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## SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII 2.0 COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE A SOLUTION FOR MAINTAINING CRITICAL SERVICES BY INCLUDING LIFEGUARD SALARIES IN THE STATE'S RECOVERY PLAN.

WHEREAS, ocean safety officers, or lifeguards, serve an essential function in a state surrounded by ocean waters; and

WHEREAS, lifeguards serve as primary responders for emergencies on the beaches and in near shore waters, performing ocean rescue, injury prevention, emergency medical first response, and dispatch mobile patrol; and

WHEREAS, lifeguards allow the public to enjoy the natural beauty of Hawai'i's waters and contribute to the State's reputation as a desirable place to live and visit; and

WHEREAS, maintaining service levels has become even more critical over the past several decades due to a significant increase in ocean and beach use, including kayak rentals, stand up paddling, and surf instruction activities; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of public health, safety, and economic resiliency to provide funding for salaries, benefits, equipment, and other related expenses for state-funded lifeguards at state beaches; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2021, that the Hawai'i 2.0 Committee is urged to provide a feasible solution for maintaining critical services by including lifeguard salaries in the State's recovery plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Co-Chiefs of the Hawaiʻi 2.0 Committee.

OFFERED BY:

