

JAN 19 2018

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TOURISM.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is home to  
2 some of the most beautiful beaches in the world and every year  
3 millions of tourists visit the State to swim in the warm ocean  
4 water and enjoy recreational activities along the shoreline.  
5 While beaches can provide safe opportunities to recreate, there  
6 are risks inherent in any outdoor activity, and these risks are  
7 heightened among inexperienced swimmers and visitors with  
8 limited ocean safety knowledge.

9           According to a *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* article posted on  
10 September 15, 2017, there were a total of seventy-one ocean  
11 drownings statewide in 2016 with forty-three of those victims  
12 being visitors. As of September 2017, there have been a  
13 reported seventeen drownings on Maui, fourteen on Oahu, six on  
14 Kauai, and five on Hawaii island. Furthermore, social media has  
15 increased the popularity of remote or secluded beaches and other  
16 shoreline areas that do not have a lifeguard on duty, and



1 thereby has increased the safety risks for those who are  
2 unfamiliar with ocean safety measures.

3       Therefore, it is important that precautionary measures are  
4 implemented to ensure tourists have a safe stay while visiting  
5 Hawaii. In an effort to help prevent drownings among Hawaii's  
6 visitors, twenty-five thousand hotel rooms on Oahu air twenty-  
7 five-second public service announcements on Real Hawaii TV.  
8 These four videos feature various scenarios and catchy tips,  
9 such as "[w]hen in doubt, don't go out" and "[s]norkel with a  
10 buddy". However, additional precautionary measures can be  
11 implemented to help ensure a safe and enjoyable visit to Hawaii.

12       The purpose of this Act is to:

- 13       (1) Require all hotelkeepers to post in each hotel room  
14       occupied by a hotel guest an ocean safety information  
15       sheet developed by the Hawaii tourism authority no  
16       later than January 1, 2019; and
- 17       (2) Require the Hawaii tourism authority to develop an  
18       ocean safety information sheet to be posted in each  
19       hotel room.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 486K, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§486K- Ocean safety information sheet. No later than  
5 January 1, 2019, hotelkeepers shall prominently post an ocean  
6 safety information sheet developed by the Hawaii tourism  
7 authority in a conspicuous area of each room of the hotel  
8 occupied by a guest."

9 SECTION 3. (a) The Hawaii tourism authority shall  
10 collaborate with stakeholders from appropriate government  
11 agencies and private entities to develop an ocean safety  
12 information sheet for the purpose of posting in every hotel room  
13 that is occupied by a hotel guest.

14 (b) The ocean safety information sheet shall:

15 (1) Contain information regarding ocean safety, such as  
16 sun protection, ocean conditions, hazard signs,  
17 lifeguard services, ocean animals, and other ocean-  
18 related safety tips;

19 (2) Be printed on a sheet of paper no less than eight and  
20 one-half by eleven inches in size using no less than  
21 fourteen point type;



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1 (3) Be available in languages other than English for the  
 2 purpose of distributing to non-English language  
 3 readers; and

4 (4) Include any other information that the Hawaii tourism  
 5 authority deems necessary to educate Hawaii visitors  
 6 regarding ocean safety and ensure visitor safety.

7 (c) The Hawaii tourism authority shall complete the ocean  
 8 safety information sheet no later than November 1, 2018, for  
 9 distribution to all hotels.

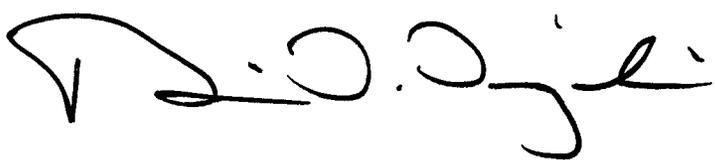
10 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Will Espero





# S.B. NO. 2224

**Report Title:**

Hotels; Ocean Safety Information Sheet; Hawaii Tourism Authority

**Description:**

Requires all hotelkeepers to post in each hotel room occupied by a hotel guest an ocean safety information sheet developed by the Hawaii Tourism Authority no later than January 1, 2019.

Requires the Hawaii Tourism Authority to develop an ocean safety information sheet to be posted in each hotel room.

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