

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018
3:01 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2044, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK**

House Bill 2044, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to employ four full –time equivalent (4.0 FTE) state lifeguards at Kua Bay, Kekaha Kai State Park, and purchase lifeguard equipment. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department currently has a contract with the County of Hawaii (County) for lifeguard services at Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area. There is currently no lifeguard protection for visitors to Kua Bay located at Kekaha Kai State Park and the Department would have to contract lifeguard services with the County. After Hapuna Beach, Kua Bay would be the next location to provide for lifeguard services as it has the most reported spinal cord injuries.

The funds for the Hapuna Beach lifeguard contract are derived from the State Parks Special Fund and Transient Accommodations Tax allotments. SECTION 2 of this measure appropriates general funds to hire and provide benefits for four full time permanent staff. Pursuant to the County of Hawaii information, the staffing costs would be around \$340,355 annually. SECTION 3 of this measure appropriates general funds to purchase equipment. The equipment costs would be around \$80,000.

The Department supports the appropriation of general funds to contract lifeguard services at Kua Bay.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

HB-2044-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 4:02:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 12, 2018

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2044, HD 1 Relating to Kua Bay
Hearing Date: 03-14-18 – 3:01 pm; Conference Room 224

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2044, HD 1, which would fund lifeguard services at Kua Bay in Kekaha Kai State Park.

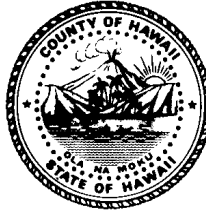
Kua Bay is one of the most beautiful locations in the islands, but its hidden hazards can prove deadly. It is now easily accessible, so for the sake of locals and visitors alike, a lifeguard at that location is definitely warranted and would be much appreciated.

Please act favorably on HB 2044, HD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Karen Eoff
Council Vice Chair
Council District 8 - North Kona



Phone: (808) 323-4280
Fax: (808) 329-4786
Email: karen.eoff@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 13, 2018

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

Re: Testimony Supporting HB2044, HD1; Relating to Kekaha State Park
Hearing Date and Time: March 14, 2018 at 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 224

Dear Committee:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, great support for the above referenced Bill is expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

There are no state funded lifeguards at Kua Bay and Kekaha State Park, which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. It is in the best interest of residents and visitors that an appropriation be made to fund lifeguard positions and to pay for life-saving equipment at Kua Bay.

I re-iterate my previously written testimony that further tragedy and life-changing injury can be avoided by providing lifeguards at Kua Bay and Kekeha State Park.

We strongly recommend passing of this bill.

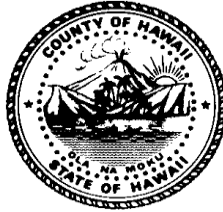
Sincerely,

KAREN EOFF, Council Vice Chair
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

Chair: Environmental
Management Committee



Phone: (808) 965-2712
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: eileen.ohara@hawaiiicounty.gov

Vice Chair: Planning Committee and
Agriculture, Water & Energy
Sustainability Committee

County of Hawaii

Hawaii County Council

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Senator Karl Rhoads
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawai'i State Senate

March 12, 2018

Re: In Support of House Bill 2044, from Hawai'i County Council District 4
Scheduled to be heard by WTL on 03-14-18 at 03:01PM in House conference room 224

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my support for House Bill 2044, which appropriates funds for the employment of lifeguards and for life-saving equipment at Kua Bay. With more than ten deaths in State waters in the past six weeks, providing lifeguards for everyone to safely enjoy the ocean is literally a matter of life and death. Our beaches are a fundamental attraction for our tourists; we are responsible for their safety during their vacations. Furthermore, our citizens deserve protection and security while enjoying the beaches of their island home.

I do not hesitate to support any measure to protect the people of Hawai'i. Please consider the life-saving impact that passing this bill will have on our people and economy, and contact me if you have any questions about my support.

Sincerely,

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Water and Land

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 14, 2018

H.B. 2044, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO KEKAHA KAI STATE PARK

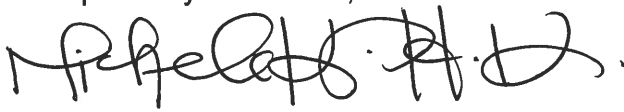
The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the passage of H.B. 2044, H.D. 1 which appropriates funds for the employment of ocean safety officers and appropriate life-saving equipment, including a lifeguard tower, all-terrain vehicle, radios, and rescue equipment for Kua Bay in North Kona. However, we respectfully request a friendly amendment.

The access routes to Kekaha Kai State Park and Kua Bay have recently been improved, leading to increased visitation and recreational use by both locals and tourists. Expanding ocean safety services to Kua Bay will ensure that beachgoers are safe and protected.

We respectfully request the Committee's consideration in replacing the term "lifeguard" with "ocean safety officer" throughout the measure, to more accurately capture and reflect the complexity of their roles.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. 2044, with a proposed technical amendment.

Respectfully submitted,


for Randy Perreira
Executive Director



March 12, 2018

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Legislature

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Testimony in Support of HB2044 HB1

The Kohala Coast Resort Association (KCRA) is in full support of HB2044 HB1, providing for lifeguards and lifesaving equipment at Kekaha Kai State Park and Kua Bay. As our visitation continues to grow on Hawaii Island, we are seeing an increase in use of this beautiful bay, and believe that it should have lifeguards to help both residents and visitors enjoy the ocean safely.

KCRA is a collection of master-planned resorts and hotels situated north of the airport which represents more than 3,500 hotel accommodations and an equal number of resort residential units. This is approximately 35 percent of the accommodations available on the Island of Hawai'i. KCRA member properties annually pay more than \$20 million in TAT and \$20 million in GET.

We encourage your support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie P. Donoho". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Stephanie Donoho
Administrative Director

DANIEL ROBERT SAYRE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 1285, Kailua-Kona, HI 96745
808-325-5456

March 11, 2018

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Senators and Committee members:

The Daniel R. Sayre Memorial Foundation **supports** HB 2044 HD1 which will provide life-saving Ocean Safety Officers at Kua Bay.

The purpose of this Foundation is to assist the Hawaii Fire Department in saving lives through the purchase of needed rescue equipment and training not afforded to them by the Hawaii County budget. We help to provide life-saving equipment to the Ocean Safety Division of the HFD and we are extremely concerned that Kua Bay does not have funding for Ocean Safety Officers.

For years, we have been hearing of near drownings, broken necks and drownings that have occurred at this unguarded beach. Off-duty lifeguards have saved countless lives at this location due to the treacherous currents and shore breaks which have put our community members and visitors at risk. Also for years, Representatives and Senators from Hawaii Island have been asking for financial support from the State budget to protect the visitors to this beach from having tragic endings. For years, the State Finance Committee has chosen to not fund Ocean Safety Officers for this dangerous beach and more lives have been lost. This is a State beach and therefore must be funded by the State.

It seems irresponsible to invite our visitors and community members to enjoy the beauty of Kua Bay and not provide protection for them. It is our feeling that the access to Kua Bay be closed or that protection for this Kua Bay be financed. Waiting another year to fund this Bill shouldn't even be a consideration. If charging an entrance fee to this location is necessary to fund the lifeguards, then we believe that most visitors would be more than happy to do so to receive the benefit of having trained Ocean Safety Officers present. Continuing to lose lives at Kua Bay is an enormous liability to the State of Hawaii and it is devastating for the families that are involved.

Please move HB 2044 HD1 through and provide the funding for our Ocean Safety Officers at Kua Bay.

Sincerely,

Laura Mallery-Sayre, Executive Director

Dr. Frank Sayre
President

HB-2044-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 4:35:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2044-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 11:29:07 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sean gallagher	Testifying for hawaii fire dept, Ocean Safety	Support	No

Comments:

aloha

my name is sean gallagher and i just retired from Ocean Safety, HFD last year. i am very familiar with Kua Bay. My wife (an ICU nurse from NHCH) and I visited there on a Christmas Day a couple of years ago. the pounding surf was 4-5 ft...there were 500 people on the beach and over 200 in the water. in the hour and a half we were there 3 people suffered shoulder dislocations and the HFD ambu rig was like a shuttle taking people to NHCH and Kona Hospital. the crazy thing?...not all wanted the ambulance. we spent the entire time dealing with this situation and had to leave. if any beach needs an LG tower it is this beach. it gets to 15-20 ft in the winter and is the definition of scary, chaotic and crazy. crowds go there even when the gate is locked due to High Surf warning.

HB-2044-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 10:28:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Frank H. Sayre, D.D.S.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Kazuo Todd
6 Mokuhonua Ln
Hilo, HI. 96720

March 12, 2018

Dear Senators and Committee members:

I support HB 2044 HD1 to provide lifeguards at Kua Bay.

As a member of the public that frequents this beach, I wanted to put forward my recommendation to provide lifeguards due to the dangers of this beach. Kua Bay is a beautiful beach and with the increase in population and tourism over the last decade has attracted more and more people to visit this beach. However while many local residents who frequent the beach are aware of the currents and waves, many tourist are taken back by the tranquil looking waves and peaceful scenery. As a result there have been many people injured and hurt. It is my opinion that lifeguards would help save lives.

Please move HB 2044 HD1 through. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kazuo Todd', written in a cursive style.

Kazuo Todd