

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE**

**Thursday, February 22, 2018  
1:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2044, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK**

House Bill 2044, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to employ four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) state lifeguards at Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai State Park, and purchase lifeguard equipment. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department currently has a contract with the County of Hawaii (County) for lifeguard services at Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area. There is currently no lifeguard protection for visitors to Kua Bay located at Kekaha Kai State Park and the Department would have to contract lifeguard services with the County. After Hapuna Beach, Kua Bay would be the next location to provide for lifeguard services as it has the most reported spinal cord injuries.

The funds for the Hapuna Beach lifeguard contract are derived from the State Parks Special Fund and Transient Accommodations Tax allotments. SECTION 2 of this measure appropriates general funds to hire and provide benefits for four full time permanent staff. The staffing costs would be around \$340,355 annually. SECTION 3 appropriates \$80,000 in general funds for equipment.

The Department supports the appropriation of general funds to contract lifeguard services at Kua Bay.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i  
Office of the Mayor

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KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 21, 2018

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Committee Members:

**Re: HB 2044, HD 1 Relating to Kua Bay**  
**Hearing Date: 02/22/18 – 1:30 pm; House Conference Room 308**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2044, HD 1, which would fund lifeguard services at Kua Bay in Kekaha Kai State Park.

Kua Bay is one of the most beautiful locations in the islands, but its hidden hazards can prove deadly. It is now easily accessible, so for the sake of locals and visitors alike, a lifeguard at that location is definitely warranted and would be much appreciated.

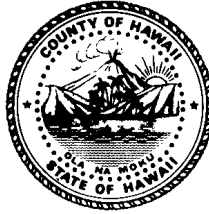
Please act favorably on HB 2044, HD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i



**Karen Eoff**  
Council Vice Chair  
Council District 8 - North Kona



Phone: (808) 323-4280  
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Email: karen.eoff@hawaiicounty.gov

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 21, 2018

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

Re: Testimony Supporting HB2044, HD1; Relating to Kekaha State Park  
Hearing Date and Time: February 22, 2018 at 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 308

Dear Committee:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, support for the above referenced Bill is expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

Hawai'i Island does not have state funded lifeguards at Kua Bay and Kekaha State Park, which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. It is in the best interest of residents and visitors that an appropriation be made to fund lifeguard positions and to pay for life-saving equipment at Kua Bay.

Further tragedy and life-changing injuries can be avoided by providing lifeguards at Kua Bay and Kekaha State Park.

We strongly recommend the passing of this bill.

Sincerely,

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KAREN EOFF, Council Vice Chair  
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 22, 2018

H.B. 2044, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the passage of H.B. 2044, H.D. 1 which appropriates funds for the employment of ocean safety officers and appropriate life-saving equipment, including a lifeguard tower, all-terrain vehicle, radios, and rescue equipment for Kua Bay in North Kona. However, we respectfully request a friendly amendment.

The access routes to Kekaha Kai State Park and Kua Bay have recently been improved, leading to increased visitation and recreational use by both locals and tourists. Expanding ocean safety services to Kua Bay will ensure that beachgoers are safe and protected.

We respectfully request the Committee's consideration in replacing the term "lifeguard" with "ocean safety officer" throughout the measure, to more accurately capture and reflect the complexity of their roles.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. 2044, with a proposed amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

# DANIEL ROBERT SAYRE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 1285, Kailua-Kona, HI 96745  
808-325-5456

February 21, 2018

House Committee on Finance

Dear Senators and Committee members:

The Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation **supports** HB 2044 HD1 which will provide life-saving Ocean Safety Officers at Kua Bay.

The purpose of this Foundation is to assist the Hawaii Fire Department in saving lives through the purchase of needed rescue equipment and training not afforded to them by the Hawaii County budget. We help to provide life-saving equipment to the Ocean Safety Division of the HFD and we are extremely concerned that Kua Bay does not have funding for Ocean Safety Officers.

For years, we have been hearing of near drownings, broken necks and drownings that have occurred at this unguarded beach. Off-duty lifeguards have saved countless lives at this location due to the treacherous currents and shore breaks which have put our community members and visitors at risk. Also for years, Representatives and Senators from Hawaii Island have been asking for financial support from the State budget to protect the visitors to this beach from having tragic endings. For years, the State Finance Committee has chosen to not fund Ocean Safety Officers for this dangerous beach and more lives have been lost. This is a State beach and therefore must be funded by the State.

It seems irresponsible to invite our visitors and community members to enjoy the beauty of Kua Bay and not provide protection for them. It is our feeling that the access to Kua Bay be closed or that protection for this Kua Bay be financed. Waiting another year to fund this Bill shouldn't even be a consideration. If charging an entrance fee to this location is necessary to fund the lifeguards, then I believe that most visitors would be more than happy to do so to receive the benefit of having trained Ocean Safety Officers present. Continuing to lose lives at Kua Bay is an enormous liability to the State of Hawaii and it is devastating for the families that are involved.

Please move HB 2044 HD1 through and provide the funding for our Ocean Safety Officers at Kua Bay.

Sincerely,

Laura Mallery-Sayre, Executive Director

Dr. Frank Sayre  
President



February 20, 2018

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
House Finance Committee

Dear Representative Luke and Representative Cullen,

**Testimony in Support of HB2044 HB1**

The Kohala Coast Resort Association (KCRA) is in full support of HB2044 HB1, providing for lifeguards and lifesaving equipment at Kekaha Kai State Park and Kua Bay. As our visitation continues to grow on Hawaii Island, we are seeing an increase in use of this beautiful bay, and believe that it should have lifeguards to help both residents and visitors enjoy the ocean safely.

KCRA is a collection of master-planned resorts and hotels situated north of the airport which represents more than 3,500 hotel accommodations and an equal number of resort residential units. This is approximately 35 percent of the accommodations available on the Island of Hawai'i. KCRA member properties annually pay more than \$20 million in TAT and \$20 million in GET.

We encourage your support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie P. Donoho". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Donoho  
Administrative Director

House Committee on Finance

Dear Senators and Committee members:

I write this in **support** of HB 2044 HD1 which will provide life-saving Ocean Safety Officers at Kua Bay.

On numerous occasions, I have been at Kua Bay when 911 has been needed for casualties and near casualties that have happened here. Due to the location, it can be those precious minutes needed to come from off-site that are the difference between life and death.

For years, we have been hearing of near drownings, broken necks and drownings that have occurred at this unguarded beach. Off-duty lifeguards have saved countless lives at this location due to the treacherous currents and shore breaks which have put our community members and visitors at risk. Also for years, Representatives and Senators from Hawaii Island have been asking for financial support from the State budget to protect the visitors to this beach from having tragic endings. For years, the State Finance Committee has chosen to not fund Ocean Safety Officers for this dangerous beach and more lives have been lost. This is a State beach and therefore must be funded by the State.

It seems irresponsible to invite our visitors and community members to enjoy the beauty of Kua Bay and not provide protection for them. It is our feeling that the access to Kua Bay be closed or that protection for this Kua Bay be financed. Waiting another year to fund this Bill shouldn't even be a consideration. If charging an entrance fee to this location is necessary to fund the lifeguards, then I believe that most visitors would be more than happy to do so to receive the benefit of having trained Ocean Safety Officers present. Continuing to lose lives at Kua Bay is an enormous liability to the State of Hawaii and it is devastating for the families that are involved.

Please move HB 2044 HD1 through and provide the funding for our Ocean Safety Officers at Kua Bay.

Sincerely,

Claudia Kane  
77-187 Mahiehie Street  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
[claudia@tccomputer.net](mailto:claudia@tccomputer.net)  
808-217-9324



**HB-2044-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 1:35:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dr. Frank H. Sayre, D.D.S.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: