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

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

8 (2) Snorkeling is the most common activity associated with
9 visitor drownings;

10 (3) These types of incidents have been increasing in
11 recent years; and

12 (4) Due to a lack of evidence, it is difficult for
13 researchers to determine whether the type of snorkel
14 or mask worn increases the risk of drowning.

15 The legislature finds that first responders in Maui county
16 have begun to record the type of face mask worn during incidents
17 involving snorkeling. However, not all counties record and



1 collect this important information. Recording standardized,
2 empirical data about the type of snorkel and mask used, if any,
3 will help demonstrate whether certain types of snorkels or masks
4 lead to a higher risk of drowning. The legislature also finds
5 that the safety of visitors and residents is of statewide
6 concern and that this standardized, empirical data may create
7 the opportunity to make well-informed policy changes to decrease
8 the number of snorkeling deaths in the State.

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

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
14 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
15 read as follows:

16 **"§46- Water rescue events; incident reports; snorkels**
17 **and masks.** (a) For all water rescue events, the first
18 responder shall record in the incident report the type of
19 snorkel and mask, if any, worn by the person who was rescued or
20 recovered.

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



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

4 (2) A police officer; or

5 (3) Law enforcement personnel of the department of land
6 and natural resources."

7 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2222.



Report Title:

Snorkels; Masks; Water Rescues; Empirical Data Reporting

Description:

Requires first responders to record in the incident report for each water rescue event the type of snorkel and mask, if any, worn by the person who was rescued or recovered. Effective 1/1/2222. (HD1)

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

