
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO OCEAN SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that promoting ocean
2 safety and expanding the availability of lifeguards to cover our
3 beaches is an important and critical need not only for our local
4 residents but especially for the visitor industry. Statistics
5 show that the rate of drowning at a beach with a lifeguard
6 present is one in eighteen million swims while unmonitored
7 beaches have a much higher rate of drowning incidences.
8 Recently, the county of Maui was asked to move lifeguard
9 facilities from a county park to the beach area in front of
10 hotels in order to address the one-hundred eighty-one drowning
11 deaths by visitors in the area. This instance highlighted the
12 need for the State to support the visitor industry by expanding
13 lifeguard services to these beaches frequented by visitors and
14 locals alike.

15 Just recently another visitor died of drowning, making news
16 headlines and highlighting the need for more ocean lifesaving
17 resources and ocean training awareness by visitors.



1 The legislature further finds that drowning incidents such
2 as these have a negative effect on the view of Hawaii as a safe
3 destination for visitors and lead to the need for substantially
4 more resources to help potential visitors reconsider Hawaii as a
5 safe destination.

6 The legislature finds that instead of directing more moneys
7 to marketing to offset the impact of drowning incidents, a
8 better investment is to use funds to expand lifeguard towers,
9 personnel, and equipment to expand the reach and coverage of
10 lifeguard services so that visitors can safely enjoy the ocean
11 no matter where they choose to swim, dive, or surf.

12 The purpose of this Act is to require tourism special fund
13 moneys to be made available to support state and county ocean
14 safety programs.

15 SECTION 2. Section 201B-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

17 "(c) Moneys in the tourism special fund shall be used by
18 the authority for the purposes of this chapter, provided that:

19 (1) Not more than 3.5 per cent of this amount shall be
20 used for administrative expenses, including \$15,000



1 for a protocol fund to be expended at the discretion

2 of the president and chief executive officer; ~~and~~

3 (2) At least \$1,000,000 shall be made available to support

4 efforts to manage, improve, and protect Hawaii's

5 natural environment and areas frequented by

6 visitors~~[-]~~; and

7 (3) At least per cent shall be made available to

8 support state and county ocean safety programs,

9 including but not limited to, infrastructure and

10 equipment, such as lifeguard towers, swim buoys, and

11 video cameras; staffing and operation costs; and

12 education and visitor awareness."

13 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

16 INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 24 2018



H.B. NO. 2585

Report Title:

Hawaii Tourism Authority; Ocean Safety Programs

Description:

Requires tourism special fund moneys to be made available to support state and county ocean safety programs.

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