

JAN 20 2010

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BEACHES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Hawaii's beaches are famous for their crested
2 turquoise waves crashing onto pristine, golden shores. However,
3 Hawaii is situated in the center of the north Pacific sub-
4 tropical gyre, which is several ocean currents that rotate
5 around the islands. This natural phenomenon results in Hawaii
6 being a natural magnet for thousands of tons of non-
7 biodegradable rubbish from all over the ocean. Synthetic
8 rubbish from both sides of the Pacific, southeast Asia and South
9 America, is washed up on Hawaii's beaches daily.

10 Clearing marine debris from the ocean and beaches is
11 important not just for restoring the natural beauty of beaches,
12 but also for saving marine life. Birds and animals mistake
13 rubbish such as plastic bags, cigarette lighters, and other
14 brightly colored plastic as food and may suffer from internal
15 injury, intestinal blockage, and even starvation. Dolphins,
16 whales, sea turtles, sharks, and seals get caught in fishing
17 nets, lines, and other debris such as six-pack holders. Marine



1 debris comes from land-based sources and water-based sources,
2 and can last for years in the ocean before disintegrating.

3 Local efforts to clean up Hawaii's beaches include the
4 Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii, which distributes
5 pocket ashtrays to avoid cigarette butts on beaches and teams
6 with Aveda Lifestyle Salon & Spa at the Ala Moana Center to
7 recycle bottle caps. These efforts demonstrate the community's
8 strong desire to clean up Hawaii's beaches, preserve their
9 natural beauty, and protect the ocean and land environment for
10 future generations. The legislature finds that statewide
11 coordination of these efforts through a centralized program can
12 provide the necessary support to community groups to clean every
13 beach in Hawaii and control the litter and marine debris
14 problem.

15 The purpose of this Act is to establish a public service
16 program for volunteers to pick up litter on Hawaii's beaches.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
19 and to read as follows:

20 **"§171- Public service program; beach litter collection.**

21 (a) The department shall establish Malama o ke Kahakai, a
22 public service program for volunteer groups to care for state



1 beach areas by picking up litter and debris. The department may
2 coordinate with other departments and federal government
3 agencies to gain access to beach areas for participating
4 volunteer groups.

5 (b) The department shall provide material support to
6 participating volunteer groups, including:

- 7 (1) Providing trash bags and safety information;
- 8 (2) Removing any filled trash bags from the beach areas;
- 9 (3) Removing heavy or hazardous items from the beach
10 areas; and
- 11 (4) Erecting signs to recognize each volunteer group's
12 participation.

13 (c) Volunteer groups shall commit to collecting litter and
14 debris at least four times annually.

15 (d) The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
16 to implement this section."

17 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Keiki Caucus; Litter Control; Malama o ke Kahakai Program

Description:

Establishes Malama o ke Kahakai, a volunteer public service program for volunteer groups to pick up litter from state beach areas.

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