
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
2 land and natural resources is responsible for managing 1,300,000
3 acres of state lands, beaches, and coastal areas, which includes
4 ensuring public health and safety at the State's sixteen small
5 boat harbors. The State's small boat harbors are essential hubs
6 for boating and ocean recreation enthusiasts. Small boat
7 harbors also serve as hubs for many commercial ocean operations,
8 whose customers largely come from other states and countries to
9 experience Hawaii's world-renowned natural resources and ocean
10 activities. However, small boat harbors also attract criminal
11 activity, such as property crimes, drug dealing, and pollution.
12 The State small boat harbor program is under the jurisdiction of
13 the department of land and natural resources' division of
14 boating and ocean recreation. The department of land and
15 natural resources' division of conservation and resources
16 enforcement is responsible for enforcement of laws and rules for



1 all divisions within the department of land and natural
2 resources.

3 For the month of November 2019, the division of
4 conservation and resources enforcement conducted saturation
5 operations during three weekends at the Ala Wai small boat
6 harbor, which resulted in five hundred fifty observed
7 violations, one hundred thirty-five citations, and a number of
8 arrests. The division also identified illegally moored,
9 abandoned, and derelict vessels for impound and seizure. These
10 saturation operations not only created an increased atmosphere
11 of safety for harbor tenants, staff, and users, but also helped
12 to facilitate removal of vessels posing potential environmental
13 hazards to ocean waters.

14 The legislature believes that extending these saturation
15 operations on a long-term basis will help to solidify the
16 increase in safety, environmental protection, and protection of
17 property at the Ala Wai small boat harbor, potentially serving
18 as a basis to further expand saturation operations to develop an
19 ongoing, effective saturation operation program for all sixteen
20 small boat harbors in the State.

21 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:



- 1 (1) Establish 2.0 FTE positions; and
- 2 (2) Appropriate funds to continue to pilot test small boat
- 3 harbor enforcement saturation operations within the
- 4 Ala Wai and Keehi small boat harbors and develop
- 5 effective enforcement operations.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to
9 continue to pilot test small boat harbor enforcement saturation
10 operations within the Ala Wai and Keehi small boat harbors and
11 develop effective enforcement operations, which shall be
12 allocated as follows:

- 13 (1) \$ for the establishment of one full-time
- 14 equivalent (1.0 FTE) office assistant position;
- 15 (2) \$ for the establishment of one full-time
- 16 equivalent (1.0 FTE) conservation and resources
- 17 enforcement officer position; and
- 18 (3) \$ for overtime costs for enforcement
- 19 operations and special duty assignments.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
21 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 3. The department of land and natural resources
2 shall submit a report on the status of saturation enforcement
3 operations, including its findings and recommendations, and any
4 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
5 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2021.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



Report Title:

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation; Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement; Pilot Testing; Enforcement; Small Boat Harbors; Public Safety; Environmental Protection; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes 2.0 FTE positions and appropriates funds to continue small boat harbor saturation enforcement operation pilot testing within the Ala Wai and Keehi small boat harbors and develop effective enforcement for the State's small boat harbors. (SD1)

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