

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2233**-26

Honolulu, Hawaii

**APR 20**, 2026

RE: S.C.R. No. 56

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

Madame:

Your Committee on Labor, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 56  
entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING OPEN WATER  
LIFEGUARDS AS FIRST RESPONDERS IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THEIR  
ESSENTIAL ROLE IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND  
COMMUNITY WELLBEING THROUGHOUT THE STATE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to recognize open water  
lifeguards as first responders in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Department of Health; Honolulu Ocean Safety Department;  
National Drowning Prevention Alliance; North Shore Chamber of  
Commerce; Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation; Hawaii Government  
Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO; Rescue Tube  
Foundation; Hawaiian Lifeguard Association; Hawai'i Water Safety  
Coalition; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that open water lifeguards perform  
critical public safety functions by responding to emergencies in  
hazardous and unpredictable ocean and shoreline environments,  
often placing themselves at significant risk. Open water  
lifeguards are frequently among the first to arrive at emergency  
scenes, are extensively trained in lifesaving and emergency  
medical response, and routinely operate alongside police officers

2026-3214 SCR56 HSCR HMSO-1



and firefighters to protect life and property. Your Committee believes that formally recognizing open water lifeguards as first responders affirms their role within the emergency response system and supports consistent access to the protections, resources, and professional recognition necessary to enhance public safety statewide.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 56 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Labor,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JACKSON D. SALAMA, Chair



