
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DATA ABOUT SNORKELS AND MASKS.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "David Loasby Law".

3 SECTION 2. According to the Hawaii tourism authority's
4 snorkel safety study, which was conducted from August 2017 to
5 April 2021 under the administration of the Hawaiian Lifeguard
6 Association, a nonprofit organization that promotes ocean safety
7 and drowning prevention efforts in the Hawaiian islands:

8 (1) Drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death
9 among visitors to Hawaii;

10 (2) Snorkeling is the most common activity associated with
11 visitor drownings;

12 (3) These types of incidents have been increasing in
13 recent years; and

14 (4) Due to a lack of evidence, it is difficult for
15 researchers to determine whether or not the type of
16 snorkel or mask worn increases the risk of drowning.



1 The legislature finds that first responders in Maui county
2 have begun to record the type of face mask worn during incidents
3 involving snorkeling. However, not all counties record and
4 collect this important information. Recording standardized,
5 empirical data about the type of snorkel and mask used, if any,
6 will help demonstrate whether or not certain types of snorkels
7 or masks lead to a higher risk of drowning. The legislature
8 also finds that the safety of visitors and residents is of
9 statewide concern and that this standardized, empirical data may
10 create the opportunity to make well-informed policy changes to
11 decrease the number of snorkeling deaths in the State.

12 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to require first
13 responders to record in the incident report for each water
14 rescue event the type of snorkel and mask, if any, that were
15 worn by the person who was rescued or recovered.

16 SECTION 3. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
17 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
18 read as follows:

19 "§46- Water rescue events; incident reports; snorkels
20 and masks. (a) For all water rescue events, the first
21 responder shall record in the incident report the type of



1 snorkel and mask, if any, that were worn by the person who was
2 rescued or recovered.

3 (b) As used in this section, "first responder" means:

4 (1) Any employee of an emergency services provider who is
5 engaged in providing firefighting, ocean safety, or
6 emergency medical services;

7 (2) Police; or

8 (3) Law enforcement personnel of the department of land
9 and natural resources."

10 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

12
INTRODUCED BY:

Tim Wiidgen

JAN 21 2022



H.B. NO. 1903

Report Title:

David Loasby Law; Empirical Data Reporting; Water Rescues;
Snorkels; Masks

Description:

Requires the first responder to record in the incident report for each water rescue event the type of snorkel and mask, if any, that were worn by the person who was rescued or recovered.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

