



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Friday, February 21, 2020
12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2484, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO STATE PARKS**

House Bill 2484, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to purchase ocean safety and rescue equipment for ocean safety officers at state parks. **The Department supports this measure and offers the following amendments.**

The State does not have lifeguard positions and as a result contracts with the four counties to provide lifeguard services at state beach parks under the jurisdiction of the Department's Division of State Parks (Division). The beach parks currently have been identified in collaboration with water safety experts as having both ocean conditions and a volume and types of patronage that warrants the need for trained water safety personnel to be stationed.

Current funding for these contracts has been executed through a creative and now insufficient variety of sources; 1) static general fund appropriations, 2) special fund revenue generated by the Division, 3) revenue generated by the Land Division from lease rents, and 4) a portion of the current Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) allocation. Previously allocated and authorized funds have not been increased since the inception of the original contracts, while lifeguard salaries and State Park operating costs have increased due to: additional park patronage associated with increased tourism, new park units being created, and additional park operations cost associated with inflation.

This measure would enable the Division to support the four Counties with additional and/or replacement equipment needs in collaboration with improving the public safety at these beaches.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,074,200 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the department of land and natural resources to purchase equipment to be used by state ocean safety officers in the course of their work at state parks; provided that the sum appropriated shall be expended as follows:

- (1) \$228,000 for four new lifeguard towers;
- (2) \$120,000 for eight utility terrain vehicles;
- (3) \$ 64,000 for eight all-terrain vehicles;
- (4) \$144,000 for eight jet skis;
- (5) \$ 13,000 for eight mobile trailers;
- (6) \$260,000 for four four-wheel drive truck;
- (7) \$ 80,000 for eight mobile, long-range public announcement units;
- (8) \$ 5,200 for eighty additional signage to inform visitors of ocean risks; and
- (9) \$160,000 for eight twenty-foot storage containers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



JAMES D. HOWE, JR.
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 20, 2020

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

**SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2484 HD1
Relating to State Parks
In Support**

The City and County of Honolulu's Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Division supports HB 2484 HD1, which appropriates funds to DLNR to purchase ocean safety and rescue equipment for ocean safety officers at state parks. Within the City & County of Honolulu, Ocean Safety serves as the primary responder for all emergencies that arise on the beaches and in the near-shore waters of Oahu.

The City and County of Honolulu's Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Division provides daily tower lifeguard service at a portion of Kaena Point State Park, and also provides mobile response coverage at all other state parks beaches on Oahu. HB 2484 HD1 ensures sufficient funding and would help save lives.

This funding would be invaluable in enabling the City and County of Honolulu's Ocean Safety personnel to maintain, and even improve, service at state parks beaches around Oahu. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John K. Titchen".

John K. Titchen
Chief of Ocean Safety
City & County of Honolulu

HB-2484-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 2:14:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie P. Donoho	Kohala Coast Resort Association	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2484-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 4:54:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2484-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 7:33:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/21/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: