
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE SURFING COMMISSION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to establish a state
2 commission on surfing to locally and globally promote surfing
3 and education regarding surfing's unique connection to Hawaii as
4 a native Hawaiian cultural practice.

5 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
6 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
7 as follows:

8 "CHAPTER

9 STATE COMMISSION ON SURFING

10 § -1 Findings and purpose. The legislature finds that
11 surfing, as the state sport of Hawaii, is of significant
12 cultural, social, and economic value to the people and State of
13 Hawaii, as well as the many visitors who travel to the State for
14 surfing. An estimated 704,000 people surf in Hawaii each year,
15 the second-most out of any state in the country. Hawaii's
16 unique weather and topography make the State especially suited



1 for surfing, yet many people are unaware of the history and
2 exclusive connection that Hawaii has with surfing.

3 The legislature also recognizes the increasing recognition
4 of surfing beyond the State of Hawaii. The 2020 Summer Olympics
5 in Tokyo will be the first Olympics games to include surfing,
6 further bolstering global recognition of the sport.

7 The purpose of this chapter is to provide for a statewide
8 program to promote surfing and educate people throughout the
9 State, as well as a broader international audience, about
10 surfing's unique connection to Hawaii.

11 § -2 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the
12 context requires otherwise:

13 "Commission" means the state commission on surfing
14 established pursuant to section -3.

15 § -3 **Establishment of the state commission on surfing.**

16 There is established the state commission on surfing within the
17 office of the lieutenant governor for administrative purposes.

18 § -4 **Members; terms; chair; quorum; compensation.** (a)

19 The commission shall consist of seventeen members and reflect
20 the geographic and cultural diversity of the State. The
21 membership shall include:



- 1 (1) The lieutenant governor; director of commerce and
2 consumer affairs; chairperson of the board of land and
3 natural resources; director of business, economic
4 development, and tourism; and superintendent of
5 education; or their designees, as ex officio voting
6 members;

- 7 (2) Nine voting members, who shall be appointed by the
8 governor pursuant to section 26-34, except as provided
9 in this section, as follows:
 - 10 (A) Two members shall be appointed by the governor
11 from a list of three nominees submitted by the
12 president of the senate, and two members shall be
13 appointed by the governor from a list of three
14 nominees submitted by the speaker of the house of
15 representatives;
 - 16 (B) Three members shall be appointed by the governor
17 from the community-at-large; and
 - 18 (C) Two members from the Hawaiian community
19 demonstrating an understanding of the culture and
20 history of surfing shall be appointed by the



1 governor from a list of nominees submitted by the
2 Office of Hawaiian Affairs;

3 provided that the governor shall appoint members
4 pursuant to this paragraph so as to ensure gender
5 parity in the composition of the commission as a
6 whole;

7 (3) One voting member shall be designated by the World
8 Surf League;

9 (4) One voting member shall be designated by the Hawaii
10 Lifeguard Association; and

11 (5) One voting member shall be designated by the Hawaii
12 Surfing Association.

13 (b) Of the appointed members, there shall be at least one
14 member from each of the counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii.

15 (c) All members shall serve for a term of four years. Any
16 vacancies occurring in the membership of the commission shall be
17 filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same
18 manner as the original appointments. No member shall serve on
19 the commission for more than two terms; provided that if a
20 member fills a vacancy and serves for the remainder of an



1 unexpired term, that member shall be considered to have served
2 one term.

3 (d) The chair and vice chair of the board shall be
4 selected annually from the nongovernmental members of the
5 commission appointed pursuant to subsection (a)(2). A simple
6 majority shall constitute a quorum, whose affirmative vote shall
7 be necessary for all actions.

8 (e) The members shall serve without compensation.

9 (f) Any member of the commission shall be immune from
10 civil liability as provided in section 26-35.5.

11 **§ -5 Duties; meetings; exemption from administrative**
12 **supervision of boards and commissions.** (a) The commission
13 shall serve in an advisory capacity to state agencies to promote
14 the surfing industry and educate people about the cultural and
15 historical significance of surfing. In addition, the commission
16 may make recommendations on programs, services, and contracts
17 relating to surfing and may:

18 (1) Act as a central clearinghouse and coordinating body
19 for governmental and nongovernmental activities and
20 information relating to the promotion of surfing;



- 1 (2) Identify promising best practices that support and
2 engage surfers and the surfing industry;
- 3 (3) Identify obstacles that impede or prevent people from
4 undertaking surfing in a safe manner;
- 5 (4) Raise public awareness of surfing and its cultural and
6 historical connection to the State;
- 7 (5) Recommend policies and practices, within and
8 throughout state government, that encourage the
9 education and promotion of surfing;
- 10 (6) Promote, foster, encourage, and otherwise support
11 programs designed to educate and train people in the
12 sport of surfing;
- 13 (7) Promote, foster, encourage, and otherwise support
14 programs that promote surfing; and
- 15 (8) Do any and all things necessary to carry out its
16 duties and the purposes of this chapter.
- 17 (b) The meetings of the commission shall be subject to the
18 requirements of chapter 92.
- 19 (c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the
20 commission shall be exempt from section 26-35 with the exception
21 of section 26-35(a)(2), (3), (7), and (8).



1 § -6 Administration of funds. The commission shall
2 administer funds appropriated or allocated for its work and
3 shall be authorized to accept, disburse, and allocate funds that
4 may become available from other governmental and private
5 sources; provided that all funds shall be disbursed or allocated
6 in compliance with any specific designation stated by the donor
7 and, in the absence of any specific designation, the funds shall
8 be disbursed or allocated on projects related to any of the
9 purposes of this chapter."

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



Report Title:

State Commission on Surfing

Description:

Establishes the State Commission on Surfing. (SB1459 HD1)

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

