
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.

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

7 "CHAPTER

8 STATE COMMISSION ON SURFING

9 § -1 Findings and purpose. The legislature finds that
10 surfing, as the state sport of Hawaii, is of significant
11 cultural, social, and economic value to the people and State of
12 Hawaii, as well as the many visitors who travel to the State for
13 surfing. An estimated 704,000 people surf in Hawaii each year,
14 the second-most out of any state in the country. Hawaii's
15 unique weather and topography make the State especially suited
16 for surfing, yet many people are unaware of the history and
17 exclusive connection that Hawaii has with surfing.



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

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

9 **§ -2 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the
10 context requires otherwise:

11 "Commission" means the state commission on surfing
12 established pursuant to section -3.

13 **§ -3 Establishment of the state commission on surfing.**

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

16 **§ -4 Members; terms; chair; quorum; compensation.** (a)

17 The commission shall consist of fifteen members and reflect the
18 geographic and cultural diversity of the State. The membership
19 shall include:

20 (1) The lieutenant governor; director of commerce and
21 consumer affairs; chairperson of the board of land and



1 natural resources; director of business, economic
2 development, and tourism; and superintendent of
3 education; or their designees, as ex officio voting
4 members;

5 (2) Eight voting members, who shall be appointed by the
6 governor pursuant to section 26-34, except as provided
7 in this section, as follows:

8 (A) Two members shall be appointed by the governor
9 from a list of three nominees submitted by the
10 president of the senate, and two members shall be
11 appointed by the governor from a list of three
12 nominees submitted by the speaker of the house of
13 representatives;

14 (B) Four members shall be appointed by the governor
15 from the community-at-large; and

16 (C) Two members from the Hawaiian community
17 demonstrating an understanding of the culture and
18 history of surfing shall be appointed by the
19 governor from a list of nominees submitted by the
20 Office of Hawaiian Affairs;



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

5 (3) One voting member shall be designated by the World
6 Surfing League; and

7 (4) One voting member shall be designated by the Hawaii
8 Surfing Association.

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

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

19 (d) The chair and vice chair of the board shall be
20 selected annually from the nongovernmental members of the
21 commission appointed pursuant to subsection (a)(2). A simple



1 majority shall constitute a quorum, whose affirmative vote shall
2 be necessary for all actions.

3 (e) The members shall serve without compensation.

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

6 § -5 Duties; meetings; exemption from administrative
7 supervision of boards and commissions. (a) The commission
8 shall serve in an advisory capacity to state agencies to promote
9 the surfing industry and educate people about the cultural and
10 historical significance of surfing. In addition, the commission
11 may make recommendations on programs, services, and contracts
12 relating to surfing and may:

13 (1) Act as a central clearinghouse and coordinating body
14 for governmental and nongovernmental activities and
15 information relating to the promotion of surfing;

16 (2) Identify promising best practices that support and
17 engage surfers and the surfing industry;

18 (3) Identify obstacles that impede or prevent people from
19 undertaking surfing in a safe manner;

20 (4) Raise public awareness of surfing and its cultural and
21 historical connection to the State;



1 (5) Recommend policies and practices, within and without
2 state government, that encourage the education and
3 promotion of surfing;

4 (6) Promote, foster, encourage, and otherwise support
5 programs designed to educate and train people in the
6 sport of surfing;

7 (7) Promote, foster, encourage, and otherwise support
8 programs that promote surfing; and

9 (8) Do any and all things necessary to carry out its
10 duties and the purposes of this chapter.

11 (b) The meetings of the commission shall be subject to the
12 requirements of chapter 92.

13 (c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the
14 commission shall be exempt from section 26-35 with the exception
15 of section 26-35(a)(2), (3), (7), and (8).

16 § -6 Administration of funds. The commission shall
17 administer funds appropriated or allocated for its work and
18 shall be authorized to accept, disburse, and allocate funds that
19 may become available from other governmental and private
20 sources; provided that all funds shall be disbursed or allocated
21 in compliance with any specific designation stated by the donor



1 and, in the absence of any specific designation, the funds shall
2 be disbursed or allocated on projects related to any of the
3 purposes of this chapter."

4 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

State Commission on Surfing

Description:

Establishes the state commission on surfing. (SD1)

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

