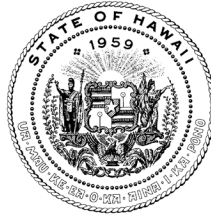


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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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

Tuesday, March 16, 2021
8:30 AM

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 430

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 700, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO SEARCH AND RESCUE

Senate Bill 700, Senate Draft 2 proposes to require government entities that engage in search and rescue operations to seek reimbursement when the rescued person required search and rescue efforts due to intentional disregard of their own safety, including, but not limited to, 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 behave safely in the backcountry, and not endanger themselves or others. The Department produces materials on backcountry and hiker safety and etiquette, and installs signs warning of backcountry hazards. Despite all this, people still manage to get themselves into trouble, either through negligence or ignorance, and the pattern will probably continue. Better hiker data, as provided by a new app in development by the Department, may provide insights on what can be done to help minimize rescue situations.

It should be noted that that county is primarily responsible for search and rescue activities, and the Department defers to the county 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 when they really need it. What is really needed is a disincentive for people calling for help frivolously, but that would be very hard to enforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



ANNE E. PERREIRA-EUSTAQUIO
DIRECTOR

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March 15, 2021

The Honorable David Tarnas, Chair
Committee on Water and Land
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 316
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 700, Senate Draft (SD) 2 Relating to Search and Rescue


I am Steven Goble, Vice Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC offers comments regarding SB 700, SD2, which requires government entities to seek reimbursement for all or a portion of search and rescue expenses for persons who require rescue after leaving a hiking trail to enter a prohibited hiking area on a trail closed to the public.

The SFC believes the reimbursement requirement specified by SB 700, SD2 may deter or delay prompt notification of first responder agencies by persons in the aforementioned situation. Such a delay in requesting for assistance will exacerbate the situation, further endangering the lives of persons involved and their potential rescuers.

In addition, there is no existing mechanism to seek reimbursement for these situations. Development and implementation of a reimbursement mechanism will require a significant administrative effort by the four county fire departments to establish and maintain.

Public safety and property protection remain priorities of the SFC.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely

STEVEN GOBLE
Vice Chair

SG:GL:st

SB-700-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 5:23:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/16/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass SB700, to help us deter illegal hiking adventures in Hawaii. The public should not have to pay the costs for search and rescue for hikers who enter areas illegally. They put our first responders at risk and to incur substantial costs to rescue them.

Thank you.

SB-700-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 8:44:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/16/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Gordon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please Support SB 700.

I strongly believe that if someone does not follow safety precautions, as the Bill states including not following marked trails, jumping over fenced areas, etc. the person/family should be held responsible for the associated costs of Search and Rescue.

In addition, I also suggest wording be added to the Bill to include people not following the guidance and advice of lifeguards at the beaches and need to be rescued. These individuals/families also should be held responsible for the County and State costs of rescue.

Your Support of SB 700 is appreciated.

SB-700-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2021 11:39:47 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/16/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support Continued