
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that lifeguards act as
2 the primary responders for emergencies on shorelines and within
3 nearshore waters, where the majority of ocean recreation
4 activity takes place. Lifeguards also provide injury control
5 and dispatch ocean rescue services. Moreover, the legislature
6 also finds that although Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai state park (Kua
7 Bay) in North Kona on the island of Hawaii is under the
8 jurisdiction of the department of land and natural resources,
9 the State currently does not employ its own lifeguards at Kua
10 Bay.

11 The legislature further finds that the location of Kua Bay
12 between Kona and the resorts of Kohala Coast and improvements to
13 Kekaha Kai state park, such as a paved road and comfort station,
14 have led to an increase in visits by locals and tourists, making
15 Kua Bay one of the most popular beaches in the State.
16 Consequently, the increase in visitation is accompanied by an



1 increase in dangerous incidents, injuries, and deaths, which
2 could be mitigated by placement of lifeguards at Kua Bay.

3 From 2013 to 2016, emergency medical service patient care
4 reported twenty-eight calls from the Kua Bay area, fourteen
5 alone from 2016, with nineteen of the calls resulting in
6 hospitalization for a traumatic injury. Additionally, the
7 Hawaii Trauma Registry reports that there were seven spinal cord
8 injuries from 2009 to 2013. According to the department of
9 health's emergency medical services and injury prevention system
10 branch's GIS database of fatal drownings, three people have
11 drowned in the Kua Bay area since 2013.

12 The purpose of this Act is to save lives and prevent injury
13 at Kua Bay by appropriating funds for the employment of
14 lifeguards and for necessary equipment.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
19 2020-2021 for the establishment of four full time equivalent
20 (4.0 FTE) permanent ocean safety officers for Manini'ōwali beach
21 at Kua bay in the Kekaha Kai state park on the island of Hawaii;



1 provided that the county of Hawaii shall hire and provide
2 benefits for the four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) permanent
3 ocean safety officer positions established pursuant to this Act.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
5 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$80,000 or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for the
9 department of land and natural resources to purchase equipment
10 to be used by state ocean safety officers in the course of their
11 work at Manini'owali beach at Kua Bay in the Kekaha Kai state
12 park on the island of Hawaii; provided that the sum appropriated
13 shall be expended as follows:

- 14 (1) \$60,000 for one lifeguard tower;
- 15 (2) \$8,000 for one all-terrain vehicle;
- 16 (3) \$8,000 for radios;
- 17 (4) \$3,000 for rescue equipment; and
- 18 (5) \$1,000 for protective equipment.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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H.B. NO. 558

Report Title:

Kua Bay; Lifeguards; Equipment; Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds for the employment of lifeguards and for life-saving equipment at Kua Bay.

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