
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 nearshore waters, where the majority of ocean recreation
4 activity takes place. Lifeguards also provide injury control
5 and dispatch ocean rescue services. Moreover, 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 Kua
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 tourists,
15 making Kua Bay one of the most popular beaches in the State.
16 Consequently, the increase in visitation is accompanied by an
17 increase in dangerous incidents, injuries, and deaths, which



1 could be mitigated by the implementation of Kua Bay employed
2 lifeguards.

3 From 2013 to 2016, emergency medical service patient care
4 reported twenty-eight calls from the Kua Bay area, fourteen
5 alone from 2016, with nineteen of the calls resulting in
6 hospitalization for a traumatic injury. Additionally, the
7 Hawaii Trauma Registry reports that there were seven spinal cord
8 injuries from 2009 to 2013. According to the department of
9 health's emergency medical services and injury prevention system
10 branch's GIS database of fatal drownings, three people have
11 drowned in the Kua Bay area since 2013.

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

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
18 department of land and natural resources to hire and provide
19 benefits for four full-time equivalent permanent (4.0 FTE)
20 lifeguards at Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai state park on the island of
21 Hawaii.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 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 \$ so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
6 department of land and natural resources to purchase equipment
7 to be used by state lifeguards in the course of their work at
8 Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai state park on the island of Hawaii; provided
9 that the sum appropriated shall be expended as follows:

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

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
16 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Kua Bay; Kekaha Kai State Park; Lifeguards; Equipment;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to employ four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) state lifeguards at Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai State Park, and purchase lifeguard equipment. (HB2044 HD1)

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