

**SB-116-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:37:48 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shelley Oates-Wilding	Ikaika Hawai'i watermans academy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB116 to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to fund water safety. Drowning is the leading cause of death in Hawaii for keiki ages 1-15, and Hawaii ranks second in the nation for the rate of drowning among residents. This plate would perpetuate the legacy of one of Hawaii's most legendary watermen while empowering existing water safety programs at minimal cost to the government.

i grew up on another island where Water surrounds us and the safety of our keiki is paramount. Australia.

Watermans safety, skills and stewardship is mandatory in all schools.

we need these types of awareness initiatives and funding avenues to ensure our next generation are being educated in the things that really matter to safety, life, happiness and wellbeing.

I run the only watermans academy on island and we really need support to service the needs of our community here on Oahu and so much is needed for the whole state.



March 13, 2024

House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and Committee Members:

Testimony in Support of  
SB 116 SD1

The purpose of this letter is to provide our support for SB 116 SD1, which seeks to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to fund water safety programs.

Sadly, drowning is the leading cause of death in Hawaii for children ages 1-15, and Hawaii ranks second in the nation for the rate of drowning among residents. This license plate would dramatically help to reduce if not eliminate these tragic statistics by improving water safety programs at minimal cost to the Hawaii taxpayers.

As a canoe club on the Big Island, we are fully aware of the importance of water safety and believe that this measure would ultimately fund programs to promote water safety and swim education across the State as a tribute to the legacy of Duke Kahanamoku.

We strongly support this SB 116SD1 and urge your committee to pass this bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward T. Teixeira".

EDWARD T. TEIXEIRA  
President



March 14, 2024

Re: Senate Bill 116 - Support

**Board of Directors**

Kalani Vierra  
President

Ricky Alvarez  
Vice President

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Luke Evslin

Kirsten Hermstad  
Executive Director

**Honorary Legends**

Ralph Goto  
Brian Keaulana  
Archie Kalepa  
Mark Cunningham

Aloha,

On behalf of the Board and membership of the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association. I am writing to express our support of Senate Bill 116 to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to fund water safety.

Drowning is the leading cause of death in Hawaii for keiki ages 1-15, and Hawaii ranks second in the nation for the rate of drowning among residents. This plate would perpetuate the legacy of one of Hawaii's most legendary watermen while empowering existing water safety programs at minimal cost to the government.

Mahalo

Kirsten Hermstad  
Executive Director

**Hawaiian Lifeguard Association**

P.O. Box 844 Kapa'a, Hawai'i 96746

[info@hawaiianlifeguardassociation.org](mailto:info@hawaiianlifeguardassociation.org)

Tax ID 99-0308213

**SB-116-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 10:24:19 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Fairchild	Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation	Support	In Person

Comments:

Dear Chair Tam and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB116 to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to raise money to support and expand water safety and swim education programs throughout Hawaii.

According to Hawaii Department of Health statistics, Hawaii ranks second in the nation for the rate of drowning among residents, and drowning is the leading cause of death for Hawaii keiki ages 1-15. The United Nations and the World Health Organization have officially recognized drowning as a major public health problem and it's time for our island state to do the same and put more resources towards prevention. We need widespread and continual aquatics education for children, adults, residents, and visitors. With this license plate fundraiser, the State can contribute to this important purpose with minimal financial cost to the government.

Duke Kahanamoku — Native Hawaiian Olympic swimmer, godfather of surfing, 13-term elected Sheriff of Honolulu, and Ambassador of Aloha, raised on the shores of Waikiki — is an important figure to commemorate as a role model for our community. Duke's likeness on a license plate symbolizes the waterman excellence and aloha spirit our state is proud to be known for. It would be an honor to his name to use the resulting proceeds to teach aquatics safety and to save lives.

I strongly urge you to pass this legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Sarah Fairchild

Executive Director

Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation

**SB-116-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:56:58 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Xiao Yi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in suport of the special number plate that recognize and honor Duke Kahanamoku.

**SB-116-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 6:53:34 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ron Bregman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB116 to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to fund water safety. Drowning is the leading cause of death in Hawaii for keiki ages 1-15, and Hawaii ranks second in the nation for the rate of drowning among residents. This plate would perpetuate the legacy of one of Hawaii's most legendary watermen while empowering existing water safety programs at minimal cost to the government.

Ron Bregman

Chief Lifeguard and Aquatics Director

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

**SB-116-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 8:14:12 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jotis Russell-Christian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB116 to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to fund water safety. Drowning is the leading cause of death in Hawaii for keiki ages 1-15, and Hawaii ranks second in the nation for the rate of drowning among residents. This plate would perpetuate the legacy of one of Hawaii's most legendary watermen while empowering existing water safety programs at minimal cost to the government. I trained as a junior lifeguard on Kaua'i, and I greatly support safe water trainings and education for the people of Hawai'i.

**SB-116-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:24:50 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lidiya Peralta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB116 to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to fund water safety. Drowning is the leading cause of death in Hawaii for keiki ages 1-15, and Hawaii ranks second in the nation for the rate of drowning among residents. This plate would perpetuate the legacy of one of Hawaii's most legendary watermen while empowering existing water safety programs at minimal cost to the government.



**SB-116-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 1:16:19 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Duane DeSoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou. I am in strong support of SB116 to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to fund water safety. Drowning is the leading cause of death in Hawaii for keiki ages 1-15, and Hawaii ranks second in the nation for the rate of drowning among residents. This plate would perpetuate the legacy of one of Hawaii's most legendary watermen while empowering existing water safety programs at minimal cost to the government. Connecting keiki to the ocean and strengthening their water safety skills is vital to island life.

**SB-116-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 8:13:41 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pam Clifford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB116 to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to fund water safety. Drowning is the leading cause of death in Hawaii for keiki ages 1-15, and Hawaii ranks second in the nation for the rate of drowning among residents. This plate would perpetuate the legacy of one of Hawaii's most legendary watermen while empowering existing water safety programs at minimal cost to the government. I am concerned about the number of children growing up in Hawaii that don't know how to swim. As an educator, I encouraged my administration to support me in implimenting a swimming program through our PE classes. I found it to be extremely beneficial to my students. My hope and wish is that swimming will be taught to all of our keiki.

**SB-116-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 8:46:21 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Allison Guard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB116 to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to fund water safety. Drowning is the leading cause of death in Hawaii for keiki ages 1-15, and Hawaii ranks second in the nation for the rate of drowning among residents. This plate would perpetuate the legacy of one of Hawaii's most legendary watermen while empowering existing water safety programs at minimal cost to the government.

Being an island state getting more kids involved in ocean safety makes sense.

**SB-116-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 3:37:04 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Allison Schaefers Dubovsky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing to support the Duke Kahanamoku License Plate bill to raise money for local aquatic safety grants to help address our drowning epidemic. And of course, Duke Kahanamoku is one of the most famous people to have grown up in your district and has become a symbol of Hawaii's aloha spirit, water sports mastery, and hospitality.

As a reminder, we are facing some grim drowning statistics in Hawaii:

- Hawaii has the second-highest drowning rate for residents in the nation.
- Drowning is now the leading cause of death of Hawaii children aged 1-16.
- Drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death for tourists.

As the parent of a drowning victim, I understand these statistics and the cost to our community, perhaps better than most. My daughter Charlotte "Sharkey" Schaefers, 5, drowned in 2004 while trying to save a friend who had fallen into a poorly maintained and clogged detention pond that had become a drowning hazard.

I am part of the Hawaii Water Safety Coalition, and we are working on a statewide water safety plan, which will have recommendations to bring down the terrible drowning rates in our state. Drowning isn't an individual problem; it is a community problem. Rescues are expensive and put our first responders and other Good Samaritans in our community at risk. Visitor deaths threaten our reputation as a top visitor destination. Community deaths hurt the soul of Hawaii and leave an irreplaceable gap in our collective ohana.

The money from the license plates could also be used for drowning prevention campaigns and outreach, swimming lessons and junior lifeguard programs, and perhaps adding rescue tubes where warranted. I believe these measures would save lives.

Just like my daughter, who stood on the banks of a flooded pond and watched her friend struggling, you have a life-or-death decision to make. Let me remind you that even though the risks were great, my daughter Sharkey didn't hesitate. She saved a life. Will you work with us to save lives?

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Allison Schaefer Dubovsky

(808)343-3048

**SB-116-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 4:02:11 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laura lee Blears	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. We need to continue to support water safety in Hawaii. The Duke would be so proud and so happy with this bill for the people of Hawaii. Mahalo. Laura Lee Blears

**SB-116-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 9:30:06 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessamy Town Hornor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a longtime advocate in the area of water safety in support of 116 SB to create special license plates to honor Duke Kahanamoku. This license plate would help educate our community on the inspirational role he played as a Hawaiian waterman and athlete, and also as a good samaritan who saved many lives during his time out on the ocean as a surfer. The special license plate would also help raise funds to support water safety outreach efforts in Hawaii. *Given the fact that drowning is a leading cause of death for both visitors and residents here, and it is the #1 cause of death for our keiki ages 1-15, drowning is perhaps the most underresourced issue in public health in our state.* We all know that this is a tough budget year. Many GIAs may not be funded, other much-needed water safety initiatives are not being funded such as lessons in our public schools, and funds are critical to grow water safety outreach and education. The Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation has been a leading organization in this arena - as a founding member of the Hawaii Water Safety Coalition they are helping to write a statewide water safety plan - and they are well positioned to direct grants to initiatives and programming in the community where they are most needed.

Mahalo for your time.  
Jessamy Town Hornor

**SB-116-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2024 9:46:26 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Earl S. Tenn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB116 to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to fund water safe/ty.programs at minimal cost to the government.

Mahalo piha for the opportunity to testify.

Earl S Tenn, Liaison for Nadine Alexander Kahanamoku (Mrs. Duke Kahanamoku).



**SB-116-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2024 7:26:47 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/15/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Racquel Achiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Racquel Achiu of North Shore Oahu. I am in support of Bill SB116. Please consider voting this measure through and giving opportunity to the people of Hawai'i to honor and remember Hawai'i's most legendary waterman. This honor would also provide funding support towards the critical water safety education for our keiki. mahalo for your consideration.