

GOV. MSG. NO. 1124

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

May 15, 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 May 15, 2024, the following bill was signed into law:

SB2841 HD1 CD1

RELATING TO WATER SAFETY DAY.
ACT 024

Sincerely,

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

on MAY 15 2024

THE SENATE
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 2841
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER SAFETY DAY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that drowning is a tragic
2 but preventable source of injury and death in the State,
3 especially among children. Specifically, the department of
4 health found that drowning was the leading cause of death for
5 children one to seventeen years of age in Hawaii between 2018
6 and 2022. In fact, more children died by drowning than in motor
7 vehicle and pedestrian accidents combined. Further, although
8 non-resident visitors comprised a slight majority of the adult
9 (eighteen years of age or older) fatal drownings that occurred
10 in the State between 2018 and 2022, an alarmingly large
11 proportion of fatal child drownings--eighty-eight per cent--were
12 among local resident children. The legislature finds that it is
13 critically important to increase water safety awareness to help
14 prevent and reduce the number of fatal and non-fatal child
15 drowning incidents in the State.

16 The legislature further finds that International Water
17 Safety Day, celebrated on May 15 of each year, is a worldwide
18 effort to spread global awareness of drowning and to educate



1 youth in becoming safer in and around the water. Community
2 organizations such as the International Water Safety Foundation
3 and American Red Cross, among others, believe that water safety
4 is a life skill that can be taught and that water safety
5 education and awareness can help curb the number of child
6 drowning fatalities. Historically, Hawaii has one of the
7 strongest waterperson cultures in the world. The legislature
8 therefore finds that, as an island state, it is vital to both
9 the local community and culture for Hawaii's children to learn
10 and be aware of the basics of aquatic safety.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish May 15
12 of each year as Water Safety Day to spread awareness of drowning
13 and educate Hawaii's youth in becoming safer in and around the
14 water.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
16 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
17 read as follows:

18 "§8- Water Safety Day. May 15 of each year shall be
19 known and designated as "Water Safety Day" to spread awareness
20 of drowning and educate Hawaii's youth in becoming safer in and



1 around the water. This day is not and shall not be construed to
2 be a state holiday."

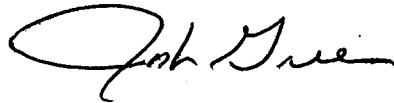
3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 2841
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

APPROVED this **15th** day of **May**, 2024

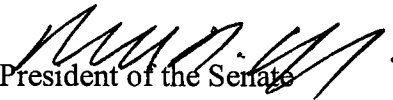
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".


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. 2841, HD 1, 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