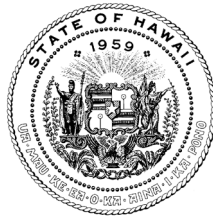


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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 Committee on**  
**WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, February 4, 2022**  
**1:15 PM**

**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE BILL 3228**  
**RELATING TO TOW-IN SURFING**

Senate Bill 3228 proposes to allow tow-in surfing training during periods below high surf warning levels. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

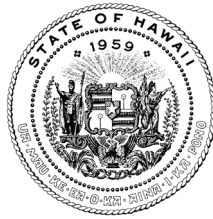
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**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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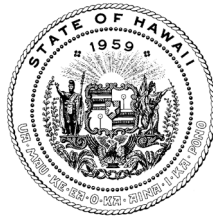
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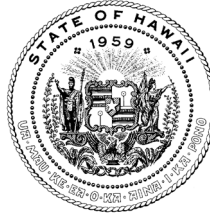
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Hawai'i's voice for wildlife  
Kō Hawai'i o nā holoholona lōhiu

**Before the Senate Committee on  
Water and Land**

**Friday, February 4, 2022  
1:15pm**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 229, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 3228  
RELATING TO TOW-IN SURFING**

Conservation Council For Hawaii **STRONGLY OPPOSES SB3228**. There are currently designated training areas for tow-in surfing that have been put in place to ensure the safety of other ocean users. We have witnessed and had several complaints about jet skis beaching themselves within less than one foot of turtle nesting areas on Police Beach in Haleiwa. When we reached out to DOCARE, we were told that this group of skis had been given an open permit for training under filming, and that while they were to call in when they were training they were given open reign. Not only have we seen an increase in our threatened Green Sea Turtle nesting sites across the beaches on Oahu, our endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals have seen increased deaths due to human interaction.

The increased popularity of tow-in surfing for foil boarders has added to the safety risks of paddle surfing, SUP surfers, swimmers and other ocean goers, as well as our marine life. It would be beneficial to open more thrill craft operator courses so that those seeking to tow-in have a better understanding and appreciation of thrill craft operator rules and regulations and training areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to **STRONGLY OPPOSE SB3228**.

**SB-3228**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 6:19:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/4/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Patrick James Rader	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I agree that training should be allowed outside of High Surf Warning periods.

**SB-3228**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:28:32 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/4/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
johan hoeven	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

It is necessary and safe to learn tow-in surfing in smaller waves.

**SB-3228**

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:35:30 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/4/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sean Head	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I personally would like to legally gain competence tow in surfing in small surf.



**SB-3228**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:19:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/4/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Fellipe Valadao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a certified tow in surf watercraft operator I support this bill. Foiling, hydrofoiling or foil surfing is here to stay. Equipment and technology has evolved. We don't need and don't even want it to be a high surfing warning in order to do tow foil surfing. It is actually dangerous to do foil surfing (tow foiling) in big waves. It's more likely to get hurt. We want to be able to exercise and enjoy the ocean and the waves any day without "breaking the law or becoming criminals" and without putting ourselves at risk so we can safely go back home to our families and work. By approving this bill law enforcement will have more free time to go after real criminals out there, saving state and tax payers money. Thanks for your time, work and consideration.

**SB-3228**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:22:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/4/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Nicolas Bartol	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support. I can no longer paddle surf due to injuries, but would like to be able to tow surf, and tow-foil on non-life threatening/ non high-surf warning days.

**SB-3228**

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:33:30 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/4/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Haley Westbrook	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Being able to practice tow in surfing during smaller swells is crucial for safety. This allows us to hone our driving/tow surf skills year round instead of only when it's huge out. Being able to keep things fresh in the mind, as well as muscle memory, is very much needed to keep people safe.

**SB-3228**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:35:13 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/4/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ben Cordero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We surfers, foilers & waterman sports adventurers really appreciate Keith Aragan bringing this bill forward representing the New Age of Water sports using Foils, Standups, Surfing all with the assistance of a Jetski. ALL tow surfers, tow foilers and towin surf BEGINNERS who's training in waves small to moderate NOT high surf warning waves...it IS SAFER if we don't HARRASSED by DLNR for training in smaller days so no one gets hurt on LARGE SURF DAYS. And, we must be allowed to run into shorelines to pickup our Surf or Foil trainee's NOT just 3000ft off shore. These rules were dated in 1978 & no one has made any attempts to AMEND these outdated rules!

**SB-3228**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:57:07 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/4/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Raimar Bylaardt II	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

As a surfer improves his or hers skills in bigger surf, the risks grow exponentially. SB3228 will bridge the gap between paddle surf and tow-in surfing in medium size waves, allowing for safer practices in a more friendly environment and enhanced safety in bigger surf later. Safety and access is important and that is why I support this bill.

Thanks

Ray

**SB-3228**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:56:45 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/4/2022 1:15:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Christopher Abele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The current laws in place to govern tow in surfing are out of date and the public doesn't follow them. To be able to only tow in surf/foil during high surf warnings makes it illegal to train when the surf is not high surf. To be truly safe, we need to be training on days that are under the surf advisory size. Additionally, with the popularity of foil surfing, we are now able to enjoy the ocean using jet ski's without needing much of a wave at all. Please consider this and approve this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

**LATE**

**SB-3228**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:17:04 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/4/2022 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Steve Tuscher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern;

I am in strong support of SB3228.

I have worked as a safety professional in the utility construction industry for over 10 years. One of the most critical elements in any safety program is an effective and regular training program. Tow-in surfing and foiling have dramatically evolved over the last decade, and it has opened up larger areas of the existing coastline outside of the already crowded and popular surf spots. Areas that previously could only be used in high surf now can be utilized the majority of the year with the right equipment and tools to access. The ability to use PWC and rescue sled along with an experienced and qualified driver have made these sports more accessible and safer to those willing to learn. The training and repetitions you can get on smaller swells are critical for the smooth transition into high surf days where the skills learned and reinforced in training can make a significant difference for the safety of the riders and pilots.

I strongly support SB3228 for the safety of our surfing and foiling community.