

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2185-26

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 20, 2026

RE: S.C.R. No. 55

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2026  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 55 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HAWAI'I WATER SAFETY COALITION'S HAWAI'I WATER SAFETY PLAN,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to support the findings and recommendations of the Hawaii Water Safety Coalition's Hawaii Water Safety Plan.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health; Hawai'i Water Safety Coalition; National Drowning Prevention Alliance; Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition; Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation; Hawaiian Lifeguard Association; Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association; Rescue Tube Foundation; FreediveSafe! Hawai'i; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Education.

Your Committee finds that drowning is the leading cause of death for children in the State between ages one and fifteen, with twenty-six children lost between 2019 and 2023. Your Committee further finds that visitors make up less than fifteen percent of the State's average daily population but constitute the majority of drowning victims, with snorkeling accounting for ninety-one



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percent of visitor ocean drownings. Your Committee also finds that the Hawaii Water Safety Coalition, formed in 2023 and now under the umbrella of the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association, has developed the Hawaii Water Safety Plan as a comprehensive, evidenced-informed strategy aligned with the United States National Water Safety Action Plan and international best practices.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 55 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Water & Land,

  
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MARK J. HASHEM, Chair



