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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SURFING.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that surfing is of  
2 significant cultural, social, and economic value to the people  
3 of the State, as well as the many visitors who travel to the  
4 State for surfing. In recognition of surfing as a part of the  
5 State's history and its long-standing cultural roots in Hawaii,  
6 surfing was sanctioned by the department of education and  
7 approved by the board of education as a high school sport in  
8 2016. However, only one of five local athletic leagues have  
9 sponsored surfing. The lack of interscholastic surfing programs  
10 limits opportunities for inspired students to pursue competitive  
11 surfing.

12       The legislature further finds that surfing is a significant  
13 economic driver for the State. Surfing has grown into an  
14 important industry in the State, bringing in tourists from all  
15 over the world. The State is also known for hosting prestigious  
16 surf contests that attract numerous competitors and spectators  
17 who are interested in viewing the sport in person. An economic



1 impact study on the 2010 Vans Triple Crown of Surfing, held on  
2 the north shore of Oahu, estimated that the event generated  
3 \$20,900,000 in spending. Devoting resources to surfing programs  
4 in the State's schools will perpetuate the sport of surfing in  
5 the State and continue to entice tourists across the globe to  
6 visit the State to spectate or experience surfing firsthand.

7 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
8 department of education to support the establishment of surfing  
9 as an interscholastic sport.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
13 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
14 year 2026-2027 to support the establishment of surfing as an  
15 interscholastic sport.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
17 of education for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



**Report Title:**

DOE; Surfing; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Education to support the establishment of surfing as an interscholastic sport. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

