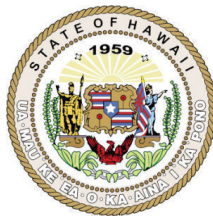


JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR



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, SD1
RELATING TO SEARCH AND RESCUE

Before the Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means
Friday, March 3, 2023; 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 211, Via Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committees:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) strongly supports this bill.

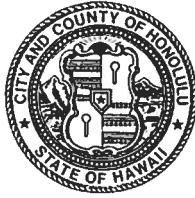
This bill changes the circumstances when an agency may seek reimbursement for search and rescue costs by providing guidance on when such costs can be recovered and requiring agencies to seek reimbursement.

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-pd.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

ARTHUR J. LOGAN
CHIEF

KEITH K. HORIKAWA
RADE K. VANIC
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE DV-BKG

March 3, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
and Members
Committee on Ways and Means
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 786, S.D. 1, Relating to Search and Rescue


I am Major Shellie Paiva of the Specialized Services Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.


The HPD opposes Senate Bill No. 786, S.D. 1, 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 a 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, S.D. 1, Relating to Search and Rescue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:


Arthur J. Logan
Chief of Police

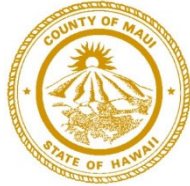
Sincerely,

Shellie Paiva, Major
Specialized Services Division

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

KEKUHAUPIO R. AKANA
Managing Director

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
www.mauicounty.gov

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Dela Cruz,

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL (SB) 786, SENATE DRAFT (SD) 1 RELATING TO SEARCH AND RESCUE

I am Bradford K. Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Maui Fire Department. The SFC offers comments regarding SB 786, SD 1, which requires government entities to seek reimbursement for the expenses arising from the search and rescue of persons who ignore posted warnings, leave a hiking trail to enter a prohibited area, or hike on a trail that is closed to the public.

The SFC believes the search and rescue expenses requirement described by SB 786, SD 1 may deter or delay prompt notification of first responder agencies by persons in the aforementioned situation. Such a delay in requesting for assistance may exacerbate the situation, further endangering the lives of persons involved and their potential rescuers.

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

Public safety and property protection remain the priorities of the SFC.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Page 2
March 2, 2023

If you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at (808) 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BK Ventura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

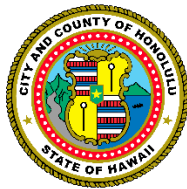
BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: 808-723-7139 Fax: 808-723-7111 Internet: www.honolulu.gov/hfd

LATE

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



SHELDON K. HAO
FIRE CHIEF

JASON SAMALA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 786, Senate Draft (SD) 1 Relating to Search and Rescue

My name is Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD offers comments regarding SB 786, SD 1, which requires government entities to seek reimbursement for the expenses arising from the search and rescue of persons who ignore posted warnings, leave a hiking trail to enter a prohibited area, or hike on a trail that is closed to the public.

The HFD believes the search and rescue expense requirement described by SB 786, SD 1 may deter or delay persons who need assistance in these situations from notifying first responder agencies. Such a delay may exacerbate the situation, thereby endangering their lives as well as the lives of their potential rescuers.

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

Public safety and property protection remain the HFD's priorities.

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Page 2
March 1, 2023

Should you have questions, please contact Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

SHELDON K. HAO
Fire Chief

SKH/GL:cn

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.labor.hawaii.gov

March 1, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee on Judiciary
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee Ways and Means
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Dela Cruz:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 786, Senate Draft (SD) 1 Relating to Search and Rescue

I am Kazuo Todd, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC offers comments regarding SB 786, SD 1, which requires government entities to seek reimbursement for the expenses arising from the search and rescue of persons who ignore posted warnings, leave a hiking trail to enter a prohibited area, or hike on a trail that is closed to the public.

The SFC believes the search and rescue expense requirement described by SB 786, SD 1 may deter or delay prompt notification of first responder agencies by persons in the aforementioned situation. Such a delay in requesting for assistance may exacerbate the situation, further endangering the lives of persons involved and their potential rescuers.

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

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Page 2
March 1, 2023

Public safety and property protection remain priorities of the SFC.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kazuo Todd", written in a cursive style.

KAZUO TODD
Chair

KT/GL