
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY COUNCILS TO ENACT ORDINANCES TO BAN THE SALE
AND RENTAL OF FULL-FACE SNORKEL MASKS IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the State is a prime destination for ocean
2 activities because of the clear blue waters, year-round warm
3 waters, and unique ocean ecosystems; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the promotion of safe practices will ensure that
6 locals and non-locals enjoy ocean activities in the State; and
7

8 WHEREAS, 17 snorkeling-related deaths occur on average each
9 year in Hawaii; and
10

11 WHEREAS, in 2018, there were 14 such deaths in the first
12 three months; and
13

14 WHEREAS, between January 14 and 27, 2018, eight people,
15 including at least three tourists, drowned near several beaches
16 on Maui, bringing the death toll in the span of two weeks to
17 almost half of the 17 snorkeling deaths that Hawaii experiences
18 in a year; and
19

20 WHEREAS, two of those deaths involved visitors from
21 California who were wearing full-face snorkel masks and those
22 drownings have raised concerns about use of recently introduced
23 models of full-face snorkeling masks; and
24

25 WHEREAS, full-face snorkel masks are masks that seal around
26 a person's entire face and strap around the head with a tube for
27 breathing and the design of full-face snorkel masks makes it
28 difficult to remove the mask when an individual panics in the
29 ocean; and



H.C.R. NO. 123

1 WHEREAS, the design is also believed to retain more carbon
 2 dioxide in the mask, which may lead to a person becoming
 3 disoriented or lose consciousness; and
 4

5 WHEREAS, critics of the full-face design, including
 6 experienced watermen and women on Maui say that there is carbon
 7 dioxide buildup in the mask, and the masks are prone to leaking
 8 and fogging easily; and
 9

10 WHEREAS, the full-face masks are popular because the new
 11 design advertises that people can breathe through their nose and
 12 mouth, unlike a traditional snorkel with only a mouthpiece; and
 13

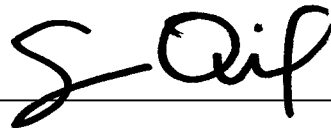
14 WHEREAS, a Hawaii retailer field-tested the full-face
 15 snorkeling masks and now refuses to sell them, and an owner of
 16 one of Maui's and the State's largest snorkel companies said
 17 that he never will sell the "one piece" snorkel masks; and
 18

19 WHEREAS, some surviving relatives and friends of the
 20 deceased snorkelers have placed the blame on full-face snorkel
 21 masks; now, therefore,
 22

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 24 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
 25 2019, the Senate concurring, that this body urges the county
 26 councils to enact ordinances to ban the sale and rental of full-
 27 face snorkel masks in Hawaii; and
 28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Council Chairs of
 31 the Honolulu City Council, Kaua'i County Council, Maui County
 32 Council, and Hawai'i County Council.
 33
 34
 35

OFFERED BY: _____



Alakshina

Arakshana

15/02/19

val of

1/2/19

Dr. D.

Rahul Kumar

John M. Mason

John M. Mason

Bel 14/19

Indadehina

DO Hlt

Carl

1/2/19

Githi Huelan

Sumit K. K.

Dang Carnes

MAR 08 2019

