
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 recreational
4 activities take place. Lifeguards also provide injury control
5 and dispatch ocean rescue services. Moreover, the legislature
6 also finds that although Kua Bay is located within Kekaha Kai
7 state park in North Kona on the island of Hawaii and is under
8 the jurisdiction of the department of land and natural
9 resources, the State currently does not employ its own
10 lifeguards at Kua Bay.

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



1 deaths, which could be mitigated by the placement of lifeguards
2 at Kua Bay.

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

12 The purpose of this Act is to save lives and prevent
13 injuries at Kua Bay by appropriating funds for employing four
14 lifeguards and purchasing necessary equipment.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ 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 Maniniowali beach
21 at Kua Bay in 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 \$ 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 Maniniowali beach at Kua Bay in Kekaha Kai state park on
12 the island of Hawaii; provided that the sum appropriated shall
13 be expended as follows:

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

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



Report Title:

DLNR; Kua Bay; Lifeguards; Equipment; Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for employing lifeguards and purchasing life-saving equipment at Kua Bay in Kekaha Kai State Park on the island of Hawaii. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

