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Director of Council Services
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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

TO: The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Don Couch
Council Member, South Maui District

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Don Couch", is written over the "FROM:" line.

DATE: Friday, February 24, 2012

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB 2933, SD 1, RELATING TO OCEAN SAFETY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of **SB 2933, SD 1**. I provide this testimony as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

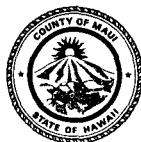
The purpose of this measure is to promote greater safety of ocean users in the State's nearshore waters and to appropriate funds for swim zone buoys at Kamaole beach. The measure would also require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to impose stricter regulations for the safety of ocean users, and to report back to the Legislature on the status of measures taken to address ocean safety concerns.

The safety of our nearshore waters has become increasingly important as the numbers of residents and visitors enjoying ocean activities has increased. A recent tragic incident at Hanakoo beach park underscores the need for clearly marked areas to protect swimmers and divers in areas with multiple ocean activities. The installation of swim zone buoys and establishment of stricter regulations will ensure a greater measure of safety in popular ocean activity areas.

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February 23, 2012

TO: Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Robert Carroll
Council Member, East Maui 

DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2012

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB 2933 S.D. 1, RELATING TO OCEAN SAFETY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support this important measure. The purpose of this measure requires the department of land and natural resources to adopt rules that promote greater safety of ocean users in the State's near shore waters. Appropriates funds for swim zone buoys at Kamaole Beach.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Kamaole Beach Parks I, II and III have become extremely popular with residents and visitors for ocean recreational activities, such as, canoe paddling, snorkeling, kayaking, swimming and stand-up paddle boarding. As the growth in the visitor industry has impacted the Kihei, Wailea and Makena region, so has the demand on county beach parks and ocean activities.
2. For many years "swim buoys" were moored in the oceans along Kamaole Beach Parks and Hanakao'o Beach Park (Canoe Beach) within the "West Maui Ocean Recreation Management Area" (WMORMA). These "swim buoys" helped to protect ocean recreational activities and family enjoyment of this area from boating, especially since Kamaole is in close proximity to the Kihei boat ramp. The removal of these "swim buoys" have resulted in unnecessary accidents that have been fatal. The death of Kalani Kai "Billy" Gonzales, a truly respected waterman, could potentially have been avoided had these "swim buoys" remained in tack.
3. It is necessary that public safety along the Kamaole Beach Parks and WMORMA be reviewed and preserved to avoid further avoidable accidents. The installation of swim zone buoys is a step in the right direction, however DLNR should be encouraged to take immediate actions to enhance public safety in our ocean and prevent future accidents.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.