

March 15, 2017

**Testimony to Water & Land Committee
Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 2:15 P.M. Room 229**

RE: HOUSE BILL 14 HD1, RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK

Dear Chair Rhoads and members of the Water & Land Committee,

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce (KKCC) ***strongly supports*** HB14 HD1, that appropriates funds for the employment of lifeguards and for necessary equipment to be used by state lifeguards in their work at Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai State Park in North Kona on the island of Hawaii.

The KKCC is West Hawai'i's leading business organization, representing over 500 businesses. As the largest business organization on Hawai'i Island and fourth largest chamber of commerce in the state, KKCC exists to provide leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i.

Kua Bay is one of the most popular and easily accessible beaches in West Hawai'i. Both residents and visitors frequent this beautiful beach each day. The waves and current can be strong at Kua Bay and it can lead to dangerous and life threatening incidents if you are not a good swimmer. The state must provide safe beaches for our residents and visitors so that the number of incidents at Kua Bay are decreased.

The positive outcomes of this bill are the following:

- Provides safety at one of the most popular beaches on the Hawai'i Island;
- Reduces the amount of emergency calls to the County of Hawai'i dispatch and emergency services;
- Saves money for the County and nonprofit organizations such as VASH that have to provide services emergency services or assistance for incidents that occur at Kua Bay;
- And creates a memorable experience for visitors that support our economy!

On behalf of over 500 businesses on Hawai'i Island, I respectfully ask for your support for HB14 HD1.

Mahalo nui loa,



Kirstin Kahaloa, Executive Director
Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 3:12 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: Flatinis007@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB14 on Mar 16, 2017 14:15PM



HB14

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 16, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Frank Latinis | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: It should be absolutely necessary to have Lifeguards at Kua Bay for the safety of all who use the bay.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 2:50 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: keahipua@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB14 on Mar 16, 2017 14:15PM

LATE

HB14

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 16, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joy Mills | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Kia Bay needs lifeguards . Mahalo

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 2:43 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: kkahaloa@kona-kohala.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB14 on Mar 16, 2017 14:15PM

HB14

Submitted on: 3/15/2017
Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 16, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 229

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kirstin Kahaloa | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: This bill will support our residents and visitors who frequent this beach. It is one of the most popular beaches in West Hawaii, but you must be a strong swimmer to handle the waves and currents.

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Submitted Testimony re:HB14, HD1
March 15, 2017



To Whom It may Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of HB14. Over the 15 years I have lived on the Big Island, I have visited Kua Bay dozens of times. During those visits, I have seen numerous instances of tourists and locals alike who have struggled in the difficult surf and strong riptides there.

My own teenage sons have helped local citizens with at least 4 rescues just in the last couple of years, using the training they received at the hands of our very own amazing team of Kona Lifeguards. Even with the introduction of the Lifeguard Buoy at Kua Bay, if the person offering assistance doesn't know how to use it properly, they themselves can get into trouble.

Since the county has paved the road and made it more easily accessible to the public, we now have a reasonable responsibility to provide those who use it with the safety measures afforded every other public beach along our dangerous coastlines. Also, knowing the dangers at Kua Bay while doing nothing to protect the public opens the County up to liability concerns in addition to the regrettable loss of life we have already experienced there.

I urge you to consider approving this bill in support of the public safety of our Ohana.

Mahalo for your time!

Lisa Myrick
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