TO: Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Chair: Representative Scott Nishimoto

Vice Chair: Representative Joy A San Buenaventura Members: Representatives: Tom Brower, Chris Lee,

Bob McDermott, Dee Morikawa, Greg Takayama,

Cynthia Thielan

From: Cynthia Chun

Subject: Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes)

I support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices.

- 1 Many beaches have no lifeguard and warning signs go unheeded. Use of rescue tubes makes rescue safer.
- 2 One person in a week on average drowns in the ocean in Hawaii.
- 3 Placement of rescue tubes on Kauai has led to countless rescues and a few have already saved lives on Oahu.
- 4 Rescue tubes save lives and are cost effective.
- 5 It is our moral responsibility to save lives.
- 6 Changes to the law need to be made to reduce the liability of landowners who post rescue tubes and to increase protection of the Good Samaritans who risk their lives in order to save drowning victims.

Thank you, Cynthia Chun Hawaii Kai Lions Club 5634 Kanau St. Hon, Hi 96821

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 7:14:57 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
John Oszust	Individual	Support	No	

Comments:

"I strongly support the passage of SB2087 HD1 **as it is currently written**. I am ling time resident and a business owner on the north shore of Kauai and routinely see usage of rescue tubes in my neighborhood in the vicinity of Queens Bath and Hanalei Bay. On Kauai and I am involved in both Rescue Tube installations and providing AEDs to building owners to save the lives Please pass this legislation **without amendments** to save lives here in Hawaii.

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 7:19:31 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Oszust	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

"I strongly support the passage of SB2087 HD1 **as it is currently written**. I am a Rotarian on Kauai and am involved in both Rescue Tube installations and providing AEDs to building owners. I have seen the result of rescue tube installations and the many live they have saved, especially in remote areas. Traveling around the worl on a regular basis, I have also seen the value of AED's installed in public areas.

Please pass this legislation **without amendments** to help make Hawaii a shining example of he ways things can be in the world..

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 7:54:00 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Iwana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Chair: Representative Scott Nishimoto

Vice Chair: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Members: Representatives: Tom Brower, Chris Lee, Bob McDermott,

Dee Morikawa, Gregg Takayama, Cynthia Thielen

From: David Iwana

Subject: Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes)

I support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices. As an active member of several community organizations and past president of the Hawaii Kai Lions Club, I have made it a personal goal to save lives by the distribution, installation and usage of rescue tubes. Please consider the following in your hearing:

- Landowners want to do the right thing to help save lives by posting rescue tubes, but because they are concerned about liability, they are hesitant to post the tubes, and more lives continue to be lost. It is important to have strong liability protection.
- Kauai has 240 tubes that have been used at least 140 times
- Oahu rescue tubes have assisted in saving at least 4 lives in the past year
- Drowning is the 5th cause of fatal injuries in Hawaii
- It is imperative that the lives of our residents and visitors be extended the availability of this simple device that may saves swimmers in distress.

We ask for your favorable consideration in moving SB2087 forward.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

David Iwana

509 Kaoopulu Way

Honolulu, HI

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 8:21:59 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
monty downs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Monty Downs, M.D.

President, Kauai Lifeguard Associatio

160 Lani Alii

Place

Kapa'a, HI 96746

wmdowns2000@yahoo.com

To: House Judiciary Committee

Re: Hearing on. 4/4/18, 2 PM

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB 2087

Dear Chair Scott Nishimoto, Vice-Chair Joy San Buenaventura, and Men and Women of the House Judiciary Committee:

As an ER physician who loves very few things in life more than when people are brought to my workplace having had their lives saved by an AED or by a rescue tube — and more importantly by the people who made use of the respective device — it's a great privilege to be able to express my support for SB 2087. Unfortunately I won't be able to come over to Honolulu and testify in person,

As you know, there are (at least) 2 distinct aspects to this Bill: One part of it offers liability protection to premises and properties that have a rescue tube or an AED on their property. The other part of it offers liability protection to a Samaritan who makes use of a rescue tube that is available to be used. (We have 218 "rescue tube stations" on our Kauai beaches.)

Regarding those who have the devices on their property: They deserve to not only be protected from liability, they deserve to be praised and exalted for their commitment to peoples' safety.

Similarly with the Samaritans who use these devices. And, for the purposes of this Bill, and rescue tubes in particular: Here on Kauai we have been blessed to have documented many dozens of what I call rescue tube deployments in critical situations where a flotation device came in very handy. And studying the records of these incidents, I can say that there are at least two dozen people walking this earth, their families intact, because of the availability of a flotation device (rescue tube) and the Samaritan who used it. I have furthermore enjoyed the remarkable and emotional experiences of personally meeting 11 of these people in our Wilcox Hospital ER and ICU, after very close brushes with death. One such person described how "this yellow float appeared to me from out of The Void as I was going under for the last time."

SB 2087 will contribute to lives and families being saved and I request and hope that you will pass it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Monty Downs, M.D.

To: Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Chair: Representative Scott Nishimoto

Vice Chair: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Members: Representatives: Tom Brower, Chris Lee, Bob McDermott,

Dee Morikawa, Gregg Takayama, Cynthia Thielen

From: Thelma Aiwohi

Subject: Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes)

I support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices.

- Rescue tubes save lives
- Lifeguards cannot be everywhere
- Kauai has 240 tubes that have been used at least 140 times
- Drowning is the 5th cause of fatal injuries in Hawaii
- All the current drownings in Maui is unacceptable
- Since drownings are one of the leading causes of visitor deaths, it is very important to get more more rescue tubes on beaches, so they will save more lives
- There is no such thing as too many rescue tubes
- Landowners want to do the right thing to help save lives by posting rescue tubes, but because they are concerned about liability, they are hesitant to post the tubes, and more lives continue to be lost
- The few tubes on Oahu have already been used to save lives
- Over half of the drowning visitors are visitors
- It is our moral responsibility to provide help
- It is imperative that the lives of our residents and visitors be extended the availability of this simple device that may saves swimmers in distress

We ask for your favorable consideration in moving SB2087 forward.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Thelma Aiwohi 87-167 Kaleiwohi Street Waianae, HI 96792

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 6:55:17 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Eric Kvick	Individual	Support	No	ı

Comments:

To All of us who are tired of hearing of another life lost in our waters,

Lets work together to find the proper wording for SB2087 that it can accomplish what the intent is, to reasure those trying to save lives by providing or using a rescue tube, that they will not be liable for a lawsuit. Lifeguards cannot be everywhere, RESCUE TUBES SAVE LIVES.

Sincerely, Eric Kvick

Hawaii Kai Lions Club Rescue Tube Project co-chair

To: Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Chair: Representative Scott Nishimoto

Vice Chair: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Members: Representatives: Tom Brower, Chris Lee, Bob McDermott,

Dee Morikawa, Gregg Takayama, Cynthia Thielen

From: Tracy S. Aruga

Subject: Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes)

I support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices.

- Rescue tubes save lives
- Lifeguards cannot be everywhere
- Kauai has 240 tubes that have been used at least 140 times
- Drowning is the 5th cause of fatal injuries in Hawaii
- All the current drownings in Maui is unacceptable
- Since drowings are one of the leading causes of visitor deaths, it is very important to get more more rescue tubes on beaches, so they will save more lives.
- There is no such thing as too many rescue tubes
- Landowners want to do the right thing to help save lives by posting rescue tubes, but because they are concerned about liability, they are hesitant to post the tubes, and more lives continue to be lost.
- The few tubes on Oahu have already been used to save lives
- Over half of the drowning visitors are visitors
- It is our moral responsibility to provide help
- It is imperative that the lives of our residents and visitors be extended the availability of this simple device that may saves swimmers in distress.

We ask for your favorable consideration in moving SB2087 forward.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Tracy S. Aruga 92 E Chong Street Hilo, HI 96720

<u>SB-2087-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:01:35 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
virginia Kalvelage	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a common sense measure. Lives will be saved.

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:43:03 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House Judiciary Committee Chair Scott Nishimoto Vice Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura

April 3, 2018

RE: SB2087 SD2 HD1

Testimony In Support

I urge the committee to pass this bill in its current version. As an island state, saving lives by increasing access to water safety devices in areas away from supervised public beach access should be a priority at the legislature.

There is already evidence of the success of this program saving lives in East Oahu in areas where I surf. The extent of ocean drowning problem has been increasing in recent months. There are many homeowners wanting to do the right thing but refusing to accept free rescue tubes placed on their waterfront property due to liability concerns. Thus legislation with strong liability protections for homeowners is necessary. Vote in support of this bill in its current form. Your vote could actually save a life, maybe many lives over the years.

Tom Jones Nuuanu To: Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Chair: Representative Scott Nishimoto

Vice Chair: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Members: Representatives: Tom Brower, Chris Lee, Bob McDermott,

Dee Morikawa, Gregg Takayama, Cynthia Thielen

From: Annie Yonemoto

Subject: Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes)

I support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices.

- Rescue tubes save lives
- Lifeguards cannot be everywhere
- Kauai has 240 tubes that have been used at least 140 times
- Drowning is the 5th cause of fatal injuries in Hawaii
- All the current drownings in Maui is unacceptable
- Since drownings are one of the leading causes of visitor deaths, it is very important to get more rescue tubes on beaches, so they will save more lives
- Landowners want to do the right thing to help save lives by posting rescue tubes, but because
 they are concerned about liability, they are hesitant to post the tubes, and more lives continue
 to be lost
- The few tubes on Oahu have already been used to save lives
- Over half of the drowning visitors are visitors
- It is imperative that the lives of our residents and visitors be extended the availability of this simple device that may saves swimmers in distress

I ask for your favorable consideration in moving SB2087 forward.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Annie Yonemoto 888 Kapiolani Blvd # 3011 Honolulu, HI 96813

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 8:46:13 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Ku- Tangonan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices.

Rescue tubes save lives. Stop wasting time and DO THE RIGHT THING!! HURRY IT UP!!

It is our moral responsibility to provide help.

We ask for your favorable consideration in moving SB2087 forward.

Mahalo Much,

Sincerely,

Stephanie Ku-Tangonan

46-283 Kahuhipa St. #C-207

Kaneohe, Hi. 96744

<u>SB-2087-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 4/3/2018 9:41:13 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Cherie Tsukamoto	Individual	Support	No	

Comments:

Please save lives by supporting this very important bill!

To: Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Chair: Representative Scott Nishimoto

Vice Chair: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Members: Representatives: Tom Brower, Chris Lee, Bob McDermott,

Dee Morikawa, Gregg Takayama, Cynthia Thielen

From: Alexandra Sidun

Subject: Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes)

I support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices.

It is important to note:

- Rescue tubes save lives
- Lifeguards cannot be everywhere
- Kauai has 240 tubes that have been used at least 140 times
- Drowning is the 5th cause of fatal injuries in Hawaii
- All the current drownings in Maui is unacceptable
- Since drownings are one of the leading causes of visitor deaths, it is very important to get more rescue tubes on beaches, so they will save more lives.
- There is no such thing as too many rescue tubes
- Landowners want to do the right thing to help save lives by posting rescue tubes, but because they are concerned about liability, they are hesitant to post the tubes, and more lives continue to be lost.
- The few tubes on Oahu have already been used to save lives
- Over half of the drowning visitors are visitors
- It is our moral responsibility to provide help
- It is imperative that the lives of our residents and visitors be extended the availability of this simple device that may saves swimmers in distress.

I believe the above stated Senate Bill should absolutely fall under the Good Samaritan Act. As we all know, tragic accidents and losses related to Hawaii's oceans occur far too often and are entirely preventable. Hawaii is dependent on tourism and recreation related to its beautiful environment - including recreation related to the ocean. While tourists may not know of the dangers, locals that **do** know of Hawaiian water dangers still fall victim to the ocean's power.

By passing SB 2087 the State of Hawaii is taking a proactive and necessary step to prioritize the safety of visitors and locals alike. I urge all senators and the PSM committee to vote in support of SB 2087. It is time Hawaii takes a stand to do its best in protecting visitors and locals from the preventable dangers that rescue tubes and defibrillators are intended for.

I ask for your favorable consideration in moving SB2087 forward.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Sidun 1195 Kamehame Drive Honolulu, HI 96825

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 10:20:47 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill. And if possible, remove the language limiting the scope of immunity to vicarious liability. There should be a broad exemption from liability for use of rescue tubes.

Rescue tubes save lives of our residents and visitors. This bill will help increase the availability and use of rescue tubes, and thus help save more lives.

I'm a resident who loves our ocean, and I know how easy it is for people to get in trouble while in the water, from fatigue, panic, muscle cramp, etc. We have so many drownings that could be prevented by these tubes.

Lions Club has a wonderful mission of placing rescue tubes all around our islands. Those tubes have already saved lives of peope who would otherwise have drowned, even during the course of these hearings this year. The main challenge they have faced is that people who want to place the tubes on their oceanfront property, say they are scared about potential liability. Extending the Good Sarmian law to these rescue tubes will help overcome that concern and will allow many more rescue tubes to be placed and used to help prevent ocean drownings. Thank you.

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 10:46:16 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Tamura	Hawaii Lions Clubs	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony In Support

I urge the committee to pass this bill in its current version. There are documented evidence of the success of this program saving lives in our State. Saving lives by increasing access to water safety devices in areas away from monitored public beach access should be a priority at the legislature.

There are many homeowners wanting to do the right thing but refusing to accept free rescue tubes placed on their waterfront property due to liability concerns. Thus, legislation with strong liability protections for homeowners is necessary. Please vote in support of this bill in its current form. Your vote will save a life, maybe many lives over the years.

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 10:56:00 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Foster	AED Institute	Support	Yes

Comments:

Testimony Supporting S.B. 2087, SD2, HD1

RELATING TO EMERGENCY RESCUE DEVICES.

Amends the Good Samaritan Law to provide liability exemptions for owners of premises where automated external defibrillators and rescue tubes are located. Provides liability exemptions for rescuers who attempt to rescue a person with a rescue tube.

Date: Wednesday April 4, 2018

Time: 2:00pm

Place: Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Disclosure: Owner and President of AED Institute, Hawaii's leading distributor of AEDs, responsible for managing more than 500 clients with more than 3,000 Hawaii based AEDs, and the current contractor for Department of Transportation, Airport Division, Harbor Division, City and County of Honolulu, County of Kauai Fire and Police plus many others.

To: Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair and Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair in additon Rep. Tom Brower, Rep. Gregg Takayama, Rep. Chris Lee, Rep. Bob McDermott, Rep. Dee Morikawa, Rep. Cynthia Thielen

As a nurse I have a mission and a passion to save lives too young to be lost. As legislators, I urge you to ensure that the language in this bill, increases access to emergency equipment yet decreases any fear that a bystander may have when responding to an emergency, whether using a rescue tube, an AED, or any other emergency device. Every Hawaii resident must have early access to life-saving equipment and feel confident that they can do the right thing in a moment of crisis. With more life-saving equipment available in our community, more lives will be saved.

Thank you very much for your time and concern on this issue,

Pamela Foster, RN

President and Owner of AED Institute

801 S. King Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

808-440-8988

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 12:12:09 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debbie Lantz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Debbie Lantz strongly support the passage of SB2087 HD1 as it is currently written. I am a Rotarian on Kauai and we are involved in both Rescue Tube installations and providing AEDs to building owners to save the lives of our local population and our visitors. I know of many lives that have been saved by these rescue devices and more will be saved if their use and placement are protected by our Good Samaritan law.

Please pass this legislation without amendments to save lives here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Debbie Lantz

PO Box 223850

Princeville HI 96722

United States

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 12:17:17 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey c Goodman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Senators: 4/3/18

It is imperative to the people's Health and Welfare in the state of Hawaii to pass **as written** Senate Bill 2087.

Without the passage of this bill, many of Hawaii's population will die from drowning as well as heart disease caused by lack of rescue tubes and AED defibrillators.

The general population of Hawaii needs this rescue equipment and needs to have the security of a Good Samaritan law to protect themselves as well as the property owners.

Our current Good Samaritan law lacks protection for the owners of the equipment on their properties. The threat of litigation forces the public not to get involed.and life is needlessly lost.

Please pass this legislation without amendments to save lives here in Hawaii.

This bill **must pass this year** in order to prevent further loss of life...

As a practicing physician who has worked in the Hospital Emergency Department, I implore you to pass this measure.

Thank you, Jeff Goodman, M.D.

(808) 828-1470

jcg96754@hotmail.com

To: Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Chair: Representative Scott Nishimoto

Vice Chair: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Members: Representatives: Tom Brower, Chris Lee, Bob McDermott,

Dee Morikawa, Gregg Takayama, Cynthia Thielen

From: Evan Tom

Subject: Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes)

I support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices.

In lieu of additional funding for lifeguards, and as supplemental efforts to assist in the life safety of swimmers, there is a very strong need for ways to delay and save drowning victims. It can only take a few minutes before it's too late, and this is a very cost effective and available method of accomplishing that. See below for additional bullet points noted.

- Rescue tubes save lives
- Lifeguards cannot be everywhere
- Kauai has 240 tubes that have been used at least 140 times
- Drowning is the 5th cause of fatal injuries in Hawaii
- All the current drownings in Maui is unacceptable
- Since drownings are one of the leading causes of visitor deaths, it is very important to get more more rescue tubes on beaches, so they will save more lives
- There is no such thing as too many rescue tubes
- Landowners want to do the right thing to help save lives by posting rescue tubes, but because they are concerned about liability, they are hesitant to post the tubes, and more lives continue to be lost
- The few tubes on Oahu have already been used to save lives
- Over half of the drowning visitors are visitors
- It is our moral responsibility to provide help
- It is imperative that the lives of our residents and visitors be extended the availability of this simple device that may saves swimmers in distress

We ask for your favorable consideration in moving SB2087 forward.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Evan Tom 98-648 Kuini St Aiea HI 96701

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 1:26:02 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Loyal Mehrhoff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Chair: Representative Scott Nishimoto

Vice Chair: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Members: Representatives: Tom Brower, Chris Lee, Bob McDermott,

Dee Morikawa, Gregg Takayama, Cynthia Thielen

April 3,

2018

Subject: Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes)

I support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices.

Rescue tubes have saved numerous lives on Kauai and even the few tubs on Oahu have been credited with saving people. These simple devices save lives and I think it is a good idea to increase their availability across the state.

Because of liability concerns, too many landowners have decided to not allow rescue tubes to be installed on their properties. This is a very unfortunate situation that I hope SB 2087 will remedy.

While I appreciate that some would like to keep more liability on landowners or people who put out rescue tubes, this will result in lost opportunities to prevent drownings.

I ask for your favorable consideration in moving SB2087 forward.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Loyal Mehrhoff

1072 Kaumoku Street

Honolulu, Hawaii

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 1:26:12 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Rocheleau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have lived in Hawaii Kai for 42 years and know how dangerous the ocean can be. I know of first responders who have shown up at the scene where the individual needing assistance was clinging to a rescue tube. Without the tube the individual would have drowned. That rescue tube saved a life!

House of Representatives Hawaii State Legislature Committee on Judiciary

Committee Hearing on HB 2087 SD2 HD1 - **Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Support)** Wednesday, April 4, 2018 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 325

Chair Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura and members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in **Support of Senate Bill 2087 SD2 HD1**.

I wish to express my support for Senate Bill 2087 SD2 HD1 regarding emergency rescue devices because it would help save lives of both Hawaii tourists and residents. Although I am Immediate Past District Governor of the Hawaii Lions and a member of the Manoa Lions Club, I am submitting testimony as a private citizen

The extent of ocean drownings has been increasing in recent months; but thanks to the availability of rescue tubes, there has already been incidents of persons in distress being saved. Take for example, the island of Kauai, there are 240 rescue tubes that have been used at least 140 times to save the life of a person drowning.

I am aware of the liability concerns raised by those in opposition to this measure and understand it's important that this bill have broad, reasonable guidelines by which a reasonable person would be inclined to post a rescue tube on their property, without fear of unreasonable liability repercussions.

In order to promote the use of life-saving rescue tubes in Hawaii, I ask that you please pass SB 2087 SD2 HD1 to encourage private landowners to post rescue tubes on their property without the threat of legal repercussion, and their use by other Good Samaritans in their effort to save lives.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and consideration.

Nadine N. Nishioka 1363 Hoona Street Pearl City, Hawaii 96782

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 1:45:27 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	the Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SB2087 SD2 HD1**, relating to Emergency Rescue Device; Rescue Tube; Automated External Defibrillator; Good Samaritan Law; and Liabilit.y

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SB2087 SD2 HD1** and support its passage.

SB2087 SD2 HD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it amends the Good Samaritan Law to provide liability exemptions for owners and operators of any premises, property, or facility where rescue tubes are located for the storage, maintenance, or use of the rescue tubes. Provides liability exemptions for rescuers who attempt to rescue a person with a rescue tube.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "We support community health initiatives that provide opportunities for the overall health of communities through strategic projects and programs focusing on increased interaction and physical activities among all age groups. (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 378-380 (2016)).

Given that SSB2087 SD2 HD1 amends the Good Samaritan Law to provide liability exemptions for owners and operators of any premises, property, or facility where rescue tubes are located for the storage, maintenance, or use of the rescue tubes. Provides liability exemptions for rescuers who attempt to rescue a person with a rescue tube, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

To: Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Chair: Rep. Scott Nishimoto

Vice Chair: Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura

Members: Reps.: Tom Brower, Chris Lee, Bob McDermott,

Dee Morikawa, Gregg Takayama, Cynthia Thielen

Hearing: Wednesday, April 4, 2018, 2:00 p.m., State Capitol, Room 325

Subject: Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes)

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 2087 SD2 HD1. This bill would help save lives of both tourists and residents. I am speaking as a private citizen, but I became involved in promoting rescue tubes through the Hawaii Kai Lions Club. I do not represent the Hawaii Kai Lions Club in my testimony.

I support this bill and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using rescue devices.

Rescue tubes save lives! Drowning is the 5th largest cause of fatal injuries in our islands. Over half of the drowning victims are visitors. Lifeguards cannot be everywhere, and they need to go home at the end of the day, leaving the beach unguarded. Kauai has 240 rescue tubes posted that have been used at least 140 times! And already in the year since some rescue tubes were posted on Oahu, 3 lives have been saved! About a week ago, on Maui, a girl was caught by a wave, and her dad went to rescue her. He handed his daughter off to bystanders, and the rescuers were able to pull the girl in with the help of a towel. When they turned around to help the father, he was gone! Imagine how they could have saved BOTH lives, if a rescue tube (able to support 2 people) had been used, instead of a towel! This tragedy could have been avoided! The large number of drowning deaths in Maui since the start of the year is unacceptable. Since drownings are one of the leading causes of visitor deaths, it is very important to get more rescue tubes on beaches now, so they can save more lives. There is no such thing as too many rescue tubes!

Currently, private landowners are reluctant to post rescue tubes on their property due to liability concerns. In promoting rescue tubes on Oahu, I've spoken with some 16 clubs/groups and local people (approximately 260 people in total), and the recurring concern has been liability issues for private landowners who would post rescue tubes on their property. There was also concern for private landowners if a rescue tube they'd posted on their property went missing or was stolen. If someone drowned, would the landowner be held liable because someone may have relied on the rescue tube being there, when it had actually been stolen?

I wholeheartedly agree with the intent of the bill, and I respectfully request the Judiciary Committee:

1) Retain the following paragraph (page 5, lines 7-11), this language is needed to protect landowners who place AEDs on their property. It is necessary to achieve one of the goals of this bill, which is to protect landowners who are trying to help save lives.

"The owner or operator of any premises, property, or facility where an automated external defibrillator is located shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from any act or omission relating to the storage, maintenance, or use of the automated external defibrillator."

2) Property owners deserve the fullest protection because they are doing the right thing by placing rescue tubes on their property. Please ensure that the word "Vicarious" (as it pertains to liability) remains stricken from the bill; this word greatly reduces protection of property owners.

It is imperative that the lives of our residents and visitors be extended the availability of this simple device that may save swimmers in distress. It is our moral responsibility to provide help. The law needs to be changed to protect landowners so they will be encouraged to help save lives by posting rescue tubes, not to discourage them by making them liable when they are doing this good deed. When balancing the scales, one needs to ask if one is willing to continue losing lives or not?

In order to promote the use of life-saving rescue tubes in Hawaii, I ask that you move SB2087 SD2 H1 forward with strong liability protection to encourage organizations to promote and sponsor the use of rescue tubes, encourage private landowners to post rescue tubes on their property without the threat of legal repercussion, and their use by Good Samaritans who use them to save drowning victims. Please help us to save lives by passing this bill! It is critical that the Good Samaritan law be changed to eliminate hesitation by landowners to implement the use of a rescue tube.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peggy Oyama 1072 Kaumoku Street Honolulu, HI 96825

Testimony for bill Sb2087

I Believe the Rescue Tube is and has been proven as a great way helping save live. But only if these rescue tubes can be placed in strategic locations. This bill will help make all this possible

MAHALO FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Alvin Hayashibara



Submitted on: 4/3/2018 2:53:12 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin McAfee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Protection from lawsuits to act as a 'Good Samaritan' makes total sense. All one has to do is to imagine your loved one is in distress offshore...now see the event unfold with a Rescue Tube in use... and now see the event unfold without a Rescue Tube in use. It never makes the situation worse to bring a person in the water, in distress, a buoyant device. This is why you see Llfeguards carrying one every where they go while on-duty.

Some in opposition, I suppose, make thier living through lawsuits. To them, any restrictions to the ability to bring suit against another, regardless of the good deed they were performing, is seen as a obstacle to sue.



TESTIMONY OF NAHELANI WEBSTER ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) COMMENTS REGARDING S.B. 2087, SD2, HD1

Date: Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Time: 2 p.m. Room: 325

To: Chair Scott Y. Nishimoto and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

My name is Nahelani Webster and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) with comments including proposed amendments to S.B. 2087, SD2, HD1, Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices as currently drafted.

We agree with the intent of the bill however we ask for the following amendments:

At page 5, lines 7-11, the bill grants immunity from negligence to the owner or operator of premises where an AED is located. We ask that this section be deleted because the owner or operator of premises where an AED is located should retain the duty to maintain the AED in accordance with its care and maintenance instructions. When a member of the public finds himself or herself in a situation that necessitates the use of an AED, they have a reasonable expectation that it will be in good working order. Therefore, a reasonable care standard is appropriate.

Section (g) at page 5, line 19 through page 6, line 9, the bill grants immunity to individuals who use a rescue tube in attempts to rescue a person and to owners or operators of premises where a rescue tube is located. We would like to highlight that this is already covered under The Good Samaritan law, Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 663-1.5 which provides that:

(a) Any person who in good faith renders emergency care, without remuneration or expectation of remuneration, at the scene of an accident or emergency to a victim of the accident or emergency shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from the person's acts or omissions, except for such damages as may result from the person's gross negligence or wanton acts or omissions.

Thus, the intent of this bill has already been addressed by the existing laws in place.

Finally, as similarly stated above, section (g) of this bill grants immunity from negligence to the owner or operator of premises where a rescue tube is located. The current language is overly broad and should be narrowed. The owner or operator of premises where a rescue tube is located should retain the duty to maintain the rescue tube in accordance with its care and maintenance instructions. When a member of the public is in a situation when they must use a rescue tube, they have a reasonable expectation that it will be in good working order.

Thank you for considering our testimony.



Submitted on: 4/3/2018 3:45:29 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Committee: House Judiciary

Committee Chair: Representative Scott

Nishimoto Vice Chair:

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Members: Representatives: Tom Brower, Chris Lee, Bob McDermott,

Dee Morikawa, Gregg Takayama, Cynthia Thielen

From: Sandra Gomes

Subject: Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes).

I support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices. Being an island state with miles of beach access for residents as well as tourist, we should allow Landowners to have the capacity to do the right thing to help save lives by posting rescue tubes, but because they are concerned about liability, they are hesitant to post the tubes, and more lives continue to be lost.

The extent of ocean drowning problem has increased due to social media exposing our beaches to unsuspecting tourist, family, friends and children not familiar with the slippery rocks and sudden large swells. Drowning is the 5th cause of fatal injuries in Hawaii and that is alarming.

Vote in support of this bill in its current form. Your vote could actually save a life, maybe many lives over the years as the few tubes on Oahu have already been used to save lives.

Thank you for your consideration!



Chair: Representative Scott Nishimoto

Vice Chair: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Members: Representatives: Tom Brower, Chris Lee, Bob McDermott,

Dee Morikawa, Gregg Takayama, Cynthia Thielen

From: Kenneth Nishibun

Subject: Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes)

I support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices.

The positive experiences of rescue tubes are undeniable – **rescue tubes save lives!** Kauai with the most saves of at least 140 is a shining example. As a proud member of the Hawaii Kai Lions Club, I participated in the distribution of 100 rescue tubes in 2017 which to date have resulted in the saving of at least three lives in the Portluck area of Hawaii Kai.

It is financially impossible to have life guards stationed at every beach and surf site in the State. It is possible to have rescue tubes placed at these sites. The lives saved at Portluck proves the point that when life guards are not present, rescue tubes can be posted, and can definitely do the job.

Landowners want to do the right thing to help save lives by posting rescue tubes, but because they are concerned about liability, they are hesitant to post the tubes, and more lives continue to be lost.

We ask for your favorable consideration in moving SB2087 forward.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Nishibun 938 Kahena St.

Honolulu, HI 96825



Chair: Representative Scott Nishimoto

Vice Chair: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Members: Representatives: Tom Brower, Chris Lee, Bob McDermott,

Dee Morikawa, Gregg Takayama, Cynthia Thielen

From: Lion Gary Nip President Koko Head Lions Club

Subject: Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes)

I and members of the Koko Head Lions Club support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices.

The 25 members of the Koko Head Lions Club have seen presentations on the rescue tube. Rescue tube saves lives because it buys time for victims in distress until help arrives. Many of the drowning victims are visitors, which is Hawaii's major economy. We must and can do better in saving lives. Landowners near the ocean want to do the right thing by posting these rescue tubes on their property but are concerned about liability. Please pass legislation that will provide liability protection to those providing or using the rescue tubes.

We ask for your favorable consideration in moving SB2087 forward.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

-s-

Lion Gary Nip 4168 Kaimuki Avenue Honolulu, HI 96816



Submitted on: 4/3/2018 7:51:27 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kazuaki Nakano	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony In Support

I urge the committee to pass this bill in its current version. As an island state, saving lives by increasing access to water safety devices in areas away from supervised public beach access should be a priority at the legislature.

The extent of ocean drowning problem has been increasing in recent months. There are many homeowners wanting to do the right thing but refusing to accept free rescue tubes placed on their waterfront property due to liability concerns. Thus legislation with strong liability protections for homeowners is necessary. Vote in support of this bill in its current form. Your vote could actually save a life, maybe many lives over the years.



Chair: Representative Scott Nishimoto

Vice Chair: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Members: Representatives: Tom Brower, Chris Lee, Bob McDermott,

Dee Morikawa, Gregg Takayama, Cynthia Thielen

From: Thomas Fake

Subject: Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes)

I support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices.

Over at year ago I accepted one of the emergency rescue devices (Rescue Tube) from the Lion's Club. I transport this equipment in my truck and would willingly assist in a rescue if called upon. I know the importance of helping whenever the opportunity comes up and would not hesitate to provide this service. The bill correctly protects rescuers from the liability of attempting to save someone if called upon. While I still would not hesitate to do what ever is necessary, I like the fact that the bill provides protection for doing what is right.

I believe that rescue tubes save lives and support the passage of this bill.

We ask for your favorable consideration in moving SB2087 forward.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Thomas Fake 605 Inuwai Place Honolulu, HI 96825



Chair: Representative Scott Nishimoto

Vice Chair: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Members: Representatives: Tom Brower, Chris Lee, Bob McDermott,

Dee Morikawa, Gregg Takayama, Cynthia Thielen

From: Stephen C. Kohn

Subject: Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes)

I support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices.

I have supported this program on Oahu since I first heard of it. I have seen the tubes in action. Plain and simple Rescue tubes save lives.

I am a First Responder for the City and County of Honolulu working out of the Hawaii Kai Fire Station. (We are actually Second Responders to all incidents unless we happen upon them.) I have put these devices at two different locations on the south shore and they have saved lives. I have witnessed one saving a life after being thrown into the ocean by a 'First Responder'. We came after the fact after someone called 911. I have seen them used for saves on social media and unfortunately have heard about people dying when tubes or other devices were not at particular locations.

For people to have to worry about liability while trying their best to save a life is ludicrous! Please pass this bill so more of these Rescue Tubes can be put out and used around Oahu without worry. Ocean Safety and Honolulu Fire Department personnel cannot be at all beaches and coastal areas to keep people safe all the time. These tubes are all over Kaua'i our Oahu is way behind in saving lives.

We can't stop people from going to dangerous places and doing dangerous/ stupid things. But if it's near the ocean and there is a Rescue Tube the chances of survival if something goes wrong is greatly increased.

We ask for your favorable consideration in moving SB2087 forward.

Thank you very much and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Stephen C. Kohn 757 Kapulena Loop Honolulu, HI. 96825) sck808@gmail.com



Submitted on: 4/4/2018 1:10:25 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lori Leong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

House Judiciary Committee Chair Scott Nishimoto Vice Chair Joy A. San Buenaventura

April 4, 2018

RE: SB2087 SD2 HD1

Testimony In Support

I respectfully request the committee to pass this bill in its current version.

As an island state, saving lives by increasing access to water safety devices in areas away from supervised public beach access should be a priority at the legislature. There is already evidence of the success of this program saving lives in East Oahu. The extent of ocean drowning problem has been increasing in recent months. There are many homeowners wanting to do the right thing but refusing to accept free rescue tubes placed on their waterfront property due to liability concerns. Legislation with strong liability protections for homeowners is necessary. Vote in support of this bill in its current form. Your vote could actually save a life, maybe many lives over the years.

Aloha,

Lori Leong

838 Lukepane Ave., #303

Honolulu, HI 96816

721-2737



Submitted on: 4/4/2018 1:57:31 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marcella Alohalani Boido	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To all:

Thank you for hearing this important bill, which has the potential to save a lot of lives.

I grew up on Kauai, and am very aware of how many of our beaches on Kauai, and all other islands, have no lifeguard stations. Additionally, lifeguards are not on duty all the time.

Hawaii has a tremendous number of miles of shoreline.

My father, Dr. Vernon G. Boido, M.D., used to have the responsibility of pronouncing drowning victims dead when they were in the Koloa area. He himself was a former professional lifeguard. Sometimes I would answer the telephone at home, and be the one to go and fetch him. Sometimes I went with him, but stayed at a distance while he did his work. I remember these incidents very vividly.

In the middle 1960s, the kids in Poipu were organized and took a lifesaving class together after a young boy from Koloa nearly drowned in a surfing accident. I took this class, too, along with my brother, Abram. I was 15, and he was 13. Many of us were quite young, but we were "water babies," and the ones likely to be around in the water. Most of the class members were surfers.

Knowing well the dangers of the water, my father had taught both Abram and me the basics of lifesaving, in the form of games. It is funny to think about it now, but I can remember dutifully towing my six-foot tall father in an over-shoulder hold, when I was probably no more than nine years old.

During the years that I was exercising at the Atkinson YMCA pool, I would observe the life saving classes given to potential life guards. That was when I first saw the use of safety tubes. Something as simple as installing safety tubes near our beaches could save a significant number of lives. They are simple and easy to use.

I notice that no one has remarked on this in testimony, but one of the things that used to concern people who were training lifeguards was that a drowning person might try to

climb up on someone who was trying to save them, and wind up drowning both of them. We spent a lot of time learning defensive measures.

Safety tubes mean that you don't have to worry about this. The tube gives a drowning person something to hold on to, other than the person trying to rescue them.

I've read the testimony on this measure, and note the nuances about the changes that need to be made to strengthen the bill, and the reasons for making them.

I am in agreement with those amendments (striking "vicariously," etc.)

Please pass this bill in the strongest form possible. Doing so will save lives. Thank you.

Marcella Alohalani Boido, M. A.

Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Former Red Cross Junior Lifeguard



Submitted on: 4/4/2018 6:54:32 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Ken Hughes	Individual	Support	No	

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of SB2087 HD1 **as it is currently written**. I am a Rotarian on Kauai and we are involved in both Rescue Tube installations and providing AEDs to building owners to save the lives of our local population and our visitors. I know of many lives that have been saved by these rescue devices and more will be saved if their use and placement are protected by our Good Samaritan law.

Please pass this legislation without amendments to save lives here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Ken Hughes



<u>SB-2087-HD-1</u> Submitted on: 4/4/2018 9:23:16 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cary Kayama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha All,

Please support SB2087. This bill will help the community to help others in need. We need to do our best to support those who are willing to help others. Thank you for your time.

Cary



Submitted on: 4/4/2018 11:05:34 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/4/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I work in the ocean safety field on Maui, this year alone we have had 16 drownings so far. In some of the more remote areas, having a rescue tube to throw to the victims could have been the difference between life and death for both residents and visitors. This is a common sense measure that will provide the needed encouragement for property owners to do the right thing where safety is concerned.

Mahalo for your time,

Tamara Paltin



Lions Clubs Internationa



Palolo Lions Club

palololions@gmail.com

District 50 – Hawaii Chartered June 20, 1953

To: Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Chair: Representative Scott Nishimoto

Vice Chair: Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura

Members: Representatives: Tom Brower, Chris Lee, Bob McDermott,

Dee Morikawa, Gregg Takayama, Cynthia Thielen

From: Jeff Ching, Club President

Subject:Relating to Emergency Rescue Devices (Rescue Tubes)

I support Senate Bill 2087, SD2, HD1 and encourage its passing with wording as strong as possible to provide liability protection for those providing or using these devices.

Please consider the following:

- Rescue tubes save lives; Kauai has 240 tubes that have been used at least 140 times.
- Drowning is the 5th cause of fatal injuries in Hawaii
- Landowners want to do the right thing to help save lives by posting rescue tubes, but because they are concerned about liability, they are hesitant to post the tubes, and more lives continue to be lost.
- 89% of ocean drownings are from visitors to Hawaii. Honolulu Civil Beat reports one visitor a week dies at Hawaii's beaches.
- Hawaii State Department of Health reports drownings per visitor is 13 times the national average. (5.7 per 1 million visitors) and 12 times the drowning rate of Hawaii residence.
- Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism reports an estimated 9,500,989 visitor arrivals for 2018, compared to 2010 arrivals at 6,916,894 which is a 32% increase.

As an island state which is depended on visitor spending, action must be taken to curb the ever-increasing visitor drownings. Placing the rescue tubes on Hawaii beaches will help. Concerns about liability should be addressed with good common sense by governmental officials.

Therefore, the Palolo Lions Club humbly request for your favorable consideration in moving SB2087 forward.

Sincerely,

Jeff Ching

President, Palolo Lions Club

April 4, 2018