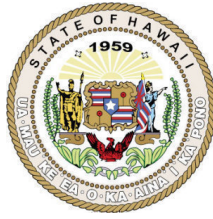


JOSH GREEN  
GOVERNOR



JORDAN LOWE  
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL S. VINCENT  
Deputy Director  
Administration

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu*

1177 Alakea Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
(808) 587-2562

**Vacant**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 786  
RELATING TO SEARCH AND RESCUE  
Before the Senate Committee on Public Safety  
and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023; 3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference  
**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) strongly supports Senate Bill 786.

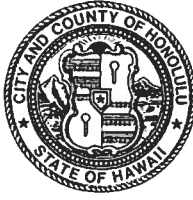
This bill changes the circumstances when an agency may seek reimbursement for search and rescue costs by providing guidance on when such costs can be recovered and requiring agencies to seek reimbursement.

State law enforcement is regularly called upon to participate in search and rescue operations for people who have ignored posted warnings, left defined hiking trails, and ventured into closed areas that have been posted. These situations are not the standard search and rescue of lost or injured persons which are anticipated and part of expected operations of first responders. These are situations created by reason of an individual's choice to ignore warnings and efforts of government agencies or private landowners to keep them safe. When first responders are called upon to engage in these types of extensive search and rescue operations, ongoing operations must be put on hold and agencies often incur additional unbudgeted costs and expense. Requiring agencies to pursue reimbursement in these situations is a reasonable requirement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR

ARTHUR J. LOGAN  
CHIEF

KEITH K. HORIKAWA  
RADE K. VANIC  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE DV-BKG

February 1, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Public Safety and  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Wakai and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 786, Relating to Search and Rescue

I am Captain Deric Valoroso of the Specialized Services Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.


The HPD opposes Senate Bill No. 786, Relating to Search and Rescue. This bill requires government agencies to seek reimbursement for search or rescue expenses from certain persons if the need for the search or rescue was caused by the person's disregard of posted warnings and closure signage. The HPD opposes this bill as there is no existing mechanism to seek reimbursement for these situations. In addition, it may deter or delay prompt notification of first responder agencies by persons who may need to be rescued. Such a delay in request for assistance could make the situation worse and further endanger the lives of those persons as well as first responders.

The HPD urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 786, Relating to Search and Rescue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Sincerely,

  
Arthur J. Logan  
Chief of Police

  
Deric Valoroso, Captain  
Specialized Services Division

**SB-786**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 1:22:11 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is long overdue. Our tax dollars should not be used to rescue people who disregard posted warnings. In addition, some of the rescues are dangerous and could cause death or injury to the rescuer(s). Please pass this bill.

**SB-786**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:03:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What the Hell do you get payed For!!!!

**SB-786**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 1:46:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kevin Cooper	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This does not feel well thought-out, as written. Things that should be clarified for the public:

1. Will an hourly fee schedule for state or county level rescue resources be published annually?
2. Will this include ocean rescues? If yes, what conditions will be the guide for when the ocean is closed and what agency will determine that? Where is the line for negligence? Where will it be published?
3. Are the government medical transport services and treatments going to be summarized for each incident in a good faith estimate so that rescuees know what billable services they're accepting, in line with the rules of the federal No Surprises Act?
4. Will 911 callers be asked to provide an insurance card, credit card or other collateral in certain cases?
5. Will the state or counties be required to allocate the recuperated funds back to the department(s) providing services, or will they go to the general fund?

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

**SB-786**

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 4:01:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the intent of the bill.

Realistically, collecting monies from involved individuals will prove to be difficult. Perhaps it is more practical to bar said involved individuals the ability to sue the state of Hawaii (for injuries and or damages) after intentionally disregarding the said warnings.

**SB-786**

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 8:59:24 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/1/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William K. Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 786. Too many times people disregard warning signs and put our first responders in harms way through their own selfish acts. They should be made responsible for the efforts put into their rescue.

**LATE**