

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

## Voting Members:

Heidi Tsuneyoshi, Chair; Augie Tulba, Vice-Chair;  
Carol Fukunaga, Calvin Say

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Committee Meeting Held  
May 19, 2021

Honorable Tommy Waters  
Council Chair, City Council  
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Public Safety which considered Resolution 21-122 entitled:

"RESOLUTION URGING THE MAYOR TO EXERCISE HIS EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION AUTHORITY TO CREATE A SEPARATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE CITY'S OCEAN SAFETY AND LIFEGUARD SERVICES PERSONNEL,"

introduced on May 13, 2021, reports as follows:

The purpose of Resolution 21-122 is to urge the Mayor to exercise his executive reorganization authority to create a separate department for the City's Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services personnel.

The Mayor provided comments on the Resolution, stating his support for the Ocean Safety Division ("OSD") of the City's Department of Emergency Services ("DES"), and that internal conversations were ongoing to ensure necessary resources were provided as the OSD's dawn-to-dusk operations expand. The Mayor expressed the need for further conversations and planning to take place should he decide to separate the OSD from the DES, citing the anticipated financial burden of transferring administration of emergency medical services from the State to the City.

The Director of the DES, Dr. James Ireland, provided background information on the OSD and a general overview of the DES. He also provided comments on the need to provide more resources for the OSD and reiterated his support for the OSD.

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## CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

ADOPTED ON **JUN 2 2021**

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. **174**

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The Acting Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department ("HFD"), Lionel Camara, Jr., provided background information on the HFD's historical involvement and involvement with the OSD.

Your Committee also heard remote testimony from two individuals in support of the Resolution.

Your Committee received written testimony in support of the Resolution from 173 individuals. Three individuals offered comments on the Resolution. Written testimony in support was received from 12 organizations: Ocean Safety, Ocean Safety 'Ohana, Ocean Safety Honolulu, Ocean Safety / Life Guards, North Shore Lifeguard Association, Hawaii Government Employees Association, Hawaiian Lifeguard Association, Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui, Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, City and County Lifeguards, Hawaiian Ocean Adventures, and the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee on Public Safety is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 21-122 and recommends its adoption. Fukunaga, Tsuneyoshi, Tulba - 3; Noes: Say - 1.)

Respectfully submitted,



Committee Chair

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