
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEMORIALS.

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

1 SECTION 1. For many people in Hawaii, fulfilling the last
2 wishes of loved ones includes giving the ashes of the deceased
3 over to the ocean. For a variety of reasons, including
4 practical issues involving the high cost of burial in
5 cemeteries, spiritual practices concerned with the life-giving
6 and cyclical nature of water and the sea, or aesthetic desires
7 involving the beauty of the ocean itself, many Hawaii residents
8 choose that the ocean be their final resting place through the
9 scattering of their ashes by family and friends. Associated
10 with these types of final arrangements, family and friends may
11 additionally commemorate their loved ones through memorials
12 constructed on coastal land. Ownership status of coastal land
13 is frequently unclear and memorials may be placed on either
14 public or private land, with the deceased's family and friends
15 unaware of the land's status.

16 The legislature finds that the State has an interest in
17 tracking and regulating coastal memorials to safeguard the
18 public health and safety as well as to protect potentially



1 fragile coastal land. However, this endeavor is complicated
2 because it involves the deployment of limited public resources
3 and personnel and the status of the land or its actual ownership
4 may be unclear or indeterminable. Therefore, the legislature
5 further finds that the issue of coastal memorials deserves
6 further review and evaluation.

7 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the coastal memorials
8 task force within the department of land and natural resources
9 for administrative purposes. The task force shall consist of
10 the following members:

- 11 (1) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
12 resources or the chairperson's designee;
- 13 (2) The director of transportation or the director's
14 designee;
- 15 (3) The chairperson of the Hawaiian homes commission or
16 the chairperson's designee;
- 17 (4) The executive director of the aha moku advisory
18 committee or the executive director's designee;
- 19 (5) A member of the house of representatives, designated
20 by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- 21 (6) A member of the senate, designated by the senate
22 president;



1 (7) One representative from each county, designated by the
2 respective county's mayor;

3 (8) A member of the community, designated by the speaker
4 of the house of representatives;

5 (9) A member of the community, designated by the president
6 of the senate; and

7 (10) A member of the community, designated by the governor.

8 The members of the task force shall elect a chairperson
9 from among its membership.

10 (b) The coastal memorials task force shall:

11 (1) Review and evaluate the practice of erecting coastal
12 memorials with respect to the safety of beach users;

13 (2) Develop standards to regulate the practice of erecting
14 coastal memorials;

15 (3) Consider the size, placement, and duration of coastal
16 memorials in its review; and

17 (4) Report its findings and recommendations to the
18 legislature, including any proposed legislation, no
19 later than thirty days prior to the convening of the
20 regular session of 2016.

21 (c) Members of the coastal memorials task force shall
22 serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses,



1 including travel expenses necessary for the performance of their
2 duties.

3 (d) The legislative reference bureau shall assist the
4 coastal memorials task force in preparing its findings,
5 recommendations, and proposed legislation; provided that the
6 chairperson of the task force shall submit the necessary
7 information therefor to the legislative reference bureau for
8 drafting no later than November 1, 2015.

9 (e) For purposes of this Act, "coastal memorials" mean
10 impromptu structures built on public land along coastal areas of
11 the state on occasion, to commemorate the death of another
12 person.

13 (f) The coastal memorials task force shall cease to exist
14 on June 30, 2016.

15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Coastal Memorials Task Force

Description:

Establishes the Coastal Memorials Task Force to review, evaluate, develop standards, and make recommendations regarding the practice of erecting coastal memorials. (HB2565 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

