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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, February 7, 2018
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2097
RELATING TO LIFEGUARDS

House Bill 2097 proposes to appropriate \$1,000,000 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to hire lifeguards to monitor state and county beach parks. **The Department supports this measure with amendments provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department contracts with the four counties to support lifeguard services at State Park beaches that have been identified as having ocean conditions and a volume of patronage that warrants the critical need for trained water safety personnel. Their training and skill benefits both Hawaii's general public and out of state visitors – who frequently do not possess the skill or acumen to be safe in all types of ocean conditions. This table illustrates the previous and current costs associated with providing these services.

		FY17	FY18	INCREASE
Initial Memorandum: 6/27/12 MOF: State Parks Special Fund/TAT	HAWAII (Hapuna)	\$ 465,785.00	\$ 868,105.79	\$ 402,320.79
Initial Memorandum: 07/03/08 MOF: State Parks General Fund	MAUI (Makena)	\$ 606,469.00	\$ 1,056,058.64	\$ 449,589.64

Initial Memorandum: 03/24/08 MOF: State Parks General Fund	KAUAI (Kee)	\$ 200,065.00	\$ 287,292.10	\$ 87,227.10
Initial Memorandum: 06/27/12 MOF: Special Land and Development Fund	OAHU (Keawaula)	\$ 584,216.00	\$ 697,084.39	\$ 112,868.39
	TOTAL	\$ 1,856,535.00	\$ 2,908,540.92	\$ 1,052,005.92

These contracts are currently subject to quarterly renewals due to funding concerns as a result of the 16% increase in the collective bargaining unit for statewide county lifeguards. The total costs of the State Park lifeguard contracts is just under \$3,000,000 and are funded through a creative variety of sources: general fund appropriations, state park special fund income, transient accommodations tax allocation and the special land and development fund income. As an example of need - the \$1,000,000 in general funds would just about match the current cost for the Maui contract at Makena Beach State Park, which has been the location of spinal cord injuries.

Ideally – all four contracts would be funded via an increase in general funds – including a targeted need for a lifeguard station at Kua Bay at Kekaha Kai State Park.

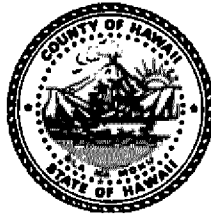
The Department recommends that the bill be amended as follows, so that the appropriation be expended by the Department for state beach parks as the Department does not oversee county beach parks.

SECTION 1. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the department of land and natural resources division of state parks to hire lifeguards to monitor state [~~and county~~] beach parks. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act

The Department supports this allocation, as it will greatly help to offset current costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossov
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 5, 2018

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Committee on Water & Land
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Yamane and Committee Members:

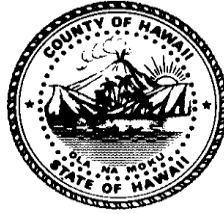
Re: HB 2097 State Hiring of Lifeguards for State and County Beaches
Hearing Date: 02/07/18 – 10:00 am; Conference Room 325

With the issue of lifeguard liability hanging over our first responders, and no indication that a legislative solution is at hand, my Fire Department supports the hiring of lifeguards by DLNR for State and county beaches, HB2097. Since all ocean waters are under State jurisdiction, this would seem a reasonable, sensible, and effective path forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4



Phone: (808) 965-2712
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: eileen.ohara@hawaiicounty.gov

Chair: Environmental
Management Committee

Vice Chair: Planning Committee and
Agriculture, Water & Energy
Sustainability Committee

County of Hawaii
Hawaii County Council

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Hawai'i State House of Representatives

February 6, 2018

Re: In Support of House Bill 2097, from Hawai'i County Council District 4
Scheduled to be heard by WAL on 02-07-18 10:00AM in House conference room 325

Aloha Chair Yamane and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my support for House Bill 2097, which appropriates \$1,000,000 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to hire lifeguards to monitor State and County beach parks. With more than ten deaths in State waters in the past six weeks, providing lifeguards for everyone to safely enjoy the ocean is literally a matter of life and death. Our beaches are a fundamental attraction for our tourists; we are responsible for their safety during their vacations. Furthermore, our citizens deserve protection and security while enjoying the beaches of their island home.

I do not hesitate to support any measure to protect the people of Hawai'i. Please consider the life-saving impact that passing this bill will have on our people and economy, and contact me if you have any questions about my support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen O'Hara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

February 6, 2018

Representative Ryan I. Yamane
Chair, House Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol, room 420
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Chair Yamane;

I am a Battalion Chief in the Hawaii Fire Department on the island of Hawaii and I am submitting testimony in support of HB 2097 Relating to Lifeguards appropriating \$1,000,000 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to hire lifeguards at State and County Beaches. As part of my duties, I oversee the Ocean Safety Division in the County of Hawaii. I am also the Co-Chair of the state Drowning and Aquatic Injury Prevention Advisory Committee and a board member on the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association.

I strongly support this measure to allocate these funds to staff our state beaches here on the island of Hawaii. Hapuna beach is one of the state's most popular beaches with over 600,000 residents and visitors annually, and is in the top 10 beaches in the state for spinal injuries. This funding will allow DLNR to provide funding for us to provide adequate staffing at this beach that will enhance the safety of our personnel and keep the public safe.

In addition to our lifeguard services there, we also conduct Junior Lifeguard program sessions at this beach with our lifeguards to provide valuable lifesaving knowledge to our youth in this community. Thank you for your consideration and support of this bill.

Sincerely,



Gerald Kosaki, Battalion Chief
Hawaii Fire Department

HB-2097

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 4:18:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/7/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon		Support	No

Comments:

HB-2097

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:47:19 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/7/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez		Support	No

Comments:



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

LATE

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Water and Land

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 7, 2018

H.B. 2097 – RELATING TO LIFEGUARDS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 2097 which appropriates \$1,000,000 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to hire lifeguards to monitor state and county beach parks for fiscal year 2018 – 2019.

As written, H.B. 2097 grants the Department flexibility and discretion to ensure that beachgoers are safe and protected by hiring ocean safety officers to monitor both state and county beach parks. We are hopeful that passage of this measure will lend much needed ocean resources and help in decreasing the amount of drownings and deaths on our beaches.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2097.

Respectfully submitted,


for Randy Perreira
Executive Director