
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE SURFING COMMISSION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that surfing, as the
2 state sport of Hawaii, is of significant cultural, social, and
3 economic value to the people and State of Hawaii, as well as the
4 many visitors who travel to the State for surfing. An estimated
5 704,000 people surf in Hawaii each year, the second-most out of
6 any state in the country. Hawaii's unique weather and
7 topography make the State especially suited for surfing, yet
8 many people are unaware of the history and exclusive connection
9 that Hawaii has with surfing.

10 The legislature also recognizes the increasing recognition
11 of surfing beyond the State of Hawaii. The 2020 Summer Olympics
12 in Tokyo will be the first Olympics games to include surfing,
13 further bolstering global recognition of the sport.

14 The purpose of this Act is to provide for a statewide
15 program to promote surfing and educate people throughout the
16 State, as well as a broader international audience, about
17 surfing's unique connection to Hawaii.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the state commission
2 on surfing within the department of accounting and general
3 services for administrative purposes.

4 (b) The commission shall consist of members who shall
5 reflect the geographic and cultural diversity of the State. The
6 membership shall include:

7 (1) The comptroller; director of commerce and consumer
8 affairs; chairperson of the board of land and natural
9 resources; director of business, economic development,
10 and tourism; and superintendent of education; or their
11 designees, as ex officio, voting members;

12 (2) Nine voting members, who shall be appointed by the
13 governor pursuant to section 26-34, Hawaii Revised
14 Statutes, except as provided in this section, as
15 follows:

16 (A) Two members shall be appointed by the governor
17 from a list of three nominees submitted by the
18 president of the senate, and two members shall be
19 appointed by the governor from a list of three
20 nominees submitted by the speaker of the house of
21 representatives;



1 (B) Three members shall be appointed by the governor
2 from the community-at-large; and

3 (C) Two members from the Hawaiian community
4 demonstrating an understanding of the culture and
5 history of surfing shall be appointed by the
6 governor from a list of nominees submitted by the
7 office of Hawaiian affairs;

8 provided that in appointing members pursuant to this
9 paragraph, the governor shall ensure gender parity in
10 the composition of the commission as a whole;

11 (3) One voting member shall be designated by the Hawaii
12 Lifeguard Association; and

13 (4) One voting member shall be designated by the Hawaii
14 Surfing Association.

15 (c) Of the appointed members, there shall be at least one
16 member from each of the counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii.

17 (d) All members shall serve for a term of four years. Any
18 vacancies occurring in the membership of the commission shall be
19 filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same
20 manner as the original appointments. No member shall serve on
21 the commission for more than two terms; provided that if a



1 member fills a vacancy and serves for the remainder of an
2 unexpired term, that member shall be considered to have served
3 one term.

4 (e) The chair and vice chair shall be selected annually
5 from the nongovernmental members of the commission appointed
6 pursuant to subsection (b)(2). A simple majority shall
7 constitute a quorum, whose affirmative vote shall be necessary
8 for all actions.

9 (f) The members shall serve without compensation.

10 (g) Any member of the commission shall be immune from
11 civil liability as provided in section 26-35.5, Hawaii Revised
12 Statutes.

13 (h) The commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to
14 state agencies to promote the surfing industry and educate
15 people about the cultural and historical significance of
16 surfing. In addition, the commission may make recommendations
17 on programs, services, and contracts relating to surfing and
18 may:

19 (1) Act as a central clearinghouse and coordinating body
20 for governmental and nongovernmental activities and
21 information relating to the promotion of surfing;



- 1 (2) Identify promising best practices that support and
- 2 engage surfers and the surfing industry;
- 3 (3) Identify obstacles that impede or prevent people from
- 4 undertaking surfing in a safe manner;
- 5 (4) Raise public awareness of surfing and its cultural and
- 6 historical connection to the State;
- 7 (5) Recommend policies and practices, within and
- 8 throughout state government, that encourage the
- 9 education and promotion of surfing;
- 10 (6) Promote, foster, encourage, and otherwise support
- 11 programs designed to educate and train people in the
- 12 sport of surfing;
- 13 (7) Promote, foster, encourage, and otherwise support
- 14 programs that promote surfing; and
- 15 (8) Do any and all things necessary to carry out its
- 16 duties and the purposes of this Act.
- 17 (i) The meetings of the commission shall be subject to the
- 18 requirements of chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.
- 19 (j) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the
- 20 commission shall be exempt from section 26-35(a), Hawaii Revised



1 Statutes, with the exception of section 26-35(a)(2), (3), (7),
2 and (8), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

3 (k) The commission shall administer funds appropriated or
4 allocated for its work and shall be authorized to accept,
5 disburse, and allocate funds that may become available from
6 other governmental and private sources; provided that all funds
7 shall be disbursed or allocated in compliance with any specific
8 designation stated by the donor and, in the absence of any
9 specific designation, the funds shall be disbursed or allocated
10 on projects related to any of the purposes of this chapter.

11 (l) As used in this section, unless the context requires
12 otherwise:

13 "Commission" means the state commission on surfing
14 established pursuant to subsection (a).

15 (m) The commission shall cease to exist on July 1, 2024.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 1459
S.D. 2
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

Report Title:

State Commission on Surfing

Description:

Establishes the temporary State Commission on Surfing. (CD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

