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# 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 within Kekaha Kai state park in  
7 North Kona on the island of Hawaii is under the jurisdiction of  
8 the department of land and natural resources, the State  
9 currently does not employ its own lifeguards at Kua Bay.

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



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

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

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



1 benefits for the four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) permanent  
2 ocean safety officer positions established pursuant to this Act.

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

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

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

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

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Kua Bay; Lifeguards; Equipment; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the employment of lifeguards and for life-saving equipment at Kua Bay in Kekaha Kai State Park on Hawaii Island. (HB558 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

