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# 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.



**Report Title:**

Water Safety Day; Day of Observance

**Description:**

Designates May 15 of each year as Water Safety Day. (CD1)

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

