
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DATA ABOUT SNORKELS AND MASKS.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "David Loasby Law".

3 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that, according to the
4 Hawaii tourism authority's snorkel safety study, which was
5 conducted from August 2017 to April 2021 under the
6 administration of the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association, a
7 nonprofit organization that promotes ocean safety and drowning
8 prevention efforts in the Hawaiian islands:

9 (1) Drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death
10 among visitors to Hawaii;

11 (2) Snorkeling is the most common activity associated with
12 visitor drownings;

13 (3) These types of incidents have been increasing in
14 recent years; and

15 (4) Due to a lack of evidence, it is difficult for
16 researchers to determine whether the type of snorkel
17 or mask worn increases the risk of drowning.



1 The legislature further finds that first responders in Maui
2 county have begun to record the type of face mask worn during
3 incidents involving snorkeling. However, not all counties
4 record and collect this important information. Recording
5 standardized, empirical data about the type of snorkel and mask
6 used, if any, will help demonstrate whether certain types of
7 snorkels or masks lead to a higher risk of drowning. The
8 legislature also finds that the safety of visitors and residents
9 is of statewide concern and that this standardized, empirical
10 data may create the opportunity to make well-informed policy
11 changes to decrease the number of snorkeling deaths in the
12 State.

13 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to require first
14 responders to record in the incident report for each water
15 rescue event the type of snorkel and mask, if any, worn by the
16 person who was rescued or recovered.

17 SECTION 3. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
18 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
19 read as follows:

20 "§46- Water rescue events; incident reports; snorkels
21 and masks. (a) For all water rescue events, the first



1 responder shall record in the incident report the type of
2 snorkel and mask, if any, worn by the person who was rescued or
3 recovered.

4 (b) As used in this section, "first responder" means:

5 (1) Any employee of an emergency services provider who is
6 engaged in providing firefighting, ocean safety, or
7 emergency medical services;

8 (2) A police officer; or

9 (3) Law enforcement personnel of the department of land
10 and natural resources."

11 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

David Loasby Law; Snorkels; Masks; Water Rescues; Empirical Data Reporting

Description:

Requires first responders to record in the incident report for each water rescue event the type of snorkel and mask, if any, worn by the person who was rescued or recovered. (SD2)

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