

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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 GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS and PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Thursday, February 6, 2020
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of SENATE BILL 2376 RELATING TO SEARCH AND RESCUE

Senate Bill 2376 proposes to require government entities that engage in search and rescue operations to seek reimbursement when the rescued person requires search and rescue efforts because that person acted in disregard of that person's safety, including intentionally disregarding a warning or notice. The proposal increases the penalty for unlawfully entering or remaining on a trail that has been closed to the public. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure with comments.**

The Department is in support of any strategy that will incentivize the general public to stay within its authorized managed areas and already has statutory penalties for violation of laws and rules adopted specifically for going into closed areas. While these penalties are in place, absent enforcement and citations, they are clearly not a deterrent.

It should be noted that it is a County responsibility to engage in search and rescue activities and the Department defers to the County Fire and Rescue agencies regarding the charging of people for rescue. While this may be an incentive for people to obey the rules, it could also discourage people from calling for help.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

SB-2376

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 7:00:10 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2376

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 10:14:26 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2020 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

It's unfortunate that these things happen. Thankfully it doesn't happen often.

SB-2376

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 11:07:06 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E. Ileina Funakoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill would help the neighboring communities by less people entering their properties to gain entry to these illegal trails.

Would like to see reimbursements for helicopter rescues also.

SB-2376

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 9:22:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael A. Wee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT this bill. If you are trespassing, get into trouble, and need to be rescued, you should have to pay for it. What is wrong with that? It's a no-brainer! You were not supposed to be there in the first place! As far as the costs discouraging people from calling for help, too bad! Our first responders are busy enough. Let's save our resources for law-abiding citizens.

SB-2376

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 1:48:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/6/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sage-Lee Medeiros-Garcia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee on Government Ops --

Sage-Lee Medeiros-Garcia supports SB2376.