

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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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
JUDICIARY

Thursday, March 1, 2018
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2617, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO OCEAN WATERS

House Bill 2617, House Draft 1 proposes to add a new section to Hawai'i Revised Statutes to prohibit bathers from consuming liquor when within 1,000 yards of any beach or shoreline in the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department recognizes that there has been an increasing number of "floatilla" events that have been occurring in the O'ahu nearshore ocean waters in the past few years and the negative impacts of each event. In addition to the massive amounts of litter left by participants in ocean waters and on beaches after these events, officers from the Department's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement and lifeguards from the City and County of Honolulu Ocean Safety Division have needed to rescue hundreds of floatilla participants.

Although there may be enforcement difficulties because floatilla events have no fixed time or location, the Department believes that the language in the House Draft 1 has addressed the Department's previous concerns regarding passengers consuming alcohol onboard vessels.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

LATE

HB-2617-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2018 10:00:40 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicholle S L Konanui	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2617 HD1 to make it illegal for people to drink alcohol within a thousand yards of any beach or shoreline statewide.

I am a native Hawaiian and a registered voter in Hawai'i.

LATE

HB-2617-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2018 10:04:06 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kari Benes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2617-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2018 11:16:53 AM

Testimony for JUD on 3/1/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mariellen Jones	C&C of Hon/HESD (Kevin Allen)	Support	Yes

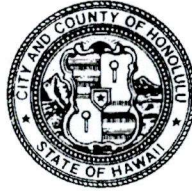
Comments:

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

3375 KOAPAKA STREET, SUITE H-450 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1814
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LATE

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



JAMES D. HOWE, JR.
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 1, 2018

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2018

Re: HB2617, HD1 Relating to Ocean Waters

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice-Chair San Buenaventura, and Members:

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department provides both Ocean Safety and Emergency Medical Services for the Island of Oahu. The Department has the responsibility to act as the primary responder for all emergencies that arise on the beach, in the near shore waters, and as the EMS responder for all 911 calls for medical service.

As noted in the preamble to HB2617, HD1, flotilla events have and will continue to present a significant challenge to the Department. These events are highly problematic from a public safety perspective.

Consumption of alcohol while in bodies of water is a well known and documented contributor to drowning (<http://www.thejournal.ie/drinking-alcohol-swimming-980116-Jul2013/>).

With these well known risk factors, the Ocean Safety Division has taken a proactive approach to flotilla events by redirecting ocean safety assets from general community use to specifically manage these events. There are both direct and indirect costs associated with this allocation of limited resources.

The Emergency Medical Services Division has also been impacted by these events as noted in the Bill.

We support HB2617, HD1 as it would act as a preventive measure that may reduce ocean injuries and deaths. It would also minimize the impacts of "flotillas" on our ability to manage the ocean safety needs of the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Howe, Jr.", is written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

James D. Howe, Jr.
Director