

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 House Committee on  
WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 558  
RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK**

House Bill 654 proposes to appropriate funds for the employment of lifeguards and for life-saving equipment at Manini'ōwali beach at Kua bay in the Kekaha Kai state park on the island of Hawaii. **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. There is currently 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.

The Department supports the appropriation of general funds to contract lifeguard services at Kua Bay.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Hawai'i Convention Center  
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815  
**kelepona** tel 808 973 2255  
**kelepa'i** fax 808 973 2253  
**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  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Wednesday, February 6, 2019  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
**HOUSE BILL NO 558**  
**RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK.**

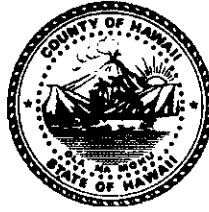
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Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd and members of the Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **supports** House Bill 558 which appropriates funds to purchase equipment to be used by state ocean safety officers at Kua Bay in Kekaha Kai State Park.

House Bill 558 would strengthen the State's community infrastructure, and ultimately, Hawaii's brand, by making Kua Bay safer for both residents and visitors. Furthermore, HTA is actively involved in supporting State, county and community ocean safety programs, as well as programs focused on education and increasing visitor awareness of dangerous ocean conditions.

It is for these reasons that the HTA **supports** House Bill 558. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony.

**Harry Kim**  
Mayor



**Wil Okabe**  
Managing Director

**Barbara J. Kossow**  
Deputy Managing Director

## County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy, Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 4, 2019

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Hawaii State Legislature

Dear Chair Yamane and Committee members:

**RE: HB 558, RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 558, which would fund lifeguard services at Kua Bay in Kekaha Kai State Park.

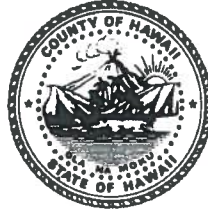
Kua Bay is one of the most beautiful locations in the islands, but its hidden hazards can prove deadly. It is now easily accessible, so for the sake of locals and visitors alike, a lifeguard at that location is definitely warranted and would be much appreciated.

Please act favorably on HB 558.

Sincerely,

Harry Kim  
Mayor

REBECCA VILLEGAS  
Council Member  
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267  
FAX: (808) 323-4786  
EMAIL: [Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov)

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 5, 2019

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS  
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON HB558, RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK  
Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs  
Wednesday, February 6, 2019  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Yamane, and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 558, relating to Kekaha Kai State Park. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair on the Committee of Public Safety.

The purpose of this measure is to save lives and prevent injury at Keakaha Kai State Park (Kua Bay) by appropriating funds for the employment of lifeguards and for life-saving equipment at Kua Bay.

Kua Bay is one of the most beautiful locations in the islands, but its hidden hazards can be deadly. With the easier accessibility to this location, for the sake of locals and visitors alike, lifeguards at this location is highly warranted and would be much appreciated. With lifeguards being the primary responders for emergencies on shorelines and within nearshore waters, where the majority of ocean recreation activity occurs, lifeguards provide injury control and dispatch ocean rescue services. With Kua Bay under state jurisdiction, state funded lifeguards are a necessity for this very popular beach and is a priority need.

For the reasons stated above, I urge the Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs to support this measure as well. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

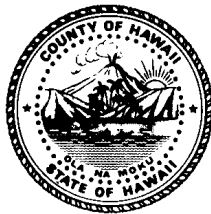
Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas,  
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

*Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

**Karen Eoff**  
Council Vice Chair  
Council District 8 - North Kona



Phone: (808) 323-4280  
Fax: (808) 329-4786  
Email: karen.eoff@hawaiicounty.gov

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 4, 2019

### COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair

#### **Testimony supporting HB 558 RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK.**

Appropriates funds for the employment of lifeguards and for life-saving equipment at Kua Bay  
WLH - February 6, 2019 at 9:30 A.m., Conference Room 325

Dear Committee:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, support for the above referenced Bill is expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

Skilled lifeguards, appropriate rescue equipment and a lifeguard tower for adequate field of sight are essential to save lives and prevent injuries at the heavily-visited Kua Bay. West Hawai'i residents have strongly voiced concerns regarding the disturbing number of reported and unreported incidents which have occurred at Kua Bay.

Hawai'i County has continuously urged the Hawai'i State Legislature to appropriate funds to employ lifeguards and to purchase a lifeguard tower and rescue equipment for Kua Bay at Kekaha Kai State Park. Once again, we urge you to approve a measure to do so, for the sake of Hawai'i Island residents and visitors.

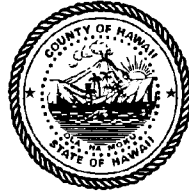
Sincerely,

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KAREN EOFF, Council Vice Chair  
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb

**Harry Kim**  
*Mayor*



**Darren J. Rosario**  
*Fire Chief*

**Lance S. Uchida**  
*Deputy Fire Chief*

**County of Hawai'i**  
**HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

February 5, 2019

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Committee on Water, Land,  
and Hawaiian Affairs  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Yamane:

**Subject: H.B. 558, RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK**  
**Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2019**  
**Time/Place of Hearing: 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 325**

I am Darren J. Rosario, Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department of the County of Hawai'i (HCFD). The HCFD supports HB 558, which proposes to appropriate funds for the employment of lifeguards and for life saving equipment at Kua Bay at the Kekaha Kai State Park.

The HCFD manages lifeguard services for the County of Hawai'i through its Ocean Safety Division. The HCFD also provides services at the Hāpuna Beach State Park through funding provided by the State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in a contract for services in line with the proposal in HB 558. The HCFD is in support of this measure with the funding amounts proposed. The funding amount is the minimum amount needed to provide safe services for both the public and the Water Safety Officers. As a public safety department, we agree with the urgency of this bill and support its passing. The use of social media has further increased the population at this beach park, thereby increasing the need for protective services.

Since 2013, there have been 10 spinal cord injuries and 30 significant emergency incidents requiring transport to a hospital from the Kekaha Kai State Park. Having a Water Safety Officer (lifeguard) present allows for preventive action contacts to be made before someone gets into trouble. A spinal cord injury is a major life changing event that can be prevented. Drownings can be prevented.

If contracted by the DLNR, the Hawai'i Fire Department is fully ready to process the personnel coverage and equipment purchases necessary. The HCFD urges your committee's support on the passage of HB 558.



**H.B. 558 Relating to Kekaha Kai State Park**

February 5, 2019

Page 2

Please do not hesitate to call me at 932-2901 or [darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:darren.rosario@hawaiicounty.gov) should you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 558.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

DARREN J. ROSARIO  
Fire Chief

**HB-558**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 3:10:37 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie Donoho	Kohala Coast Resort Association	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-558**

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:21:08 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB-558**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:05:42 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-558**

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:30:34 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gerald Kosaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please see my attached document. Thank you.