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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that lifeguards act as  
2 the primary responders for emergencies on shorelines and within  
3 near shore waters, where the majority of ocean recreation  
4 activity takes place. Lifeguards also provide injury control  
5 and dispatch ocean rescue services. However, the legislature  
6 also finds that although Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai State Park (Kua  
7 Bay) in North Kona on the island of Hawaii is under the  
8 jurisdiction of the department of land and natural resources,  
9 the State currently does not employ its own lifeguards at the  
10 bay.

11           The legislature further finds that the location of Kua Bay  
12 between Kona and the resorts of Kohala Coast and improvements,  
13 such as a paved road and comfort station, to Kekaha Kai State  
14 Park have led to an increase in visits by locals and visitors to  
15 popular Kua Bay. This increase in visitors has been accompanied  
16 by an increase in dangerous incidents, injuries, and deaths.  
17 The legislature further finds that the injury prevention and



1 control division of the department of health and the ocean  
2 safety division of the county of Hawaii fire department have  
3 reported that from 2008 to December 14, 2016, there were three  
4 fatal drownings, three near-drownings, ten spinal cord injuries,  
5 one cardiac arrest, one shark sighting, various other serious  
6 and minor injuries, and numerous distressed swimmers. A vast  
7 array of West Hawaii islanders have voiced strong concerns  
8 regarding the alarming number of reported and unreported  
9 incidents.

10 The purpose of this Act is to save lives and prevent injury  
11 at Kua Bay by appropriating funds for the employment of  
12 lifeguards and for necessary equipment.

13 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and  
16 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
17 year 2018-2019 for the department of land and natural resources  
18 to hire and provide benefits for four full-time equivalent  
19 lifeguards (4.00 FTE) at Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai State Park on the  
20 island of Hawaii.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
2 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and  
6 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
7 year 2018-2019 for the department of land and natural resources  
8 to purchase equipment to be used by state lifeguards in the  
9 course of their work at Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai State Park on the  
10 island of Hawaii; provided that the sum appropriated for fiscal  
11 year 2017-2018 shall be expended as follows:

- 12 (1) \$ for one lifeguard tower;
- 13 (2) \$ for one all-terrain vehicle;
- 14 (3) \$ for radios;
- 15 (4) \$ for rescue equipment; and
- 16 (5) \$ for protective equipment;

17 provided further that the sum appropriated for fiscal year 2018-  
18 2019 shall be expended on protective equipment.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
20 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on March 15, 2099.



**Report Title:**

Kua Bay; Kekaha Kai State Park; Lifeguards; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the employment of lifeguards and for necessary equipment to be used by state lifeguards in their work at Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai State Park in North Kona on the island of Hawaii. Effective March 15, 2099. (SD1)

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