

JAN 20 2011

S.B. NO. 42

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO OCEAN SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that increased
2 recreational and commercial activities in Hawaii's nearshore
3 waters have lead to safety concerns and, in some cases, tragic
4 results. In October 2009, a young diver died after being struck
5 by a boat in Maunalua Bay on the island of Oahu, a bay popular
6 with divers, swimmers, and other ocean recreational users.

7 Other nearshore areas statewide are also popular
8 attractions for multiple ocean activities.

9 The legislature finds that one such area is Kaanapali beach
10 on the island of Maui. Installing safety features such as
11 swimming buoys there to more clearly delineate areas reserved
12 for differing uses would ensure greater safety. The legislature
13 also finds that given the popularity of ocean activities in
14 nearshore areas statewide, a comprehensive safety review of all
15 nearshore areas is warranted.

16 The purpose of this Act is to improve ocean safety by:



1 (1) Requiring the department of land and natural resources
2 to review the safety records of nearshore areas
3 statewide; and

4 (2) Appropriating funds for swimming buoys at Kaanapali
5 beach.

6 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural
7 resources shall review the safety records of nearshore areas
8 statewide, including the range and frequency of ocean activities
9 in each designated nearshore area; any accidents, injuries, and
10 fatalities attributable to the activities; and the success or
11 failure of any safety features such as swimming buoys
12 implemented to ensure public safety.

13 (b) The department shall report to the legislature on the
14 results of the review, including any recommendations for
15 increasing public safety in nearshore waters, no later than
16 twenty days prior to the convening of the 2012 legislative
17 session.

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 for
21 swimming buoys at Kaanapali beach for the purpose of increasing
22 the safety of swimmers.



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1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

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Report Title:

Ocean Safety; Swimming Buoys; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of land and natural resources to review the safety records of nearshore areas statewide; appropriates funds for swimming buoys at Kaanapali beach.

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