
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 legislature finds that surfing, as the
2 state sport of Hawaii, is of significant cultural, social, and
3 economic value to the people and State of Hawaii and the many
4 visitors who travel to the State for surfing. An estimated
5 704,000 people surf in Hawaii each year, the second-most out of
6 any state in the country. Hawaii's unique weather and
7 topography make the State especially suited for surfing, yet
8 many people are unaware of the history and exclusive connection
9 that Hawaii has with surfing.

10 The legislature finds that there is an increasing interest
11 in surfing beyond the State of Hawaii. The 2020 Summer Olympics
12 in Tokyo will be the first Olympics games to include surfing,
13 further bolstering global recognition of the sport.

14 The purpose of this Act is to provide for a statewide
15 program to promote surfing and educate people throughout the
16 State, as well as a broader national and international audience,
17 about surfing's unique connection to Hawaii.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 201B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§201B- State commission on surfing; established. (a)

5 There is established the state commission on surfing within the
6 Hawaii tourism authority for administrative purposes.

7 (b) The commission shall consist of members who shall
8 reflect the geographic and cultural diversity of the State. The
9 membership shall include:

10 (1) The comptroller; director of commerce and consumer
11 affairs; chairperson of the board of land and natural
12 resources; director of business, economic development,
13 and tourism; and superintendent of education; or their
14 designees, as ex officio, voting members;

15 (2) Nine voting members, who shall be appointed by the
16 governor pursuant to section 26-34, except as provided
17 in this section, as follows:

18 (A) Two members shall be appointed by the governor
19 from a list of three nominees submitted by the
20 president of the senate, and two members shall be
21 appointed by the governor from a list of three



1 nominees submitted by the speaker of the house of
2 representatives;

3 (B) Three members shall be appointed by the governor
4 from the community-at-large; and

5 (C) Two members from the Hawaiian community
6 demonstrating an understanding of the culture and
7 history of surfing shall be appointed by the
8 governor from a list of nominees submitted by the
9 office of Hawaiian affairs;

10 provided that in appointing members pursuant to this
11 paragraph, the governor shall ensure gender parity in
12 the composition of the commission as a whole;

13 (3) One voting member shall be designated by the Hawaii
14 Lifeguard Association; and

15 (4) One voting member shall be designated by the Hawaii
16 Surfing Association.

17 (c) Of the appointed members, there shall be at least one
18 member from each of the counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii.

19 (d) All members shall serve for a term of four years. Any
20 vacancies occurring in the membership of the commission shall be
21 filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same



1 manner as the original appointments. No member shall serve on
2 the commission for more than two terms; provided that if a
3 member fills a vacancy and serves for the remainder of an
4 unexpired term, that member shall be considered to have served
5 one term.

6 (e) The chair and vice chair shall be selected annually
7 from the nongovernmental members of the commission appointed
8 pursuant to subsection (b)(2). A simple majority shall
9 constitute a quorum, whose affirmative vote shall be necessary
10 for all actions.

11 (f) The members shall serve without compensation.

12 (g) Any member of the commission shall be immune from
13 civil liability as provided in section 26-35.5.

14 (h) The commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to
15 state agencies to promote the surfing industry and educate
16 people about the cultural and historical significance of
17 surfing. In addition, the commission may make recommendations
18 on programs, services, and contracts relating to surfing and
19 may:



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



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

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

12 (l) As used in this section, unless the context requires
13 otherwise, "commission" means the state commission on surfing
14 established pursuant to subsection (a)."

15 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



Report Title:

State Commission; Surfing

Description:

Establishes the state commission on surfing in the Hawaii
tourism authority. (SD1)

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

