

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1158

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

May 28, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on May 28, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 2818, S.D. 2, H.D. 2,
C.D. 1

RELATING TO BOATING.
ACT 058

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

on MAY 28 2026

THE SENATE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 058
S.B. NO. 2818
S.D. 2
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BOATING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that small boat harbors
2 and boating facilities are some of the most heavily used
3 facilities in the State, for commercial and non-commercial use
4 and by residents and tourists alike. The division of
5 conservation and resources enforcement of the department of land
6 and natural resources is responsible for enforcing all statutes
7 and administrative rules under the department's jurisdiction but
8 spends a large part of its time responding to violations in
9 small boat harbors and boating facilities.

10 The legislature also finds that enforcement efforts at
11 small boat harbors and boating facilities are necessary to
12 ensure public health and safety and to prevent vandalism, theft,
13 trespassing, and squatting. The legislature believes that
14 stricter penalties are needed to deter violators and repeat
15 offenders.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to clarify
17 penalties for violations of boating and ocean recreation laws.



1 SECTION 2. Section 200-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§200-14 Violation of chapter or rules; penalty.** (a) Any
4 person who violates any provision in this chapter, or any rule
5 adopted by the department, relating to [~~boating accidents,~~
6 ~~reckless or unauthorized operation of a vessel, unauthorized~~
7 ~~mooring of a vessel, unauthorized commercial activity,~~
8 ~~unauthorized camping within state small boat harbors or boating~~
9 ~~facilities, animal abandonment within state small boat harbors~~
10 ~~or boating facilities, or creation of animal colonies within~~
11 ~~state small boat harbors or boating facilities shall be guilty~~
12 ~~of a petty misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than \$1,000.]
13 the following shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor and shall
14 be fined not more than \$1,000, imprisoned for not more than
15 thirty days, or both:~~

- 16 (1) Boating accidents and boating accident reporting
17 requirements;
18 (2) Diver's flag display requirements;
19 (3) Thrill craft or vessel speed restrictions;
20 (4) Personal flotation device requirements;



- 1 (5) Reckless or careless operation of a thrill craft or
- 2 vessel;
- 3 (6) Operating a thrill craft or vessel without valid
- 4 mandatory safety education;
- 5 (7) Operating a thrill craft or vessel without insurance
- 6 coverage required by section 200-13.5;
- 7 (8) Unauthorized mooring, anchoring, or storage of a
- 8 thrill craft or vessel;
- 9 (9) Unauthorized operation or control of a thrill craft or
- 10 vessel;
- 11 (10) Unauthorized commercial activity within state small
- 12 boat harbors, boating facilities, or waters of the
- 13 State;
- 14 (11) Unauthorized camping within state small boat harbors
- 15 or boating facilities;
- 16 (12) Unauthorized access to restricted areas within state
- 17 small boat harbors or boating facilities;
- 18 (13) Serving, sale, consumption, or possession of
- 19 intoxicating liquor within state small boat harbors or
- 20 boating facilities, except where permitted by law or
- 21 rule;



1 (14) Operating a thrill craft or vessel under the influence
2 of an intoxicant, as defined in section 291E-1;

3 (15) Falsifying a permit, vessel title, or vessel
4 registration issued under this chapter, chapter 200A,
5 or any rules adopted thereunder, with intent to avoid
6 compliance, or conceal or misrepresent the identity of
7 a permittee, vessel, or owner; or

8 (16) Animal abandonment within state small boat harbors or
9 boating facilities, or creation of animal colonies
10 within state small boat harbors or boating facilities.

11 (b) Any person who violates any rule adopted by the
12 department under this part regulating vehicular parking or
13 traffic movement shall have committed a traffic infraction as
14 set forth in chapter 291D, the adjudication of which shall be
15 subject to the provisions contained in chapter 291D. A person
16 found to have committed a traffic infraction shall be fined not
17 more than:

- 18 (1) \$100 for a first violation;
- 19 (2) \$200 for a second violation; and
- 20 (3) \$500 for a third or subsequent violation.



1 (c) As a condition of probation pursuant to sections
2 706-623 and 706-624, or as a condition to the suspension of any
3 criminal penalties, the environmental court may provide that the
4 defendant refrain, for a period not to exceed twelve months,
5 from operating any vessel, including but not limited to any
6 thrill craft or vessel engaged in parasailing or water sledding,
7 in specified geographical areas of the waters of the State.

8 (d) For the purposes of subsections (a)(8) through (13),
9 conduct shall only be considered unauthorized when that conduct
10 is prohibited or conditioned by:

11 (1) Statute;

12 (2) A rule adopted by the department;

13 (3) A permit, lease, revocable permit, or written
14 authorization issued by the department; or

15 (4) A posted restriction or written order of the
16 department that provides reasonable notice of the
17 prohibited conduct.

18 [~~(d)~~] (e) For the purposes of this section[, "~~operate~~",
19 "~~parasailing~~", "~~thrill craft~~", "~~vessel~~", "~~water sledding~~", and
20 "~~waters of the State~~" have the same meaning as those terms are
21 defined in section 200-23.]:



1 "Operate" has the same meaning as defined in section
2 200-23.

3 "Parasailing" has the same meaning as defined in section
4 200-23.

5 "Restricted area" means an area within a state small boat
6 harbor or boating facility that is designated as restricted by
7 the department by rule or written order, and that is reasonably
8 identified to the public by signage or physical markings at
9 points of entry, except when temporary restriction is required
10 for emergency operations or imminent public safety hazards.

11 "Thrill craft" has the same meaning as defined in section
12 200-23.

13 "Vessel" has the same meaning as defined in section 200-23.

14 "Water sledding" has the same meaning as defined in section
15 200-23.

16 "Waters of the State" has the same meaning as defined in
17 section 200-23."

18 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
19 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
20 begun before its effective date.



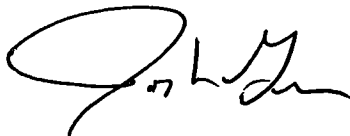
1 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



S.B. NO. 2818
S.D. 2
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 28th day of May, 2026

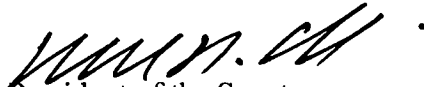



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2026.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 2818, SD 2, HD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 6, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives