

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:21:54 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Giles	City & County Lifeguard	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As A City and County Lifeguard since 1994, I have seen our organization grow to the level of public safety it is today, Rcognized as the top professionals in our feild in the world. We have come a long way and becoming our own department is one of the most important steps for us to continue to provide public to the best of our ability without being compromised as a division under another department.

I am i support of Bill HR23

Paul "Buck" Giles

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:19:09 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jared jovero	OSD	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It makes perfect sense and will keep Oahu beaches safer than it already is. Stop delaying this. Make it happen

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 11:04:43 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Vitek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's time we have outgrown EMS. We will work more efficiently and give ocean safety its own voice. Thank you

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 11:38:05 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christina braddock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a former ocean lifeguard and emergency first responder i appreciate all parties involved however know and respect the differences in leadership and management abilities. The NS lifeguard association makes us feel safe and we trust them immensely. They deserve to be a separate division as proved by their significant track record. They are more than capable. Please support this bill. Thank you.

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 1:46:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michael jutt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I worked for City and County of Honolulu Ocean Safety for 11 years. I loved my job and my coworkers. The only problem with the job was money- not just the sun par salary but also the funding the department got from the city. Using aged, broken equipment...operating short staffed, and having to work a second job on days off just to keep my head above water. I feel if the department was its own separate entity it would have the voice necessary to fight for the supplies it desperately needs. I had to leave my career in ocean safety (as many do) to get a better paying career- if it was a feasible salary and decent pension I would have stayed.

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/25/2023 5:27:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Escobar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I testify to have ocean safety and lifeguard services separate from emergency services.

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/26/2023 12:43:57 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josh Hamm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I Josh Hamm, I am a life long waterman from Oahu. I have had the privilege and luck to have been saved by, helped by, bandage by, administered cold pack by, amazed by, taught by and surfed with, many Hawaii lifeguards during my 42 years of water sports. Hopefully and my "body willing" I will continue to do so. I would like to pledge my support for HR 23 and believe the Hawaii State Lifeguard Association should be a separate department from Emergency Services Department. I know all of us as "ocean people" will benefit by having HSLA granted their autonomy. They deserve everyone's respect and I believe with that respect comes the responsibility to govern themselves.

Mahalo.

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/26/2023 7:06:53 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiulani Bowers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ka'iulani Bowers and after proudly serving the community for 15 years with Ocean Safety now, I am urging you to establish us with our own department as we are a very specific group unlike any other agency.

Besides always being first on scene whenever we are in service, having to make life or death decisions in the moment, many times on our own and the only back up possibly being our partner, we are a very small group who hold great importance, as the number one activity on island for residents and visitors is going to the beach.

Over the past 15 years I have had to sadly watch as many of the requests we have made as Ocean Safety have been denied because we are grouped with other, larger departments and therefore what we ask for not being made possible. I have also sadly seen Ocean Safety lose many incredible workers because of the lack of resources, again due to the fact that our department has been constantly denied requests that are deeply needed, as the amount of beach activity has multiplied beyond imaginable.

Each one of us at Ocean Safety is willing to put ourselves on the line daily for anyone and everyone who needs help, regardless of how hazardous conditions may be and no matter what the situations are. We humble ask now that we may be given our own department, which to me means the respect that we deserve, so that we may serve the constantly growing community with better tools, support and technology that we absolutely need, as Ocean Safety is truly its own.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 1:32:05 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Help lifeguards be they're own agency please.

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 6:22:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derek Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Ocean Safety becoming its own department. I feel it'll help them get more resources such as funding and equipment to better serve the community and visitors of our island.

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 6:58:49 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moses Kaawaloa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support making Ocean Safety its own department.

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 9:53:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jose ilar jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Jose Ilar J.r. I am a Oahu resident and in support for HR23 on establishing Ocean safety as it's own agency. I have seen first hand what sets Honolulu Ocean Safety lifeguards apart from all other first responding agency. There is no other agency out there that can perform how they do in the forever changing conditions around the island. These first responders are a different breed of life savers. It's by their ability to run, paddle, and swim to perform a successful rescue in the conditions that's presented to them on a day to day basis. Whether it's flat or 50feet waves, each lifeguard has the duty to act and lay down his life for that person in need of saving. In my opinion, there is no other agency that can do what they are capable of doing year around.

Another point is that Ocean safety is the true face of Hawaii first responders. People all around the world come to the shorelines of Oahu to feel and experience the riches of our beautiful ocean. They spend their lifesavings just to dip their feet in our ocean. So when these visitors come to our beautiful beaches of Oahu, Ocean Saftey lifeguards is who they see and go for help.

These Ocean Safety workers are not only lifesavers, they are also meteorologists, oceanographers and marine biologists. These individuals know their area and ocean better than anyone. They are there watching and observing every conditions of the ocean and training in it. They are truly the elite of their field and should be recognized as who they are. They are "Ocean Safety " . The guardians of the ocean .

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 7:03:16 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joey Cadiz	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I support this resolution as a frontline worker under the current department structure with Ocean Safety. I recognize that there have been many struggles in providing the public the ‘best service possible’ due to the very different jobs/environments Ocean Safety has from EMS. I believe that Ocean Safety is at a place where we can maintain autonomy for the betterment of our agency and for all the people we watch over.

Ocean Safety Officers (lifeguards) have several very specific skills that are unique to being able to identify risks and hazards in and around the ocean; while also being able to execute water-related rescues when needed. The type of person selected for this job already carry a certain degree of ocean competence, that is then finely tuned through the training Ocean Safety offers. Unfortunately the same can’t be said about other agencies, which is why Ocean Safety needs to be managed by ocean-savvy people with self-determination to create the best outcomes for employees and the general public alike.

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:33:26 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Phillips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Bryan Phillips, I am a former Ocean Safety Lifeguard of 19 years. I sat as the HGEA BU 14 and 15 president as the lead negotiator for 3 contract negotiations.

A separate department of Ocean Safety should reflect the structure of HPD and HFD with commissions. Ocean Safety and Emergency Services would both benefit by having focused missions to provide public safety at the highest level. Mahalo, Bryan Phillips

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:55:13 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Giles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the lifeguards having their own division. We need more lifeguards working. In order to do that we need someone that can represent them in the best possible way and to be able to focus on just them.

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:00:58 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Bachmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please help ocean safety become its own department. Ocean safety needs to have its own department funding! With numbers growing of visitors & locals it is needed to help ocean safety get to the sun up to sun down program it would benefit the whole island! The public needs this!!!

HR-23

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:29:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse King	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support of HR23.

Ocean Safety needs to be its own department. It's long overdue. By staying a division we are doing a disservice to the public. There are many roadblocks that prevent Ocean Safety from moving forward. Most of which is being a division.

The ocean and beaches are the biggest attraction that pull tourist to Hawai'i. The primary agency that responds to ocean related emergencies is only just a division?

If we are going to best serve the public and their needs, it is imperative that Ocean Safety be its own department.

By doing so it allows Ocean Safety to do the best they can to prepare, train, and adapt to the ever-growing attendance and needs of beach and ocean users.

As a department many roadblocks will be dissolved and no longer a hindrance.

Mahalo!