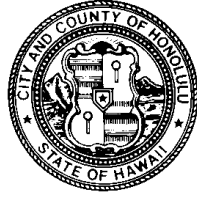


HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

3375 KOAPAKA STREET, SUITE H-450 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1814
Phone: (808) 723-7800 • Fax: (808) 723-7836



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

JAMES H.E. IRELAND, M.D.
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE, M.P.A.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
and Members
The Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Wakai and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB116

On behalf of the nearly 300 City & County of Honolulu lifeguards on the island of O`ahu, I am in strong support of SB116, to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to raise money for water safety and swim education. We have been advocating for some time to see more attention paid on a statewide basis to endeavors that improve our residents' situational awareness around the ocean. Such awareness must start in our keiki, but must be a lifelong trait.

It might surprise you to learn that virtually all ocean and water safety programs across our islands are led by non-government agencies, by non-profits, by volunteers, and even by our own off duty county lifeguards – on their own time, on their own dime. It is time for state-wide leadership that *begins* to draw together these efforts so that they can be improved upon, invested in, and so that they reach more residents. Who better to do that than Duke? What better way than a reminder as we drive?

O`ahu's lifeguards stand in strong support of this measure and hope it is the beginning of even stronger legislative measures on behalf of statewide ocean safety.

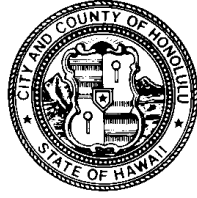
Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John K. Titchen".

John K. Titchen
Chief of Ocean Safety
City & County of Honolulu

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

3375 KOAPAKA STREET, SUITE H-450 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1814
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

JAMES H.E. IRELAND, M.D.
DIRECTOR

IAN T.T. SANTEE, M.P.A.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
The Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 219
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of SB116

On behalf of the nearly 300 City & County of Honolulu lifeguards on the island of O`ahu, I am in strong support of SB116, to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to raise money for water safety and swim education. We have been advocating for some time to see more attention paid on a statewide basis to endeavors that improve our residents' situational awareness around the ocean. Such awareness must start in our keiki, but must be a lifelong trait.

It might surprise you to learn that virtually all ocean and water safety programs across our islands are led by non-government agencies, by non-profits, by volunteers, and even by our own off duty county lifeguards – on their own time, on their own dime. It is time for state-wide leadership that *begins* to draw together these efforts so that they can be improved upon, invested in, and so that they reach more residents. Who better to do that than Duke? What better way than a reminder as we drive?

O`ahu's lifeguards stand in strong support of this measure and hope it is the beginning of even stronger legislative measures on behalf of statewide ocean safety.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John K. Titchen".

John K. Titchen
Chief of Ocean Safety
City & County of Honolulu

SB-116

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:08:19 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessamy town hornor	Testifying for Hawaii Aquatics Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 6, 2023

Hawaii Aquatics Foundation

111 Hekili St. A-2763

Kailua, HI 96734

Testimony to the COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS and the COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

SB116, Relating to Special Number Plates

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Aquatics Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing, promoting, and supporting aquatic safety education and training in Hawaii. We are in strong support of SB 116 to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to raise money for water safety and swim education by allocating funds to the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation (ODKF).

Over the last year we have worked closely with ODKF in coalition building and strategic planning to improve ocean and aquatic safety, and we feel that their integrity and kūleana in continuing Duke Kahanomoku’s legacy makes them worthy of this legislative funding and support.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Mahalo,

Jessamy Town Hornor

Community Engagement Manager

Hawaii Aquatics Foundation 501(c)(3) dba Hawaii Aquatics Academy

www.hawaiiaquaticacademy.org



**OUTRIGGER
DUKE KAHANAMOKU
FOUNDATION**

P. O. BOX 160924
HONOLULU, HI 96816

DUKEFOUNDATION.ORG

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**Testimony to the
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
and the COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 3:00 PM, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
SB 116, Relating to Special Number Plates**

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, members of the PSM Committee, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the TCA Committee:

I am in **strong support** of SB 116 to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to raise money for water safety and swim education. The Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation exists to perpetuate the legacy Duke Kahanamoku. The foundation gives scholarships and grants in Hawaii related to watersports, volleyball, and water safety. Hawaii is known as a place of waterman excellence. However, the drowning data is telling a different story. **Hawaii is ranked second in the nation for rate of drowning among residents.** Sadly, these resident deaths only account for 46% of the drownings in our state; **more than half the drowning victims in Hawaii are visitors from other states.*** The United Nations and the World Health Organization have officially recognized drowning as a major public health problem and it's time for our waterman state to do the same and put more resources towards prevention. We need widespread and continual aquatics education for children and adults, and residents and visitors.

Duke Kahanamoku, history's most well-known Native Hawaiian Olympic swimmer, godfather of surfing, and Ambassador of Aloha is an important figure to commemorate. Duke's likeness on a license plate symbolizes the waterman excellence and aloha spirit our state is known for, and surely would be quite popular. 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

*Hawaii Department of Health "Fatal Ocean Drownings 2012-2021" report attached.

2.7.22 Community Testimony in support of Duke License Plate.xlsx

Submission Date	First Name	Last Name	City of Residence:	Testimony:
February 7, 2023	Patty	Kahanamoku-Teruya	NANAKULI HOMESTEAD	<p>Aloha mai' Ka ko: On behalf of our O'hana - my mother Joann Kamuela Kahanamoku, we strongly support Authorizes the issuance of special number license plates to commemorate Duke Kahanamoku. The proceeds shall be be administered by the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation to support programs that promote water safety and swim education across the State of Hawaii. Like, the commemorate Duke Paoa Kahanamoku stamp, it is vital to continue to bring the educational awareness of our Ambassador of Surfing, water sports for our next generation and public. The Outrigger Duke Foundation has continue to perpetuate Uncle Duke's name by the yearly Oceanfest events at Waikiki with overpouring guest, residents and supported by many, to be able to continue support to move forward the Kahanamoku Foundation needs support for programs that promote water safety and swim education across the State of Hawaii.</p> <p>Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony both to the House Bill and Senate Bill in strong support!</p> <p>Mahalo nui loa, Patty Kahanamoku Teruya Great niece of Duke Paoa Kahinu Mokee Hulikohala Kahanamoku</p>
February 7, 2023	Janette	freeman	Honolulu	I have been an avid swimmer all my life. I remember clearly what we had to go through at the athletic club to use the pool. At 7, I earned my badge to safely swim in the pool and have been swimming ever since, adding open ocean swimming to my list.
February 6, 2023	April	Craig	Honomu	I support this bill
February 6, 2023	Makaila	Maile	Kealakekua	I support this bill, the ocean is one of our main components to living.
February 6, 2023	Corinna	Roth	Kailua Kona	I support this bill
February 6, 2023	Laurel	Haserot	Kailua Kona	I support this bill
February 6, 2023	Willow	Roback	Ocean view	I support this bill
February 6, 2023	Bill	Kesner	Honolulu	Duke accomplished and gave so much for this island, and this is just one small way we can honor his legacy. I support this bill 100%.
February 5, 2023	Keola	Hayes	Honolulu	I support this bill. Having personally rescued many people over the years I feel education could have prevented many of those situations.
February 5, 2023	Donna	Herbst	Hilo	I support the sake of Duke Kahanamoku license plates to fund safety and educational measures for Hawaii's watersports
February 5, 2023	Sinclair	White	Kamuela	I support this bill because I believe we should do all we can to support water safety education to all residents and visitors. The ocean is our playground but it can take a life in an instant.
February 5, 2023	Kat	Ahin	Hilo	I support this bill. Water safety is a must.
February 5, 2023	Chenoa	Jesser	Kailua Kona	<p>As someone who has grown up on big island swimming all my life but been around people that aren't always as confident of swimmers, I believe that it's really important we teach kids of a young age how to swim, well, and make sure they're comfortable around/ can read the ocean. There is so much joy to be gained from enjoying the ocean and so many lives to be saved with our keiki growing up Confident in the water.</p> <p>In a state with amazing watermen like Duke and Eddie, this really roots in the culture and history.</p>
February 5, 2023	Poppy	Sokham	Kailua-Kona	I support this bill
February 4, 2023	Leslie	Cochran	Pahoa	I support this bill. Swimming is a core life skill - it offers safety/belonging, opportunities for mastery, fosters independence in the sense of wise decision making and generosity of spirit. Swimmers will also advocate for Kai and wai in the future because they will be immersed and learn to love.
February 4, 2023	Rachel	Able	Kealakekua	I support this bill. I lost my 15 year old daughter in November of 2022 in a fatal & tragic surfing accident. She was surfing at Pines aka Kohanaiki. The beach is very popular to ohana & keiki to come & enjoy during their free time. The beach has become so crowded & little safety measures are in place. Councilman & Directors acknowledge & agree that their needs to be a lifeguard stand there but it's a question about how to find the funding. This bill could support a lifeguard stand that could help prevent such a tragic accident from happening again.
February 4, 2023	Rita	Hirai	Captain Cook	I support this bill.
February 4, 2023	Esteban	Lillo	Kailua kona	I support this bill. I hope there are programs that promote water safety and swim education, as I had to learn to swim the hard way
February 4, 2023	Ethan	Peters	Hawaii	I support this bill
February 4, 2023	Marissa	Calcagno	Hawli	I support this bill
February 4, 2023	Barbara	McNeace	Richmond	I support this bill.
February 4, 2023	Sandra	Wilson	Captain Cook	I support this bill. Our community should be able to go to the beach, enjoy themselves, and be safe. Money appropriated to water safety could make a difference in the lives of many.

2.7.22 Community Testimony in support of Duke License Plate.xlsx

February 4, 2023	Lindsay	Resetnikov	Kailua Kona	My friend died on the big island last year at kohanaiki beach park in a tragic surfing accident. She was only 15, but a very experienced water girl. Although people were right there, they were not trained on how to safely bring her in after she passed out. There are currently no lifeguards at this beach even though hundreds of people go there each day. And what better way to raise funds then to honor one of the best Hawaiian watermen. I support this bill.
February 4, 2023	Heidi	Ilyavi	Kailua Kona	Far too many drownings on Big Island, tourists and residents. My friend's daughter lost her life in a surf accident on a beach that has no lifeguards or property equipment to save someone's life. All the popular beaches should have lifeguards
February 4, 2023	Ranelle	Kaawa	Lawai	I support this bill, we need desperately need it!
February 4, 2023	Robert McKibbin	Mist	Honolulu	I support this bill
February 4, 2023	Kari	Vasey	Honokaa	I support this bill as an ocean swimmer. With the most beautiful beaches in the world our state should also provide Keiki & adults the best swim education & water safety programs. Mahalo, Kari Vasey (resident since 1959)
February 3, 2023	Tori	Gacutan	Honolulu	I support this bill, not only because it honors Duke Kahanamoku, but it also perpetuates the legacy of other Native Hawaiian watermen/women legends, with Duke as a symbol. It is amazing to be in a time where we have the opportunity to advocate for the commemoration of Duke Kahanamoku on license plates! These license plates can show the community that people from Hawaii can create change in the world, like Duke did. Also, water safety education is always a benefit for our keiki.
February 3, 2023	Balbi	Brooks	Kamuela, HI	I'm in full support and plan to purchase one
February 3, 2023	Phil	Sevier	Kailua	I support bill HB499 & SB116 - RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES: 1st HEARING for HB499: 02-8-23 8:30 AM Authorizing the issuance of special number license plates to commemorate Duke Kahanamoku. The proceeds shall be administered by the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation to support programs that promote water safety and swim education across the State of Hawaii.
February 3, 2023	Bob	Hampton	Honolulu	Aloha I support this Bill because Duke Kahanamoku is Hawaii's Ambassadors of Aloha. Duke's name and image are international symbols of Aloha and represent our state, the "Land of Aloha." Mahalo Bob Hampton
February 3, 2023	Kathryn	Heller	Honolulu	I believe any and every opportunity should be taken to perpetuate Duke's legacy and show respect to this legendary water man. This would be a way for everyone to participate.

Fatal ocean drownings, 2012-2021

***Dan Galanis, Ph.D.
Epidemiologist
Injury Prevention and Control Section
EMS & Injury Prevention System Branch
Hawaii Department of Health***

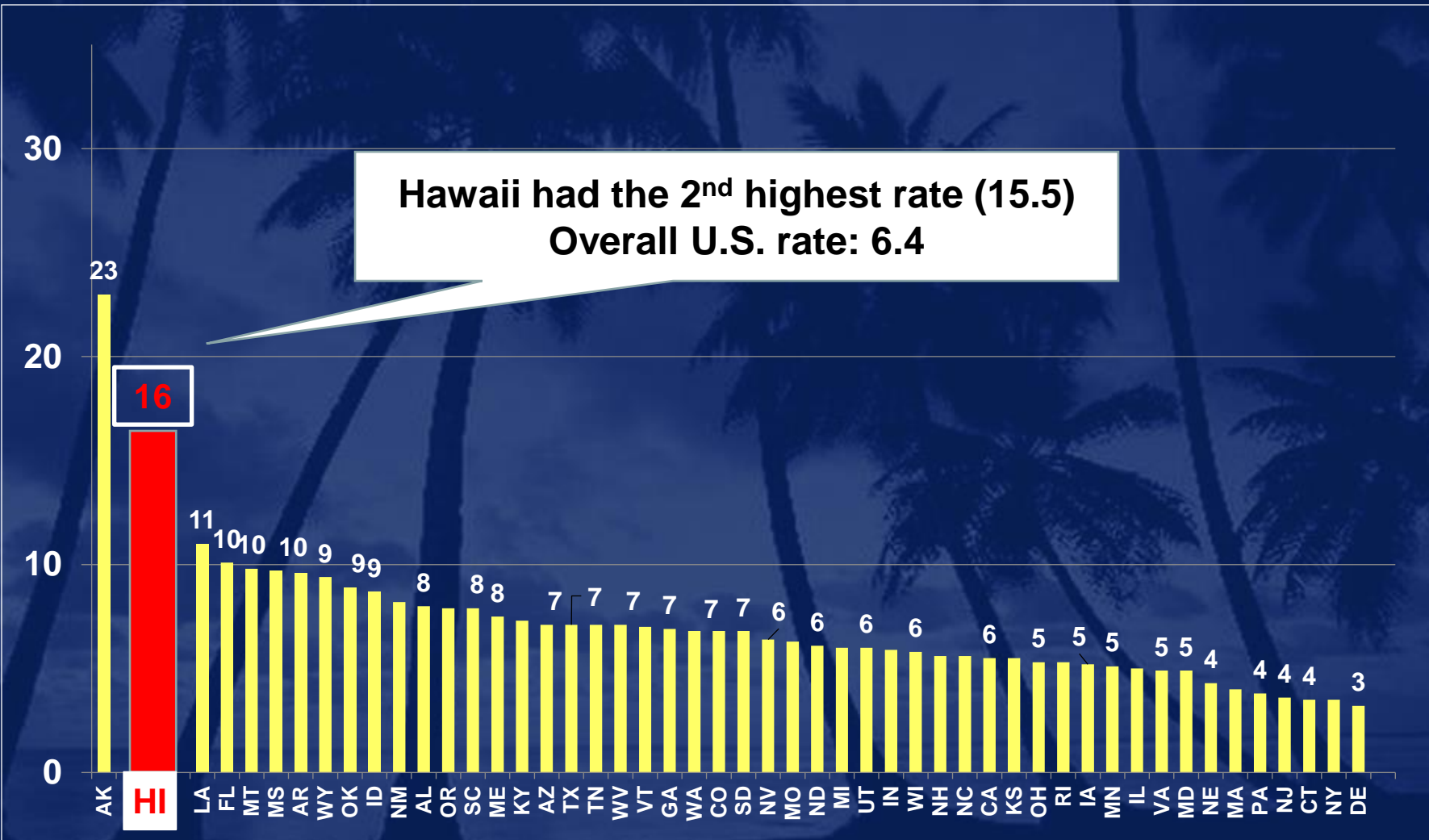
***Ph: 733-9236
E-mail: daniel.galanis@doh.hawaii.gov***

Methodology

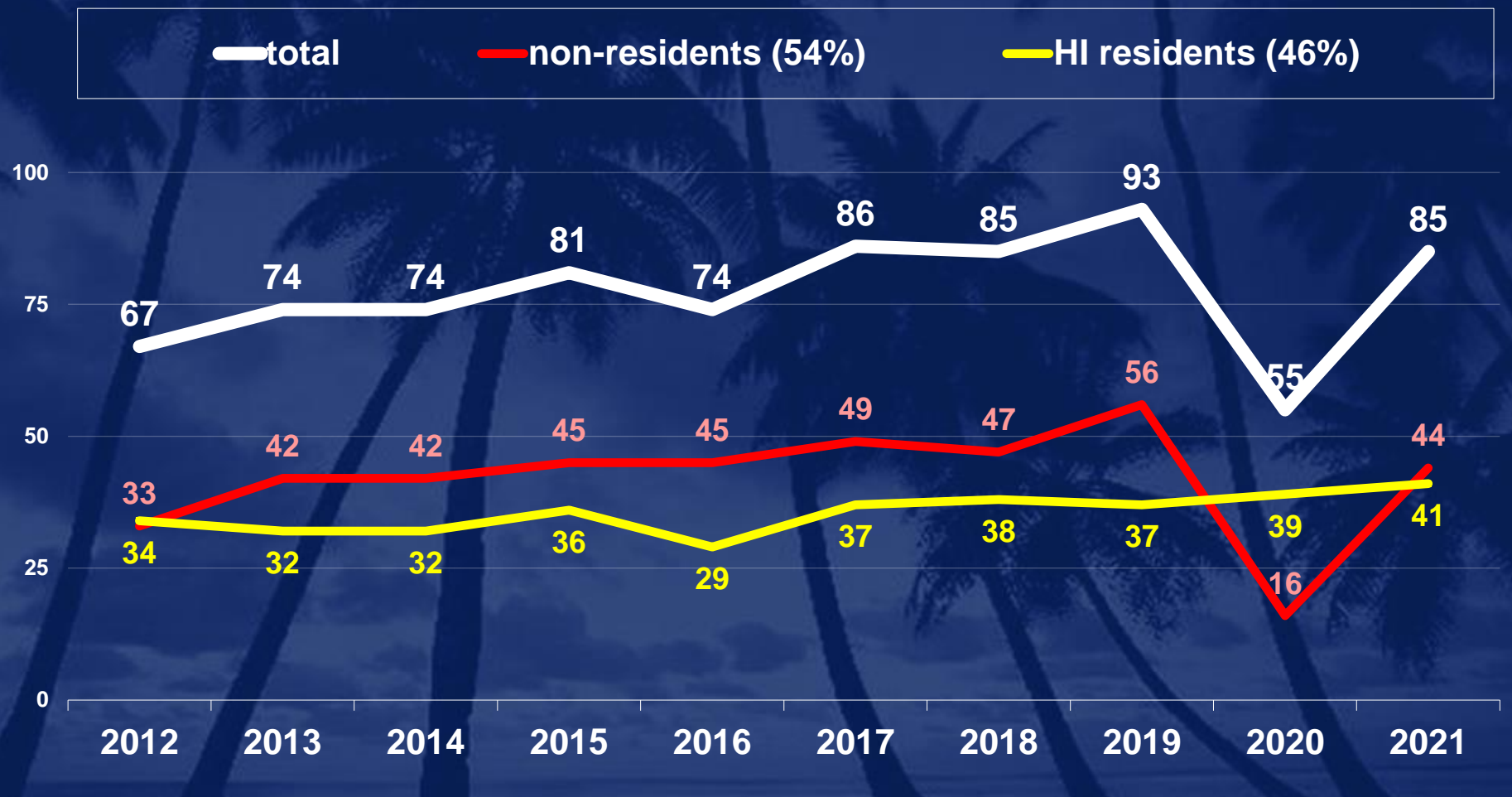
- **Primary data source: death certificate database**
 - ***Includes:***
 - *Unintentional deaths with drowning as underlying cause of death (UCD)*
 - *Deaths (unintentional or related to diseases) with drowning as contributing cause of death (CCD)*
 - ***Excludes:***
 - *Deaths with drowning as underlying cause of death, but either intentional (usually suicide, but also homicide) or possibly intentional (undetermined intent)*
- **UCD drownings are 93% of the total**
 - *Proportion varies by year (lowest (82%) in 2016)*
 - *Proportion varies by county (lowest (89%) for Maui)*

Average annual drowning* fatality rate (/1,000,000), by state, 2016-2020

(*Includes drownings in all environments among residents of that state)



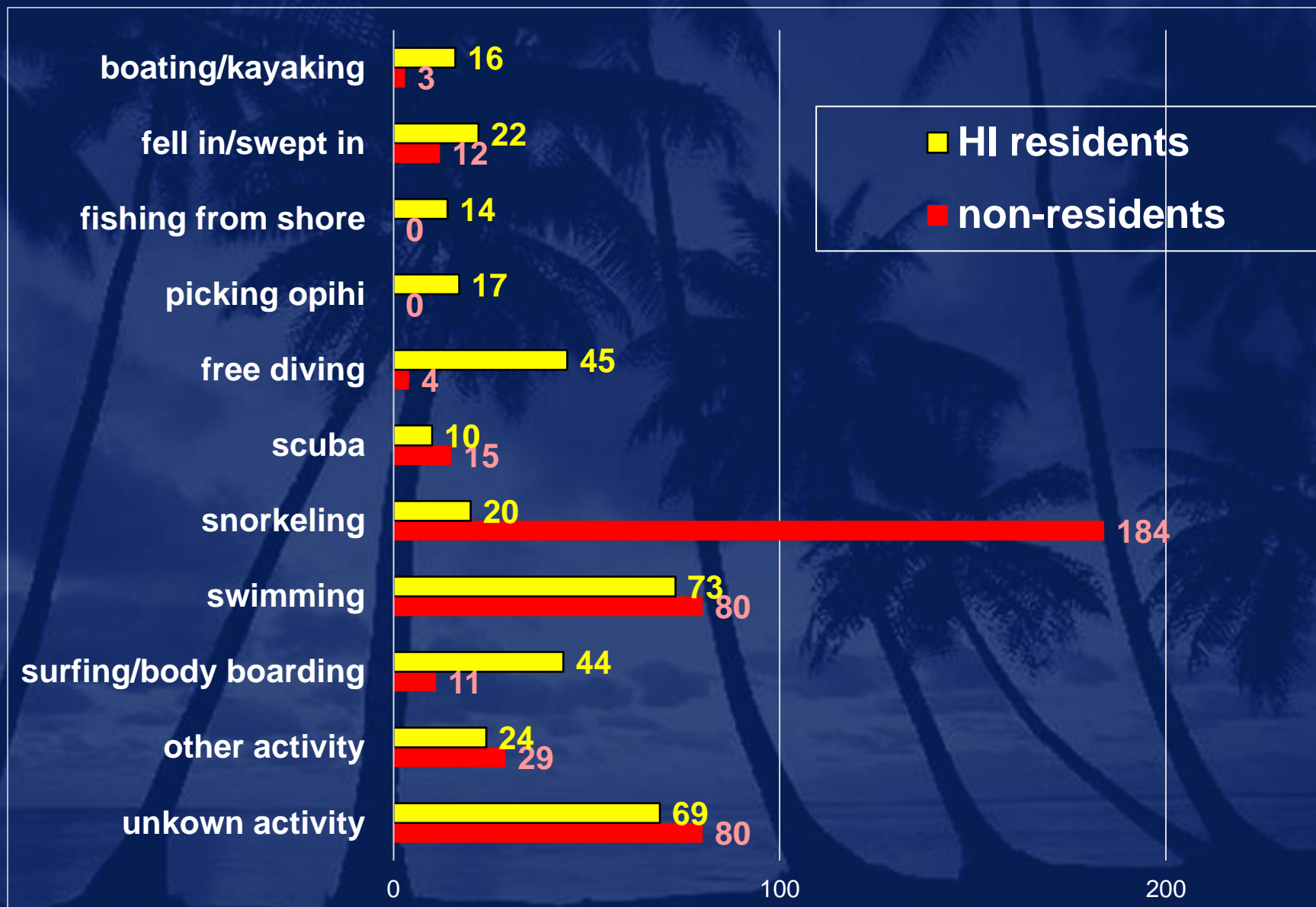
Fatal ocean drownings in Hawaii, by victim residence status 2012-2021



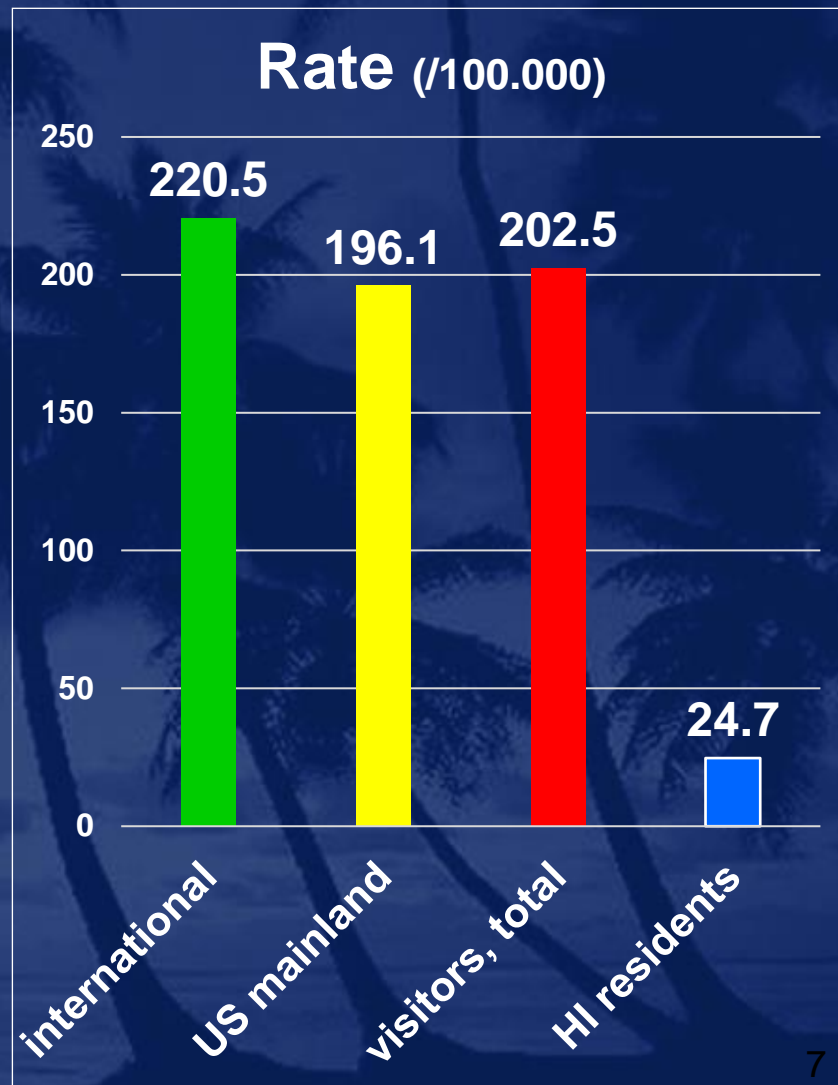
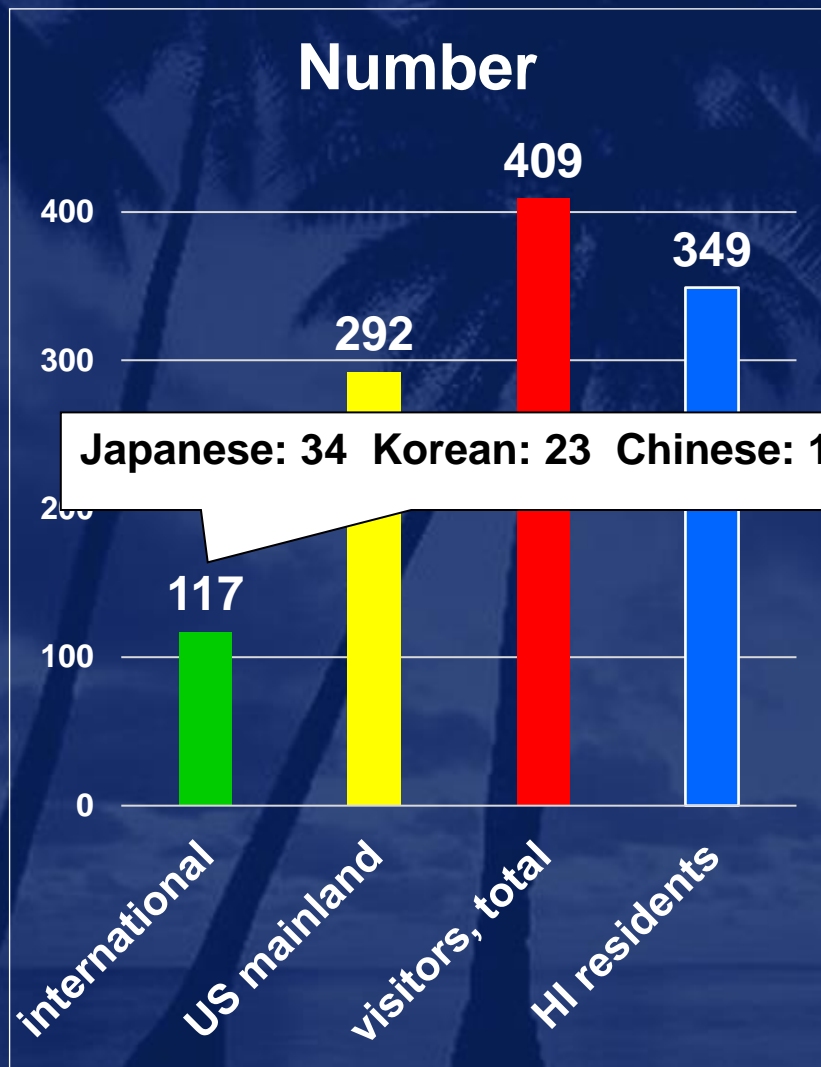
Ocean drownings in Hawaii, by activity of victim, 2012-2021



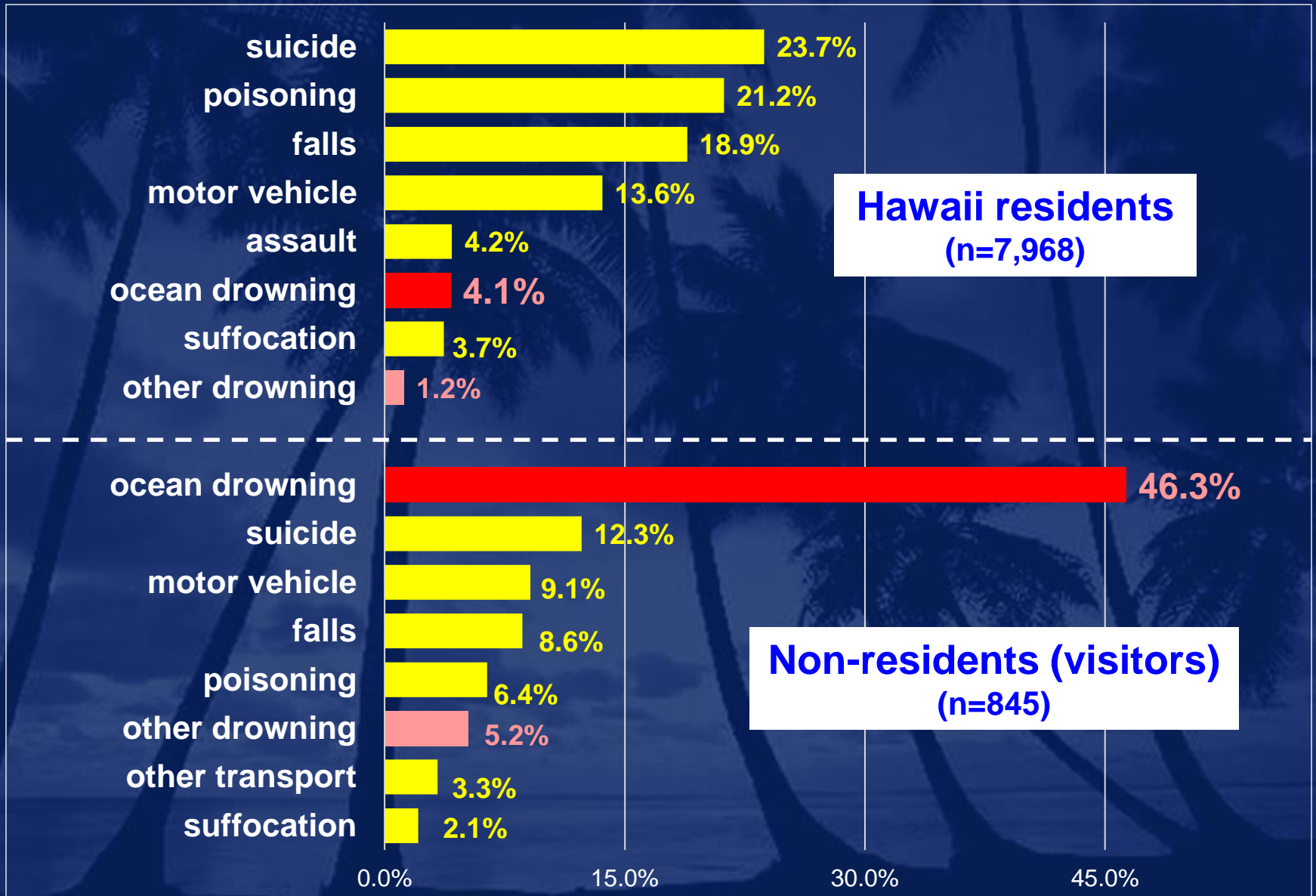
Ocean drownings in Hawaii, by residence and activity of victim, 2012-2021



Number and ten-year rate of ocean drownings in Hawaii, by residence of victim, 2011-2020



Leading causes of fatal injuries in Hawaii, by residence of victims, 2012-2021





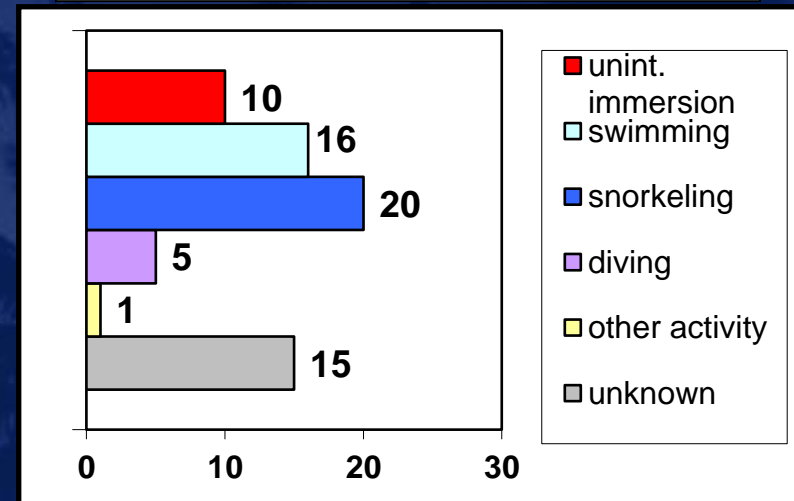
County-specific data

Ocean drownings on Kauai, 2012-2021

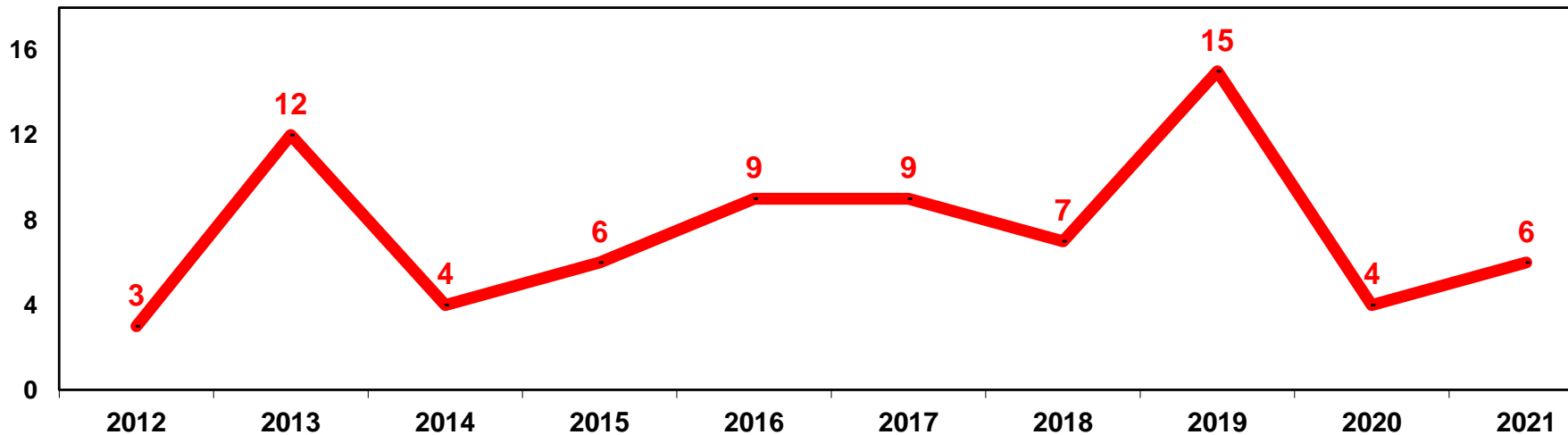
- Summary

- *75 total, 3 to 15 per year*
- *No clear trend*
- *Mostly (71%) non-residents*
- *Activity: Snorkeling (27%) and swimming (21%)*

Number of drownings, by activity



Annual number

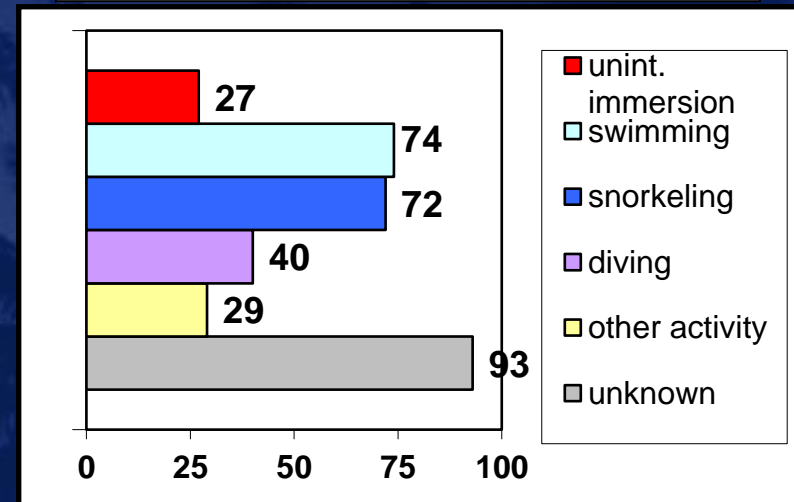


Ocean drownings on Oahu, 2012-2021

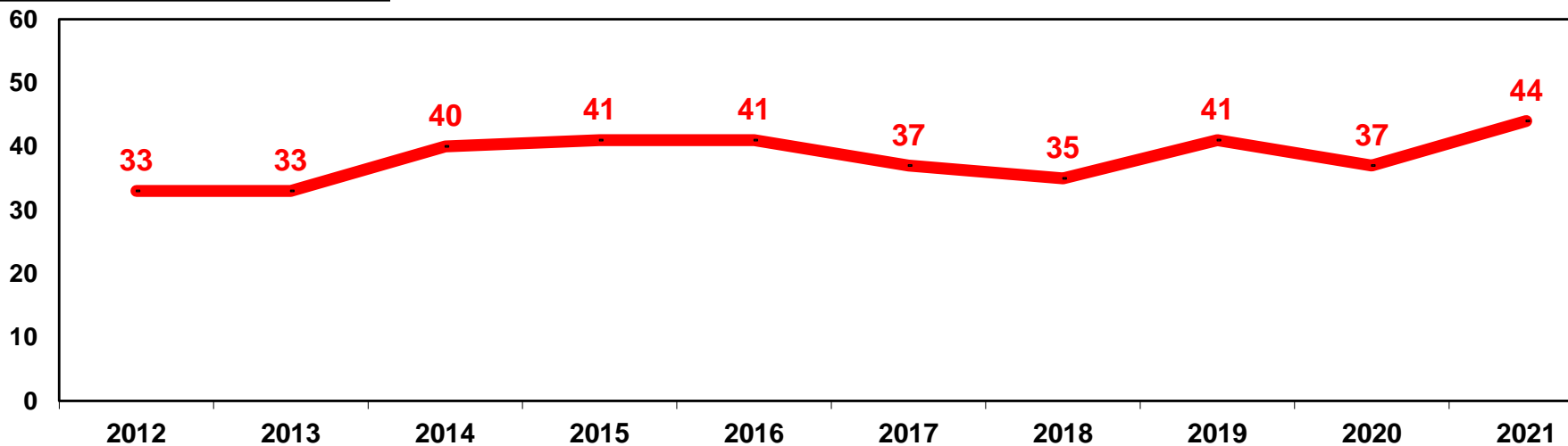
- Summary

- **382 total, 33 to 44 per year**
- **No clear trend**
- **Mostly (55%) residents**
- **Activity: Swimming (19%) and snorkeling (19%)**

Number of drownings, by activity



Annual number

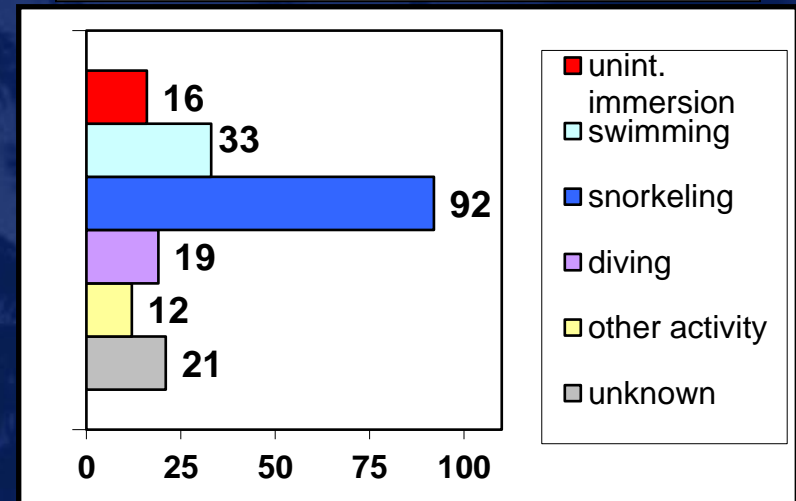


Ocean drownings on Maui County, 2012-2021

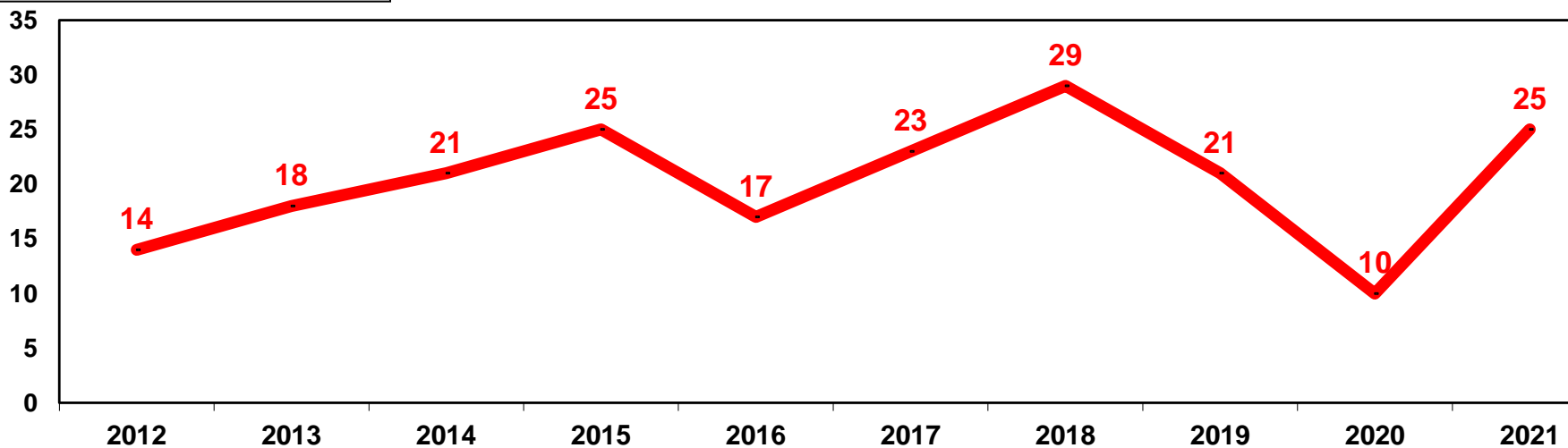
- Summary

- **203 total, 10 to 29 per year**
- **No clear trend**
- **Mostly (69%) non-residents**
- **Activity: Snorkeling (45%)**

Number of drownings, by activity



Annual number

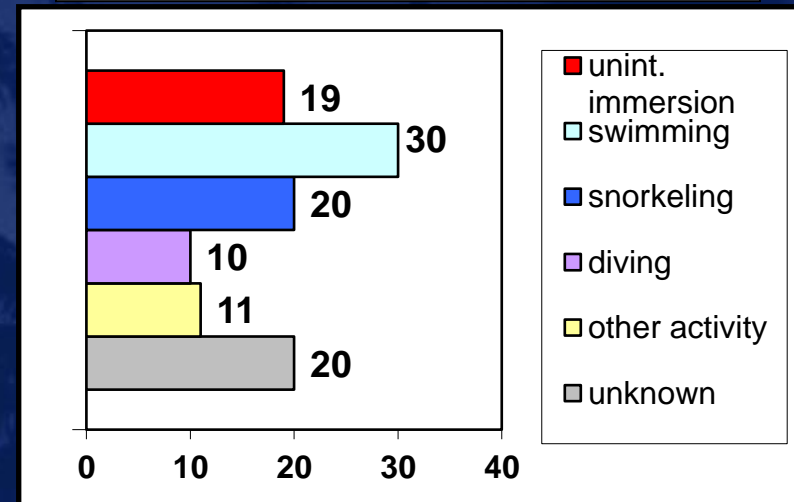


Ocean drownings on Hawaii County, 2012-2021

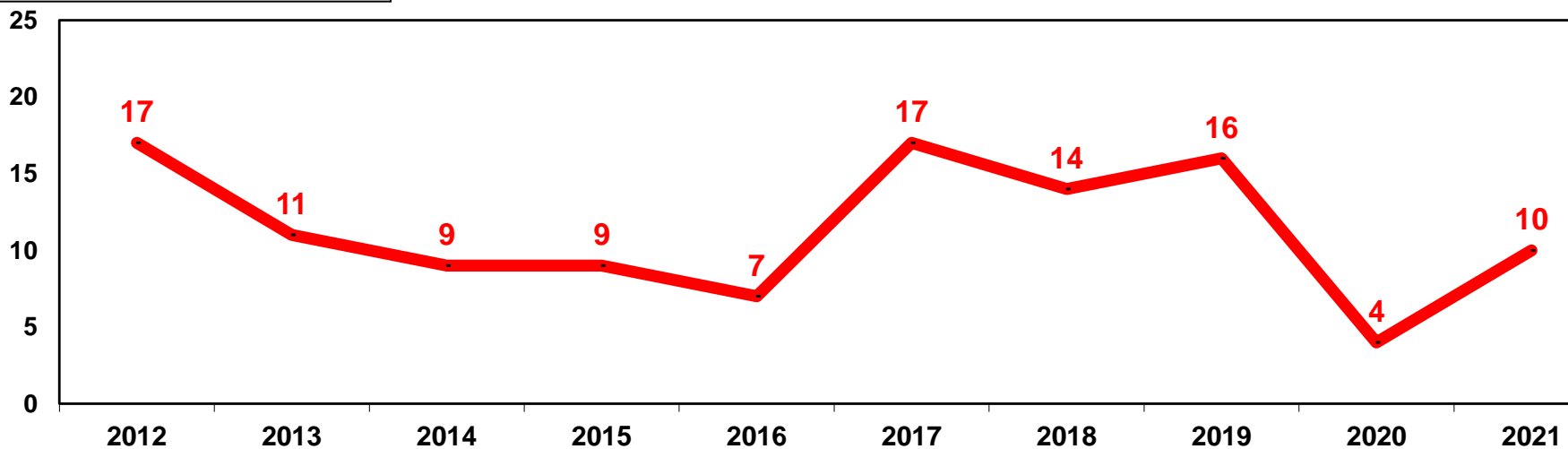
- Summary

- *114 total, 4 to 17 per year*
- *No clear trend*
- *Mostly (54%) residents*
- *Activity: Swimming (26%), snorkeling (18%), unintentional immersions (17%)*

Number of drownings, by activity



Annual number



SB-116

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:51:42 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Pereira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

During his lifetime (1890-1968) Duke Kahanamoku was the embodiment of Aloha and faced every obstacle and challenge placed before him with humility and grace.

He is certainly deserving of the honor of being memorialized on our vehicle license plates.

I enthusiastically support passage of this bill in honor of The Duke.

Aloha,

AP

SB-116

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 8:53:19 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT: "Eh gotta try eh."

SB-116

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:10:56 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duane DeSoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii deserves a Duke Kahanamoku plate to honor Hawaiian hero who happens to be an international hero.

SB-116

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 4:46:54 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Bergeman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, members of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs, Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

I am in strong support of SB 116 to create a Duke Kahanamoku license plate to raise money for water safety and swim education. I encourage you to pass this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Dana C. Bergeman

HEARING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
AND
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

ATTN: CHAIRS GLENN WAKAI & CHRIS LEE,
VICE CHAIR BRANDON J.C. ELEFANTE & LORRAINE R. INOUYE

Testimony Strongly Supporting SB116
Relating to Special Number Plates

February 8, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committees on Committees on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

My name is Alexa Deike and I am writing in **strong support** of SB116. I am recent graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with certificates in Environmental Law and Native Hawaiian Law. Today, I am testifying not as an attorney, but as a surfer and supporter of Native Hawaiian rights.

A special license plate for Duke Paoa Kahinu Mokoe Hulikohola Kahanamoku will not only honor his legacy, but also inspire future generations to follow his footsteps.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Alexa Deike, Esq.

SB-116

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:25:26 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Lueck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Few would argue that no one better represents the heart and soul of the Hawaiian Islands than Duke Kahanamoku. I enthusiastically support this bill that recognizes the iconic legacy of Duke and will raise valuable funding for the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation. As a local resident I would be proud to showcase this license plate on my car, showing my respect for our ambassador of Aloha. The plate will create interest from our visitors and generate needed conversation about the heritage of surfing culture in Hawaii. Alongside SB117 Carissa Moore tribute license plate both reinforce Hawaii as the surfing capital of the world.

SB-116

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 12:11:41 AM
Testimony for TCA on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth BERGER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight my support in favor of the Duke Kahanamoku license plate.

Throughout his life, Duke Kahanamoku displayed all of the attributes of Aloha which we are proud as citizens of this beautiful State. As he honored Hawaii representing the State around the world, we would be well-served to have the chance to honor his legacy in return, by demonstrating our appreciation for his dedication by promoting him on a license plate.

Please proceed with the Bill to honor this great Hawaiian.

SB-116

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 12:33:59 AM
Testimony for TCA on 2/8/2023 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeanlin Bower	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this bill. Having the iconic and beloved Duke Kahanamoku on our license plates will not only be a way to honor him but to remind us of what he represented- the spirit of Aloha.