

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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LAND
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, February 11, 2021
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 700
RELATING TO SEARCH AND RESCUE**

Senate Bill 700 proposes to require government entities that engage in search and rescue operations to seek reimbursement when the rescued person required search and rescue efforts because that person acted in disregard of that person's safety, including intentionally disregarding a warning or notice. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers comments on this measure.**

The Department is in support of any strategy that will incentivize the general public to stay within 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 Counties Fire and Rescue agencies in regard to 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.

SB-700

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:19:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2021 1:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kathryn Stanaway | Testifying for DLNR-DOFAW | Comments | No |

Comments:

I am available for questions. Please allow me Zoom access. Thank you.

SB-700

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 12:50:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2021 1:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Philip T. Rapoza | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support

SB-700

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 5:09:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2021 1:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carlos Santana | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I fully support this measure. There is no reason the taxpayer should pay for rescue efforts for those choosing to leave the proper trails and move to prohibited areas.

SB-700

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:02:02 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/11/2021 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

The people of HI have been covering the cost of these adventurers too long. It is time that we are not held responsible for their irresponsibility. Perhaps, if they were informed that they would have to pay for the cost of their rescue, they might reconsider in taking risks that endanger their lives.

Mahalo and Aloha

e. ileina funakoshi