



GOV. MSG. NO. 1316

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

July 8, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 8, 2024, the following bill was signed into law:

SB2721 SD2 HD2 CD1

RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION.
ACT 215

Sincerely,

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

on JUL 8 2024

THE SENATE
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 2721
S.D. 2
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that small boat harbors
 2 and boating facilities are some of the most heavily trafficked
 3 facilities in the State, used by residents and tourists alike.
 4 The division of conservation and resources enforcement of the
 5 department of land and natural resources is responsible for
 6 enforcing all statutes and administrative rules of the
 7 department but spends a large part of its time responding to
 8 violations in small boat harbors and boating facilities.

9 Much of the enforcement effort at small boat harbors and
 10 boating facilities is necessary to ensure public health and
 11 safety, such as responding to vandalism, theft, trespassing, and
 12 squatting. In order to deter violators and repeat offenders,
 13 stricter penalties are needed. The provisions of section 200-
 14 14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, are unclear regarding whether
 15 criminal penalties are authorized for violations of the section,
 16 which has hindered enforcement efforts.



1 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to clarify that
2 criminal penalties are authorized for certain violations of
3 ocean recreation laws.

4 SECTION 2. Section 200-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "§200-14 Violation of chapter or rules; penalty. (a)
7 ~~[Except as provided in subsection (b), any person who violates~~
8 ~~any rule adopted by the department under this part or who~~
9 ~~violates this part, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or less~~
10 ~~than \$50 for each violation, and any vessel, the agents, owner,~~
11 ~~or crew of which violate the rules of the department or this~~
12 ~~part, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or less than \$50 for~~
13 ~~each violation; provided that in addition to or as a condition~~
14 ~~to the suspension of the fines and penalties, the environmental~~
15 ~~court may deprive the offender of the privilege of operating or~~
16 ~~mooring any vessel in state waters for a period of not more than~~
17 ~~thirty days.] Any person who violates any provision in this
18 chapter, or rule adopted by the department, relating to boating
19 accidents, reckless or unauthorized operation of a vessel,
20 unauthorized mooring of a vessel, unauthorized commercial
21 activity, unauthorized camping within state small boat harbors~~



1 or boating facilities, animal abandonment within state small
2 boat harbors or boating facilities, or creation of animal
3 colonies within state small boat harbors or boating facilities
4 shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and shall be fined not
5 more than \$1,000.

6 (b) Any person who violates any rule adopted by the
7 department under this part regulating vehicular parking or
8 traffic movement shall have committed a traffic infraction as
9 set forth in chapter 291D, the adjudication of which shall be
10 subject to the provisions contained therein. A person found to
11 have committed [~~such~~] a traffic infraction shall be fined not
12 more than:

- 13 (1) \$100 for a first violation;
14 (2) \$200 for a second violation; and
15 (3) \$500 for a third or subsequent violation.

16 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)
17 [~~establishing a fine of not more than \$1,000 or less than \$50~~
18 ~~for each violation~~], any person who knowingly or intentionally
19 violates any rule adopted by the department relating to
20 unauthorized discharge, dumping, or abandoning, in any state
21 boating facility or state waters, of any petroleum product,



1 hazardous material, or sewage in violation of the state water
2 quality standards established by the department of health, shall
3 be fined not more than \$10,000 for each day of violation, and
4 any vessel, the agents, owner, or crew of which violate the
5 rules of the department shall be fined not more than \$10,000 for
6 each day or instance of violation, [~~and any vessel,~~] or
7 sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than thirty
8 days, or both. Each day or instance of each violation shall be
9 deemed a separate offense. Additionally, the agents, owner, or
10 crew of [~~which violate~~] any vessel that violates the rules of
11 the department shall be fined not more than \$10,000 for each day
12 of violation.

13 (d) As a condition of probation pursuant to sections 706-
14 623 and 706-624, or as a condition to the suspension of any
15 criminal penalties, the environmental court may provide that the
16 defendant refrain from operating any vessel, including but not
17 limited to any thrill craft or vessel engaged in parasailing or
18 water sledding, in specified geographical areas of the waters of
19 the State.

20 (e) For the purposes of this section, "operate",
21 "parasailing", "thrill craft", "vessel", "water sledding", and



1 "waters of the State" have the same meaning as those terms are
2 defined in section 200-23."

3 SECTION 3. Section 200-14.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "[+]§200-14.5[+] **General administrative penalties.** (a)
6 Except as otherwise provided by law, the board is authorized to
7 set, charge, and collect administrative fines and to recover
8 administrative fees and costs, including attorney's fees and
9 costs, or bring legal action to recover administrative fines and
10 fees and costs, including attorney's fees and costs, or payment
11 for damages or for the cost to correct damages resulting from a
12 violation of [~~subtitle 8 of title 12~~] this chapter, chapter 200A
13 or 200D, or any rule adopted thereunder.

14 (b) In addition to, or as a condition to the suspension
15 of, any administrative fines and penalties, the board may
16 deprive the offender of the privilege of registering or titling
17 any vessel for use on waters of the State, or mooring any vessel
18 in any state small boat harbor, boating facility, or waters of
19 the State, for a period of not more than twenty-four months.
20 Each day or instance of violation shall constitute a separate
21 offense.



1 ~~[(b) For violations involving pollution of the waters of~~
2 ~~the State, the administrative fine shall be as follows:~~

- 3 ~~(1) For a first violation or a violation beyond five years~~
4 ~~of a previous violation, a fine of not more than~~
5 ~~\$10,000;~~
- 6 ~~(2) For a second violation within five years of a previous~~
7 ~~violation, by a fine of not more than \$15,000; and~~
- 8 ~~(3) For a third or subsequent violation within five years~~
9 ~~of the last violation, by a fine of not more than~~
10 ~~\$25,000.]~~

11 (c) For all violations, the administrative fine shall be
12 as follows:

- 13 (1) For a first violation or a violation beyond five years
14 of a previous violation, a fine of not more than
15 \$5,000;
- 16 (2) For a second violation within five years of a previous
17 violation, [by] a fine of not more than \$10,000; and
- 18 (3) For a third or subsequent violation within five years
19 of the last violation, [by] a fine of not more than
20 \$15,000.



1 (d) Any criminal action against a person for any violation
2 of ~~[sub~~title 8 of title 12] this chapter, chapter 200A or 200D,
3 or any rule adopted thereunder shall not preclude the State from
4 pursuing civil legal action to recover administrative fines,
5 fees and costs, or damages against that person. Any civil legal
6 action to recover administrative fines, fees and costs, or
7 damages for any violation of ~~[sub~~title 8 of title 12] this
8 chapter, chapter 200A or 200D, or any rule adopted thereunder
9 shall not preclude the State from pursuing any appropriate
10 criminal action against that person. All fines, fees and costs,
11 or damages recovered by the department under this section shall
12 be deposited in the boating special fund.

13 (e) For the purposes of this section, "vessel" and "waters
14 of the State" have the same meaning as those terms are defined
15 in section 200-23."

16 SECTION 4. Section 200-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "§200-34 Disposition of revenues. All fees and penalties
19 collected pursuant to sections 200-10, 200-14, 200-14.5, [~~200-~~
20 ~~25-~~] and 200-32, and all fees and penalties established by rules



1 adopted pursuant to sections 200-4 and 200-24, shall be
2 deposited in the boating special fund."

3 SECTION 5. Section 200-37.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

5 "(b) [~~Notwithstanding the provisions of section 200-25,~~
6 ~~any]~~ Any person who violates this section shall be fined not
7 more than \$100 for each separate offense. Each day of each
8 violation constitutes a separate offense. Any action taken to
9 impose or collect the fine provided by this section shall be
10 considered a civil action."

11 SECTION 6. Section 200-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 repealed.

13 [~~"§200-25 Fines and penalties. Any person violating this~~
14 ~~part, or any rule adopted pursuant to this part, shall be fined~~
15 ~~not less than \$50 and not more than \$1,000 or sentenced to a~~
16 ~~term of imprisonment of not more than thirty days, or both, for~~
17 ~~each violation; provided that in addition to, or as a condition~~
18 ~~to the suspension of, the fines and penalties, the environmental~~
19 ~~court may deprive the offender of the privilege of operating any~~
20 ~~vessel, including but not limited to any thrill craft or vessel~~



1 ~~engaged in parasailing or water sledding, in the waters of the~~
2 ~~State for a period of not more than thirty days."]~~

3 SECTION 7. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
5 begun before its effective date.

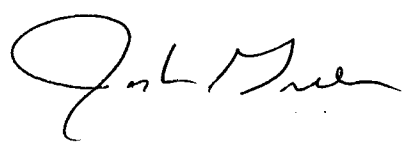
6 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 2721
S.D. 2
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

APPROVED this **8th** day of **July**, 2024




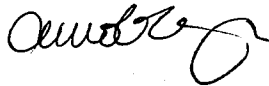
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: May 1, 2024
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2024.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 2721, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 1, 2024
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives