

SB-1459-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 9:15:05 AM

Testimony for LAB on 3/19/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jodi Wilmott	World Surf League	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of the World Surf League, I support Bill 1459 and hope to see it meet with success.

Hawaii holds a very unique opportunity to further actualize its position as the global home of all things surfing.

While professional surfing is just one part of surfing's DNA, Hawaii is already the globally recognized birthplace of professional surfing and Bill 1459 could further benefit Hawaii by embracing the established opportunities and experience that professional surfing and Hawaii's professional surfers already offer:

- The highest profile globally broadcast international events that feature Hawaiian destinations and Hawaiian surfers;*
- The annual world title deciding championship events;*
- Established global media and distribution platforms and channels;*
- The largest global audience in surfing that aligns with Hawaii's key tourism markets;*
- An established career path for surfers and event service providers;*
- A 40-year track record with community partnerships as well as investment in the environment and events.*

In light of the above, the World Surf League looks forward to continuing to contribute to the goals of Hawaii and the Surfing Committee and hope that we have the opportunity to contribute to the Surfing Committee by way of a representative on the board.

Thank you,

Jodi Wilmott



Legislative Testimony

LATE

SB1459 SD2
RELATING TO THE STATE SURFING COMMISSION
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

March 19, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Room 309

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB1459 SD2, which would establish a State Surfing Commission to promote surfing locally and globally while also recognizing the distinct Native Hawaiian cultural heritage of the sport and its connection to Hawai'i.

The first westerners to arrive in Hawai'i documented the Native Hawaiian people's love of surfing, and historians referred to surfing as the "national sport" of our kūpuna. However, like many other cultural practices, surfing underwent a period of marked decline in the 19th century, as the Hawaiian population collapsed from foreign diseases and as missionaries discouraged native traditions. Nevertheless, many Native Hawaiians continued to enjoy the sport, including some of our highest royalty such as Prince Kūhiō and Princess Kai'ulani.

A century ago, surfing saw a resurgence and subsequent explosion in popularity, particularly after Duke Kahanamoku began sharing surfing with the world. Surfing is now a global sport and multi-billion dollar commercial industry, with people surfing almost anywhere there are waves, including remote tropical islands, frigid lakes, tidal bores in rivers, and even man-made pools. Unfortunately, as surfing spread and evolved, its Native Hawaiian roots became less associated with the sport.

In November 2018, a coalition of Native Hawaiian organizations, including OHA, joined the Eddie Aikau family to help bring back The Eddie Big Wave Invitational, the world's preeminent and most-watched surf contest. One of the goals in supporting "The Eddie" was to celebrate the life and legacy of legendary Hawaiian waterman Eddie Aikau. An additional goal was to use the event to reclaim surfing as a Hawaiian cultural practice. OHA believes that The Eddie presents a great opportunity to encourage more Native Hawaiians to participate in their national sport, and to remind the world of the history and cultural heritage of surfing.

OHA supports this bill's proposed State Surfing Commission as an additional avenue to promote the unique connections Hawai'i and the Hawaiian people maintain with surfing.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge your Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

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Submitted on: 3/18/2019 1:56:53 PM

Testimony for LAB on 3/19/2019 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stuart Coleman	Surfrider Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Surfrider Foundation's Hawaii Chapters support this bill to create a statewide Surfing Commission to help promote this unique sport that is Hawaii's gift to the world. With surfing becoming an official sport in the Olympics, now is a good time to find ways to promote the sport and Hawaii as the birthplace of the sport. Though we would like more clarity about what exactly this Commission will do, how often they will meet and if there will be any funds allocated to it, we support the concept and believe it's important for both locals and tourists alike to understand the historical and cultural aspects of surfing. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha, Stuart Coleman, Hawaii Manager, Surfrider Foundation, 2927 Hibiscus Pl., Hon., HI 96815

LATE

SB-1459-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/18/2019 10:54:55 PM
Testimony for LAB on 3/19/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Duane DeSoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii, the home and birthplace of surfing, has unselfishly shared its knowledge with the world. It's time we accept our kuleana and conciously guide surfing into the future. I support SB1459. Thank you

LATE

SB-1459-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 8:22:23 AM

Testimony for LAB on 3/19/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol Philips	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Aaron Johanson and LAB Committee,

Please pass this bill out of committee. Surfing is Hawaii's gift to the world and is practiced in over 162 countries world wide by over 35 million people. The sport of surfing is also going to be in the 2020 Olympics in Japan. There are so many opportunities for Hawaii in surfing that formal governmental support will help.

Please vote yes on this bill.

Warmest Aloha,

Carol