ocean and Water Safety Officers, at a floor vote during Session on March 6, 2012. Under SB 2967, Bargaining Unit 14, which represents ocean safety and water safety officers, would be created.

Upon passage of SB 2967, Kauai Senator Ronald D. Kouchi commented, "Ocean safety personnel and water safety officers are an integral part of our first line of emergency responders. Kauai has some of the most beautiful, but also dangerous beaches in the world, and our water safety officers put their lives on the line everyday as part of their job. By having their own bargaining unit, they will now have the chance to represent themselves collectively and have their issues and concerns unique to their group addressed."

Senator Kouchi continued, "I am greatly pleased with the passage of this bill since it reflects our understanding and appreciation for the service that ocean safety personnel provide."

SB 2967 has crossed over to the House of Representatives where it will await assignment to a Committee for a hearing.

(Photo caption: Kauai Senator Ronald D. Kouchi during Senate Session)

(Photo courtesy: The Office of Senator Michele N. Kidani)

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