



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, March 13, 2020  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**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:

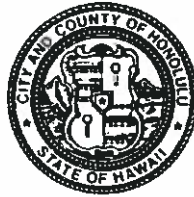
- (1) \$228,000 for four new lifeguard towers;
- (2) \$120,000 for eight utility terrain vehicles;
- (3) \$ 64,000 for eight all-terrain vehicles;
- (4) \$144,000 for eight jet skis;
- (5) \$ 13,000 for eight mobile trailers;
- (6) \$260,000 for four four-wheel drive truck;
- (7) \$ 80,000 for eight 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**

3375 KOAPAKA STREET, SUITE H-450 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1814  
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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



JAMES D. HOWE, JR.  
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair  
The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Water and Land  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 229  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 and County of Honolulu, Ocean Safety serves as the primary responder for all emergencies arising on the beach 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 services at a portion of Kaena Point State Park, and also provides mobile response coverage at all other state parks 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 blue ink, appearing to read "John K. Titchen".

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

**HB-2484-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 2:10:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie P. Donoho	Testifying for Kohala Coast Resort Association	Support	No

Comments:



HAWAIIAN LIFEGUARD ASSOCIATION  
POST OFFICE BOX 283324  
HONOLULU HAWAII 96828

March 11, 2020

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair,  
The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair,  
And Members  
Committee on Water and Land  
The Senate  
The Thirtieth Legislature 2020  
State of Hawaii

Dear Chair Kahele, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members:

RE HB 2484 HD1 RELATING TO STATE PARKS

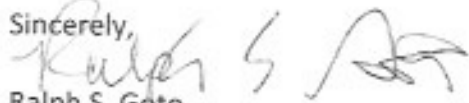
The Hawaiian Lifeguard Association (HLA) is the statewide nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to support the efforts of the over 400 professional lifeguard personnel who ensure the safety of the millions of visitors and residents who visit our beaches each year.

The HLA strongly supports HB 2484 HD1, which provides funding for essential lifesaving equipment at state parks. It should be noted that the state does not provide lifeguards at state parks, but contracts with the counties to provide services at designated beach parks on each island. There are no "state ocean safety officers," but rather, county lifeguards who are stationed at state beach parks popularly used by the public. i.e., Keawaula (Kaena Point) on Oahu, Hapuna on Hawaii Island, Makena on Maui, and Ke'e on Kauai.

Lifeguards assigned at these beaches need the equipment to properly oversee the safety of beach patrons. All-terrain vehicles, personal watercraft, trucks and trailers are all pieces of equipment essential to ensure that the lifeguards can perform their primary job function of saving lives.

Once again, the HLA is in strong support of HB 2484 HD1 and urges your committee's approval of the measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony

Sincerely,

  
Ralph S. Goto

For the Board of Directors

**HB-2484-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 10:53:00 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Clark Abbey	Testifying for MCBH Kaneohe Bay Beach Lifeguard Department	Support	No

Comments:

As the Beach Lifeguard Supervisor on MCBH Kaneohe Bay we support the Bill to fund DNLR with ocean safety equipment. I consider the ocean conditions around the Mokapu Peninsula extreme. With our beach lifeguards not on duty 3 days/week during October 1st to April 30th we look toward are partners and other agencies to support ocean emergencies around the Penninsula from Fort Hase(Kailua Bay side of base) towards Hale Koa Beach(Kaneohe Bay side of base). The partnership we have with HFD, DNLR and Ocean Safety has been greatly appreciated and I have seen lives and property saved over the years.

Respectfully,

Clark Abbey

Beach Lifeguard Supervisor

MCBH Kaneohe Bay

808-347-3347

clark.abbey@usmc-mccs.org

**HB-2484-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2020 10:11:18 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Bishop	Testifying for Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	No

Comments:

Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly supports this bill!

Lisa Bishop

President

**HB-2484-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 6:35:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:



**HB-2484-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 7:44:12 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
eugene teixeira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2484-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 12:33:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Donald Rodgers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2484-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 7:46:14 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Harold Teshima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Please continue to help Lifeguards save more lives.

Mahalo.

**HB-2484-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 8:59:15 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christian Hemmings	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Support HB 2484 Relating to State Parks.

Mahalo, Christian Hemmings

**HB-2484-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 12:26:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noland Tamashiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2484-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 8:43:28 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jaron Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2484-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 12:13:38 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
kevin allen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2484-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 6:04:01 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/13/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jason Kohl	Individual	Support	No

Comments: