

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 Committees on
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Monday, February 11, 2019
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 875
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR STATE LIFEGUARDS**

Senate Bill 875 proposes to appropriate unspecified funds for salaries and benefits for lifeguards for Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai state park, on the island of Hawai'i, an area under the jurisdiction of DLNR. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) support 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.

The Department supports a recurring appropriation of general funds to contract lifeguard services at Kua Bay in the amount of \$480,000 for four water safety officers and equipment.

There currently is no lifeguard protection for visitors to Kua Bay and the Department would have to contract lifeguard services with the County. After Hāpuna Beach, Kua Bay would be the next location to provide for lifeguard services as it has the most reported spinal cord injuries.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Aha Moku Advisory Committee

Before the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Water and Land

Monday, February 11, 2019
1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**In SUPPORT of Senate Bill 875
Relating to Lifeguards; Kua Bay; Kekaha Kai State Park; Island of Hawaii; Appropriation**

SB 875 appropriates unspecified funds for salaries and benefits for lifeguards for Kua Bay, Kekaha State Park, on the island of Hawaii, an area under the jurisdiction of DLNR. **The Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC) supports this measure.**

Under the Aha Moku Process, a traditional land and ocean management system restored from the translation of oral chants of the 9th century, the Kona Moku (District) on Moku O Keawe (the Island of Hawaii) has for centuries retained the traditional practices of *lawaiia*, ocean and marine fishing methods that are unique to the Kona Moku. These practices have been kept alive from ancient times to current times by the empirical knowledge of the marine resources of Kona that have been handed down generation to generation by expert Native Hawaiian fishermen of Kona. In this last century, the *lawaiia* of the ahupua'a of Kona, particularly the Ahupua'a of O'oma, Kalaoa, and Kau continue to use Mahaiula, the beach area where Kua Bay is located for traditional and cultural practices.

Since the Kekaha Kai State Park (Kua Bay) was publicly opened to all in 1995, Native Hawaiian *lawaiia* (fishermen), and other practitioners now share these natural and cultural assets with others. The Kekaha Kai State Park is comprised of Manini'owali Bay (Kua Bay), Makalawena beach at Pu'u Ali'I Bay, and Mahai'ula Bay. Along this stretch of coast, these beaches and bays are well-known for their pristine waters and white sand beaches. They are frequently used by the honu (turtle) who congregate along this coast.

However, Native Hawaiian communities who have traditionally gathered and continued their ocean practices over the decades know, there are definite seasons, changes of currents and wave sizes. In their hospitable Hawaiian culture, local communities who share these beaches with malihini, visitors and tourists often warn people about the currents that are unseen but can be deadly. Locals have often saved the unwary tourist from harm, and usually at their own risk. Resorts that have come up along the Kohala Coast contribute to the popularity of Kekaha Kai State Park, and to possible injury to the unwary.

Since the restoration of the Aha Moku Process by the Legislature in 2012, via Act 288, §171.4-5, the AMAC has successfully strived to bring the voices of the communities and 'ohana of ahupua'a districts forward to work with Hawai'i government in addressing and sustaining the natural and cultural resources of our Pae'Aina. We are attached to DLNR, and through this venue, our people have been able to collaborate with government to address critical issues that are important to the people. A critical issue for the people of Kona is ensuring that the safety of those who come to enjoy some of the most beautiful bays and stretches of coastline in Hawaii can do so safely, especially in a Hawaii public State Park. Adopting this Bill not only provides critically needed lifeguards, equipment and infrastructure that will save lives and reduce injuries, it will also protect and relieve the locals from harm as they currently continue to rescue the unwary when needed. **On behalf of the Moku of Kona, Moku O Keawe, we humbly ask that Senate Bill 875 be passed by the Senate Committees on Public Safety, intergovernmental, and Military Affairs and Water and Land.**

Respectfully yours,

Leimana DaMate, Hawaii State Aha Moku for Piilani Kaawaloa, Po'o, Aha Moku Advisory Committee
Phone: 808-640-1214 Email: Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov



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kahua pa'a web hawaiiauthority.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 PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS**

AND

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Monday, February 11, 2019
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room #229

In consideration of
SENATE BILL NO 875
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR STATE LIFE GUARDS.

Chair Nishihara, Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs and members of the Committee on Water and Land, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **supports** Senate Bill 875 which appropriates funds to support lifeguards at Kua Bay in Kekaha Kai State Park.

Senate Bill 875 would be beneficial as it will help to make Kua Bay safer for both residents and visitors. As stated in the proposed measure, we agree that supporting lifeguards that will be stationed at Kua Bay will have far-reaching, positive impacts by having first responders onsite in the event they are needed for rescues, administering first aid, and for teaching ocean safety.

It is for these reasons that the HTA **supports** Senate Bill 875. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony.

VALERIE T. POINDEXTER

*Council Member
Chair, Committee on Parks and Recreation
Council District 1*



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

February 7, 2019

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Email: sennishihara@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Email: senwakai@capitol.hawaii.gov

Committee on Water and Land

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Email: senkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Email: senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov

Subject: Testimony Supporting SB875, Making an Appropriation for State Lifeguards

Hearing: February 11, 2019, 1:30 p.m., Conference Room 229

Dear Chairs and Vice Chairs:

On behalf of myself and the constituents of Council District 1, Hāmākua, County of Hawai'i, I would like to express our support of SB875, and submit a brief testimony as follows:

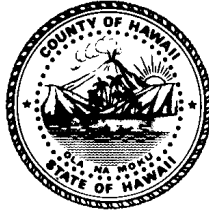
This bill appropriates unspecified funds for salaries and benefits for lifeguards for Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai state park, on the island of Hawai'i, an area under the jurisdiction of DLNR.

I strongly support and urge the enactment of SB875. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Valerie T. Poindexter

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



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

Email: 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

February 8, 2019

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Committee on Water and Land

Honorable Senator Kaiali'i Kahele

Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Submission via online testimony

RE: **Support of SB 875**

Hearing Date/Time: February 11, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Dear Senators:

As the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Water, Energy, and Environmental Management and Vice Chair for the Committee on Finance for the Hawai'i County Council, I thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in SUPPORT of SB 875**. It is critical to have a certified lifeguard posted at Kua Bay, 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 salaries and benefits needed for an on-site lifeguard at Kua Bay, 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

Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

SB-875

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 12:26:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
andy levin	Testifying for county of hawaii, Mayor's office	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 875, 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 SB 875.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim, Mayor

Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)


Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i and City & County of Honolulu
25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 (808) 961-8828 www.hawaiicounties.com



February 7, 2019

To: The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Honorable Kaili'i Kahele, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

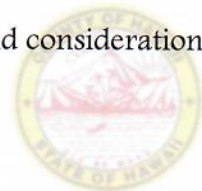
FROM: Valerie T. Poindexter
HSAC President 

SUBJECT: HEARING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB875,
RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR STATE LIFEGUARDS

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties. Therefore, I submit this testimony on HSAC's behalf.

This bill appropriates unspecified funds for salaries and benefits for lifeguards for Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai state park, on the island of Hawai'i, an area under the jurisdiction of DLNR.

I strongly support and urge the enactment of SB875. Mahalo for your time and consideration.



SB-875

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 10:52:26 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Donoho	Testifying for Kohala Coast Resort Association	Support	No

Comments:



February 7, 2019

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
Chair, Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, room 214
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Nishihara:

As the Co-Chairperson of the Hawaii State Drowning and Aquatics Injury Prevention Advisory Committee (DAIPAC) and a recently retired Battalion Chief of the Hawaii Fire Department, I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the DAIPAC's full support of SB 875 that appropriates funds for the employment of lifeguards, and for life-saving equipment at Kua Bay (Kekaha Kai State Park).

Kua Bay is located in a remote location in West Hawaii and was mainly inaccessible in the past. However, about 10 years ago, there have been many improvements to this beautiful beach that make it now easily accessible to many locals and visitors alike. With the increased number of beach patrons, the amount of ocean related incidents including spinal injuries and drowning has increased.

According to the Hawaii Health Department EMS patient care data base, there were 32 patients who required treatment at Kua Bay between 2013 and 2018. Most (94% or 30) of these patients required transport to a hospital with the majority (84%, or 27 patients) being for traumatic injuries. Per the Trauma Registry there were 10 spinal cord injuries suffered at Kua Bay over the 2009-2017 period.

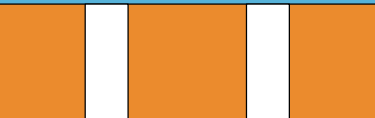
The nearest rescue or medical assistance to Kua Bay is approximately 20 minutes away. The absence of lifeguard services and medical equipment at Kua Bay decreases the chance of mitigating or surviving major injury or serious medical events.

Our Advisory Committee, whose mission is to prevent drownings and to minimize water related injuries, is in full support of this bill. Lifeguard services are one of the few evidence-based practices that we play a protective role in drowning/ injury prevention.

Please support SB 875 to decrease injury, suffering, and death at Kua Bay.

Sincerely,
Gerald Kosaki Co-Chair, Drowning and Aquatics Injury Prevention Advisory Committee

- Hawaiian Lifeguard Association
- Kauai Lifeguard Association
- Maui Lifeguard Association
- City and County of Honolulu Parks and Recreation
- City and County of Honolulu Ocean Safety Division
- County of Kauai Fire Department Ocean Safety Bureau
- County of Maui Fire Department Ocean Safety Division
- County of Hawaii Fire Department Ocean Safety Division
- County of Maui Parks and Recreation
- County of Kauai Parks and Recreation
- County of Hawaii Parks and Recreation
- Hawaii Trauma Program
- Hawaii Tourism Authority
- Kama'aina Kids
- Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
- US Coast Guard Sector Honolulu
- Hawaii Military Safety Division
- University of Hawaii
- Hawaii Department of Health



The Hawaii Drowning and Aquatic Injury Prevention Advisory Committee is coordinated by the Hawaii Department of Health Emergency Medical Services and Injury prevention System Branch and was established reduce the incidence of drowning and water related spinal cord injuries in Hawaii through networking, education, advocacy, research and resource development.



HAWAII

DROWNING & AQUATIC INJURY PREVENTION

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Hawaiian Lifeguard Association

Kauai Lifeguard Association

Maui Lifeguard Association

City and County of Honolulu
Parks and Recreation

City and County of Honolulu
Ocean Safety Division

County of Kauai Fire Department
Ocean Safety Bureau

County of Maui Fire Department
Ocean Safety Division

County of Hawaii Fire Department
Ocean Safety Division

County of Maui
Parks and Recreation

County of Kauai
Parks and Recreation

County of Hawaii
Parks and Recreation

Hawaii Trauma Program

Hawaii Tourism Authority

Kama'aina Kids

Hawaii Department of
Land and Natural Resources

US Coast Guard Sector
Honolulu

Hawaii Military Safety Division

University of Hawaii

Hawaii Department of Health

The Hawaii Drowning and Aquatic injury Prevention Advisory Committee is coordinated by the Hawaii Department of Health Emergency Medical Services and Injury prevention System Branch and was established reduce the incidence of drowning and water related spinal cord injuries in Hawaii through networking, education, advocacy, research and resource development.

SB-875

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 1:24:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-875

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 9:56:50 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-875

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 10:33:47 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-875

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 2:03:11 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2019 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Winslow	Individual	Support	No

Comments: