

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA  
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, April 3, 2019  
10:20 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 558, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK

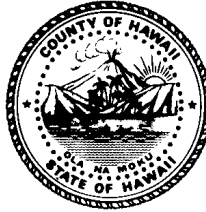
House Bill 558, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds for the employment of lifeguards and for life-saving equipment at Kua Bay in the Kekaha Kai State Park on Hawai'i Island. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Department has supported proposed legislation to provide for lifeguard services since 2015 and currently has a contract with the County of Hawai'i (County) for lifeguard services at Hāpuna Beach State Recreation Area. There is currently no lifeguard protection for visitors to Kua Bay and the Department must contract lifeguard services with the County to provide this service. Due to the increasing access and use of Kua Bay by out of state visitors, the fluctuating ocean condition and reports of the need for rescue due to significant injuries – Kua Bay has been identified as the next State Park beach that warrants trained ocean safety officers on site.

The Department supports the appropriation of general funds in the amount of \$400,000 for the establishment of four full time equivalent (4.0 FRE) ocean safety officer positions in fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 and \$80,000 for equipment purchases in the fiscal year 2019-2020.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

County of Hawai'i  
Council District 9 -  
North and South Kohala



Phone: (808) 961-8564  
(808) 887-2069

Email: [tim.richards@hawaiiicounty.gov](mailto:tim.richards@hawaiiicounty.gov)

**Chair:** Committee on Agriculture,  
Water, Energy, and Environmental  
Management

**Vice Chair:** Committee on Finance

**HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III**  
**HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 9**  
25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

April 1, 2019

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
**Submission via online testimony**

RE: **Support of HB 558, HD1**  
Hearing Date/Time: April 3, 2019 at 10:20 a.m.

Dear Senate Committee:

As the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Water, Energy, and Environmental Management, and Vice Chair of the Committee on Finance for the Hawai'i County Council, I thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in SUPPORT of HB 558, HD1**. It is critical to have a certified lifeguard posted at Kekaha Kai State park for the safety of our island residents and visitors alike. It is a beautiful location visited by hundreds of beach-goers; any potential hazards could be remedied with a skilled lifeguard on duty. That said, I support the appropriation of funds for the employment of lifeguards and for life-savings equipment at Kekaha Kai State park on the Island of Hawai'i.

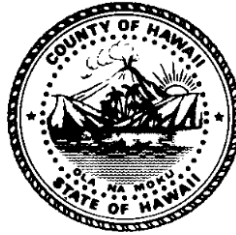
Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III  
Hawai'i County Council, District 9

Harry Kim  
Mayor

Wil Okabe  
Managing Director



Gregory Henkel, Chair  
Ralph Yawata, Vice Chair  
Robert Becker, Member  
Kyle Keamo, Member  
Donna Payesko, Member  
Marcella St. Ambrogio, Member  
Scott Susman, Member

**COUNTY OF HAWAII**  
**Fire Commission**

101 Pauahi Street, Suite 9 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
Phone: (808) 932-2950 • Fax: (808) 932-2949

**Hawaii County Fire Commission**  
**Testimony**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hearing: April 3, 2019 @ 10:20 a.m.

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
From: Hawaii County Fire Commission  
Re: HB558  
Relating to appropriation for lifeguards at "Kua Bay"

---

Thank-you for the opportunity to offer comments from the Hawaii County Fire Commission in STRONG SUPPORT of the appropriations request included in House Bill 558 to appropriate funding for lifeguards and equipment at Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai State Park, North Kona District, County of Hawaii.

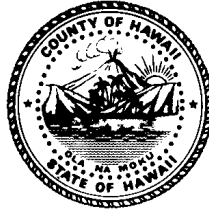
In recent years, our State has expended significant resources to improve the facilities at the beach park commonly called "Kua Bay" including paved roads, showers, improved comfort stations and stair access to beach. The park is now easily accessible for all to visit. As a result of these improvements, Kua Bay is now heavily visited by many locals and tourists on any given day. This increase in use, coupled with an often dangerous shore break, necessitates the need for ocean safety patrols at the beach to keep beachgoers safe. The other local beach parks that see this level of use have lifeguards and the time has come for the funding to be approved to place lifeguards at Kua Bay.

This appropriation of public resources is necessary to keep our community safe.

Thank you.

GREGORY HENKEL  
CHAIR

**Harry Kim**  
*Mayor*



**Wil Okabe**  
*Managing Director*

**Barbara J. Kossow**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

## County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

April 1, 2019

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

**RE: HB 558, HD1 Relating to Kekaha Kai State Park**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 558, HD1, which would fund lifeguard services at Kua Bay in Kekaha Kai State Park.

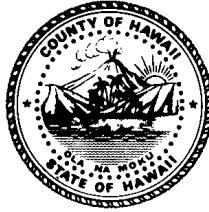
Kua Bay is one of the most beautiful locations in the islands, but its hidden hazards can prove deadly. It is now easily accessible, so for the sake of locals and visitors alike, a lifeguard at that location is definitely warranted and would be much appreciated.

Please act favorably on HB 558, HD1, including consideration of the recommendations for funding set forth in the House WLH Committee report. The need for these services has been recognized for years, but never seems to quite make the cut.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim  
MAYOR

**Karen Eoff**  
Council Vice Chair  
Council District 8 - North Kona



Phone: (808) 323-4280  
Fax: (808) 329-4786  
Email: karen.eoff@hawaiicounty.gov

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

April 2, 2019

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

**Testimony supporting HB 558 RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK.**  
Appropriates funds for the employment of lifeguards and for life-saving equipment at Kua Bay.  
WAM – April 3, 11, 2019 at 10:20 a.m., Conference Room 211

Dear Committee Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, support for the above referenced Bill is expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

Skilled lifeguards, appropriate rescue equipment and a lifeguard tower for adequate field of sight are essential to save lives and prevent injuries at the heavily-visited Kua Bay. West Hawai'i residents have strongly voiced concerns regarding the disturbing number of reported and unreported incidents which have occurred at Kua Bay.

Hawai'i County has continuously urged the Hawai'i State Legislature to appropriate funds to employ lifeguards and to purchase a lifeguard tower and rescue equipment for Kua Bay at Kekaha Kai State Park. Once again, we urge you to approve a measure to do so, for the sake of Hawai'i Island residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

---

KAREN EOFF, Council Vice Chair  
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb



Hawai'i Convention Center  
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815  
**kelepona** tel 808 973 2255  
**kelepa'i** fax 808 973 2253  
**kahua pa'a** web hawaiiourismauthority.org

**David Y. Ige**  
*Governor*

**Chris Tatum**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Statement of  
**CHRIS TATUM**

Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS**

Wednesday, April 3, 2019  
10:20 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room #211

In consideration of  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 558 HD1  
RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK.**

---

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means: the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **supports** House Bill 558 HD1, which appropriates funds to employ lifeguards and purchase life-saving equipment for Kua Bay in Kekaha Kai State Park.

House Bill 558 HD1 would strengthen the State's community infrastructure, and ultimately, Hawai'i's brand, by making Kua Bay safer for both residents and visitors. Furthermore, HTA is actively involved in supporting State, county and community ocean safety programs, as well as programs focused on education and increasing visitor awareness of dangerous ocean conditions.

It is for these reasons that the HTA **supports** House Bill 558 HD1. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-558-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 8:09:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kirstin Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this for Hawaii Island. It helps residents and visitors.

**HB-558-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 7:52:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeffrey McDaniel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**LATE**

**HB-558-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 11:56:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William Simonsma	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass this bill. We need our beaches to be safe for locals and visitors, to have life guards.

Something for the future: the parking lot is always full ... it needs to be expanded.

Sincerely,

William Simonsma, Waikoloa

**HB-558-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 11:59:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gail Jackson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass this bill.

We are sorely in need of lifeguards for this beach. We need to keep locals and visitors safe.

Also look at providing funds to enlarge the parking lot. It is always full.

Thank you,

Gail Jackson, Waikoloa