
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 individual sport of Hawaii, is of significant cultural,
3 social, and economic value to the people and State of Hawaii and
4 the many visitors who travel to the State for surfing. An
5 estimated seven hundred four thousand people surf in Hawaii each
6 year, the second-most out of any state in the country. Hawaii's
7 unique weather and topography make the State especially suited
8 for surfing, yet many people are unaware of the history and
9 exclusive connection 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 Olympic 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) As ex officio, voting members, the: comptroller;
11 director of commerce and consumer affairs; chairperson
12 of the board of land and natural resources; director
13 of business, economic development, and tourism; and
14 superintendent of education; or their designees;

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



1 (B) Two members shall be appointed by the governor
2 from a list of three nominees submitted by the
3 speaker of the house of representatives;

4 (C) Three members shall be appointed by the governor
5 from the community at large; and

6 (D) Two native Hawaiian members who demonstrate an
7 understanding of the culture and history of
8 surfing shall be appointed by the governor from a
9 list of nominees submitted by the office of
10 Hawaiian affairs;

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

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

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

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



1 (d) All members shall serve for a term of four years. Any
2 vacancies occurring in the membership of the commission shall be
3 filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same
4 manner as the original appointments. No member shall serve on
5 the commission for more than two terms; provided that if a
6 member fills a vacancy and serves for the remainder of an
7 unexpired term, that member shall be considered to have served
8 one term.

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

14 (f) The members shall serve without compensation.

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

17 (h) The commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to
18 state agencies to promote the surfing industry and educate
19 people about the cultural and historical significance of
20 surfing. In addition, the commission may make recommendations



1 on programs, services, and contracts relating to surfing and
2 may:

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



1 (i) The meetings of the commission shall be subject to the
2 requirements of chapter 92.

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

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

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

17 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

HTA; State Commission; Surfing

Description:

Establishes the State Commission on Surfing within the Hawaii Tourism Authority. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

