

**RES24-050
Testimony**

MISC. COMM. 58

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Feb 28, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 102

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Ikaika Won	Email: ikaikawon@yahoo.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 22, 2024 @ 09:20 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support Ocean Safety in becoming it's own department. The safety of Hawaii's residents and visitors has long depended on the hard working individuals of this organization and the City and County of Honolulu has long neglected the needs and well being of these men and women to do their job and make a liveable wage. I believe that if Ocean Safety were to become a Department, it would allow the organization to be free of the confines that it currently struggles with, like offering competitive wages for quality employees, sufficient equipment and facilities just to name a few, and also relieving the leaders of the organization from the restrictions of the Emergency Services Department which would allow them to make better and effective decisions for their workers. There are generations of Honolulu Lifeguards that have suffered from decades of disregard by City officials. These individuals have put their own lives on the line to save thousands if not millions of lives since the beginning of this heritage. It is time for these brave men and women to get the recognition and respect that they deserve, starting with this Bill. I support this Bill, for Ocean Safety to become a Department, Aloha.</p>		
Name: Chelsey Hatori	Email: chlsyhtr@gmail.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 23, 2024 @ 01:57 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Ocean Safety needs to become it's own department.</p>		
Name: Denise Antolini	Email: antolinid@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 23, 2024 @ 01:57 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Council Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,</p> <p>I write in STRONG SUPPORT of Res24-050, "INITIATING AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 1973 (AMENDED 2017 EDITION), AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN SAFETY."</p> <p>Our Honolulu Lifeguards deserve to be an independent City Department - in full recognition of their world-class performance and unique responsibilities, they deserve first-class support from the City and the public.</p> <p>With gratitude to the City Emergency Services Department and Mayor Blangiardi for moving OSD toward a Department level, I ask that you please pass this Resolution and allow the public the opportunity to support our Lifeguards by putting this measure on the ballot as a Charter Amendment in 2024.</p> <p>Mahalo,</p> <p>Denise Antolini Ppkea Resident North Shore, Oahu</p>		
Name: John Silberstein	Email: islandsurfresq@aol.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 23, 2024 @ 05:30 PM
Name: Tiana Tomoda-Bannert	Email: tianatomoda@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Feb 24, 2024 @ 08:20 AM
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Testimony:
Aloha Council Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

I write in STRONG SUPPORT of Res24-050, "INITIATING AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 1973 (AMENDED 2017 EDITION), AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN SAFETY."

Our Honolulu Lifeguards deserve your support to become an independent City Department because [they are awesome, they are under-supported, they have a unique mission, world class deserves the best support from the City, Lifeguards need their own voice in the City administration alongside Emergency Services, add your own reasons)

Please pass this Resolution and allow the public the opportunity to support our Lifeguards by putting this measure on the ballot as a Charter Amendment in 2024.

Mahalo,

Tiana Tomoda-Bannert

Name: Christopher Stacy	Email: ikuwai19944@yahoo.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 24, 2024 @ 02:56 PM

Testimony:
I am in full support for Ocean Safety becoming their own department, I believe they are the most professional and talented watermen and women in the world. They deserve so much more for what they do and serve for our community. I have watched these men and woman save lives day in and day out. Our community feels very safe when these guards are watching over us. Please let them become their own department. MAHALO!

Name: Joseph Vitek	Email: joevitek1@hotmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 24, 2024 @ 02:58 PM

Testimony:
EMS and Ocean would run more efficiently if they were separate department. Win win for community and the departments.

Name: Luke Shepardson	Email: lukeshpardson10@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 24, 2024 @ 03:30 PM

Testimony:
I am in support of ocean safety becoming its own department, it will ensure that ocean safety gets the proper funding and needs to keep our locals and visitors safe to the best of our abilities!!

Name: Drew Lamore	Email: drewlamore@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Ocean safety	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 24, 2024 @ 03:36 PM

Testimony:
If passed it will benefit both EMS and OSD

Name: Justin Riddleberger	Email: riddleberger56@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

OSD	Support	Feb 24, 2024 @ 03:39 PM
<p>Testimony: This will help provide better safety to for the tourists and local community</p>		
Name: Madeline Anzivino	Email: anzivino@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 24, 2024 @ 04:18 PM
<p>Testimony: Let Ocean Safety become its own department to better our budget, equipment, community outreach, and working conditions of the lifeguards</p>		
Name: Shawn Wolff	Email: swolff.hnl@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 24, 2024 @ 04:25 PM
<p>Testimony: Ocean safety has different needs as a department than the umbrella of Honolulu emergency services department. Just the same as honolulu police department and Honolulu fire department have different needs than Honolulu emergency services department. All entities work together cohesively but have their own needs when it comes to resources, supplies, staffing.</p>		
Name: Lauren Blickley	Email: lblickley@surfrider.org	Zip: 96779
Representing: Surfrider Foundation	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 24, 2024 @ 10:31 PM
Name: glenn Pang	Email: naia82904@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2024 @ 08:07 AM
<p>Testimony: Aloha & Mahalo for the opportunity to show my support of Resolution 24-050 (establishing a Department of Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Service Division.</p> <p>Establishing an OSD will only strengthen our island Risk Management Team (HPD, HFD, EMS,) in providing safety, prevention, and proactive action for both our residents and visitors</p> <p>Please support Res. 24-050</p> <p>glenn pang</p>		
Name: Mo Freitas	Email: momosurfs@yahoo.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2024 @ 09:14 AM
<p>Testimony: In support of ocean Saftey becoming their own department.</p>		
Name: Alyssa McPoland	Email: allyjmcp@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2024 @ 02:22 PM
<p>Testimony: Ocean Safety should be its own department, with its own designated funding to delegate for itself. I can think of many beaches</p>		

that are in need of towers, and have had experiences where I have noticed outdated equipment at lifeguard towers, and that they receive hand me downs from Fire and EMS that are too outdated for them. These lifeguards have full EMT training with a fraction of the pay...they just want to help out the community and love the ocean; I think this is a way to take care of them so they can better take care of us.

Name: Joshua Budroe	Email: liljabsboy808@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2024 @ 02:27 PM

Testimony:
I believe Ocean Safety should be its own department, instead of a part of EMS. With the better funding that would come from this initiative, we will be able to have better equipment to do better at our jobs, more training and better facilities, more employees, and be better compensated to be able to stay in Hawaii. As a new Ocean Safety Officer, I love my job even though it is barely enough to afford to stay in my home of Hawaii. We put our lives on the line to make sure our community is safe, and we can barely afford to get by even with working a second job. As our own department, I believe we would be able to have more towers to cover more coastline, better equipment to help us do our jobs better, more mobile response units and rescue jet skis to ensure ocean safety for more of the community, and be able to hire more lifeguards.

Name: Norman Skorge	Email: msdhawaii01@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2024 @ 03:00 PM

Testimony:
Ocean Safety in Hawai'i is unique and deserves its own department outside of EMS.

Name: Dolan Eversole	Email: dolaneversole@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2024 @ 04:44 PM

Testimony:
I support this charter amendment and the subsequent formation of the Dept of Ocean Safety for all the reasons mentioned in the resolution. As a former Ocean Safety Officer this is an important step forward to advance the Department and its ability to provide critical first responder services.

Name: Gary Yoshioka	Email: gary.yoshioka@hmstores.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2024 @ 05:21 PM

Testimony:
This action is overdue and would enhance the focus and support of this critical life saving function that supports the economy of our City and State. I support this resolution. Mahalo!

Name: Tamayo Perry	Email: oahusurfingexperience@aol.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2024 @ 05:31 PM

Testimony:
I Tamayo Perry, support
Resolution 24-050 . It is in everyone's best interest for
Ocean Safety to become its own independent Department. This step in the right direction will only allow Ocean Safety to become a more efficient & useful tool in regards to public safety.
Mahalo nui loa for taking the time to hear & acknowledge my testimony on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Tamayo Perry		
Name: Bruce Maeda	Email: bmaeda12@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2024 @ 06:11 PM
<p>Testimony: My name is Bruce Maeda. I'm a former professional bodyboarder and active waterman, currently 55 years old. Throughout my decades in the water I've surfed around the entire State and have always felt that we need more towers and Lifeguards at key spots to safeguard and respond to ocean activity emergencies. This would be a great step forward to protect the next generation of keiki during ocean based activities.</p>		
Name: Dylan Gleed	Email: dylan.gleed@hotmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2024 @ 06:19 PM
<p>Testimony: In support of this bill! Too long have our lifeguards been neglected on the island of Oahu.</p>		
Name: Sinjin Bradley	Email: sinjin.bradley@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2024 @ 06:21 PM
<p>Testimony: I support RES24-050 to make an Ocean Safety Department</p>		
Name: Dane Thompson	Email: danekthompson@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2024 @ 06:31 PM
<p>Testimony: I believe a department of ocean safety would be beneficial to both ocean safety workers and the public.</p>		
Name: Louis Sarkes	Email: moblea@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 25, 2024 @ 09:51 PM
<p>Testimony: I support RES 24-050.</p>		
Name: Barbara Blum	Email: barbarablum76@yahoo.com	Zip: 96839
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 08:19 AM
<p>Testimony: Ocean safety needs support and funds to continue to serve the community and visitors.</p>		
Name: Frederic Booth III	Email: freddybooth@hotmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 08:28 AM
<p>Testimony: I am a 22 year Ocean Safety Lifeguard on the North Shore and am in full support of Ocean Safety becoming its own department. i</p>		

am also in full support of this being on the ballot. Aloha Freddy Booth		
Name: Jeffrey Okuyama	Email: jeffreyokuy@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 09:00 AM
Testimony: I am in support		
Name: Bronson Sterling	Email: brinsterling@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 09:01 AM
Testimony: If passed it will be best for both ocean safety and ems to get the proper needed support and budget and equipment we need to serve the public to it fullest capabilities		
Name: Delys Okuyama	Email: msrecca808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 09:03 AM
Testimony: I am in support		
Name: Kekoa Kekumano	Email: koabo1@hotmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 09:04 AM
Testimony: I support		
Name: Bronson Sterling	Email: bronsterling@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 09:05 AM
Testimony: If passed it will be best for both ocean safety and ems to get the needed resources and funding to keep serving the public to it fullest capabilities		
Name: Chip Hartman	Email: seachip@yahoo.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 09:18 AM
Testimony: Aloha Council Members, I am a retired HFD firefighter and have seen the issue of who should oversee the Ocean Water Safety Dept. for 30 years. It has been discussed many times whether Water Safety should be moved under HFD or left with EMS. Water Safety, as a City provided service, has its own hiring, training, and work related management protocols which makes them very different from EMS which they operate under now. I feel it is long past time to make them a stand alone department within our City and support RES24-050. Mahalo, Chip Hartman		
Name: Max Mckinley	Email: mr96712@icloud.com	Zip: 96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Feb 26, 2024 @ 09:23 AM
<p>Testimony: Will benefit both EMS and OSD</p>		
Name: John Thielst	Email: thielst@coffman.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 09:35 AM
<p>Testimony: Aloha Council Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,</p> <p>I write in STRONG SUPPORT of Res24-050, "INITIATING AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 1973 (AMENDED 2017 EDITION), AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN SAFETY."</p> <p>Our Honolulu Lifeguards deserve your support to become an independent City Department because [they are awesome, they are under-supported, they have a unique mission, world class deserves the best support from the City, Lifeguards need their own voice in the City administration alongside Emergency Services, add your own reasons)</p> <p>Please pass this Resolution and allow the public the opportunity to support our Lifeguards by putting this measure on the ballot as a Charter Amendment in 2024.</p> <p>Thank you, John Thielst 37 Year NorthShore Resident</p>		
Name: Robert Beall	Email: junta.clarity.0n@icloud.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 09:52 AM
<p>Testimony: If passed Benefit both EMS and OSD.</p>		
Name: Robert Scott	Email: 323robertscott@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 10:19 AM
<p>Testimony: Aloha Council Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,</p> <p>I write in STRONG SUPPORT of Res24-050, "INITIATING AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 1973 (AMENDED 2017 EDITION), AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN SAFETY."</p> <p>I grew up at Sandy Beach and watched countless rescues. Honolulu lifeguards are heroes and role models. They provide an essential service to residents and visitors. Lifeguards need an independent voice working with Emergency Services. The guards know their work and responsibility and are best suited to speak to their needs.</p> <p>Please pass this Resolution and allow the public the opportunity to support our Lifeguards by putting this measure on the ballot as a Charter Amendment in 2024.</p> <p>Mahalo, Robert Scott</p>		

Name: Jessamy Town Hornor	Email: jessamyhornor@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 10:37 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing in strong support of this resolution. I have been an ocean safety advocate for more than seven years ever since losing my husband and youngest daughter at the Makapu'u Tidepools in 2016 due to a massive rogue wave set from an offshore storm that they did not know about. Since then I have supported the need for more outreach and prevention efforts from Ocean Safety, and it has come to my attention that the current set up with Ocean Safety under EMS significantly limits their ability to advocate for what they need, including a more robust outreach campaign. Having a separate department would allow them to determine their own messaging and partner further on outreach initiatives. Much more could be done on the prevention side to reduce the need for so many on-site interventions and rescues. More prevention outreach would actually save money - and it would also be an investment in critical safety services in a state surrounded be water where drowning is the leading cause of death for visitors and where residents have the 2nd highest rate of drowning in the nation. Of course most of these drownings occur right here on Oahu as the island with the highest population and visitor numbers, and we have a duty to do all we can to reduce this grim data. I know our lifeguards are doing all they can in the current situation, and this shift to a full Department is critical to expanding their capacity to do more. The experts in ocean safety should determine how to best do their job of 'guarding lives.' Ocean Safety leadership should be able to speak freely in relation to their vision and needs and to determine the best use of available funds. A separate department would also allow them to innovate as leaders in our waterman culture. Our world-class lifeguards need to be supported and celebrated, and a separate Honolulu Department of Ocean Safety is the best way to do so.</p> <p>Mahalo, Jessamy Town Hornor Founder, Ocean Safety 'Ohana Coordinator, Hawaii Water Safety Coalition</p>		
Name: Mack Crilley	Email: mackcrilley@gmail.com	Zip: 96753
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 10:47 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Life guards deserve their own department better pay and better facilities! They do the job that nobody else can and have to deal with some of the heaviest situations mentally and physically on a daily basis! Take care of our hero's !!!</p>		
Name: Chris Genera	Email: cgenera@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 11:07 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I SUPPORT THE AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 1973 (AMENDED 2017 EDITION), AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN SAFETY. IT IS A PROACTIVE INITIATIVE TO ENSURE THE REQUIRED ORGANIZATIONAL BUDGET TO SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC SAFTEY.</p>		
Name: Ralph Goto	Email: ralphgoto@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 11:18 AM
Name: Matt Arakaki	Email: matthew_arakaki@yahoo.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 12:35 PM

Testimony:
I support RES24-050. The beaches seem safer with their extended hours and with Ocean Safety having their own budget this could help the lifeguard's working conditions and better equipment. Mahalo

Name: James Foti	Email: jkfoti@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Kanaka Ikaika Racing Association	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 12:47 PM

Testimony:
Aloha,
My name is Jim Foti, 2017 inductee into the Hawaii Waterman Hall of Fame, outrigger paddling coach and competitor, and Executive director for Kanaka Ikaika Racing Association, a non profit dedicated to perpetuating Hawaiian Culture, maintaining health and wellness and stewarding our coastal environment through ocean paddle sports.

I have been privy to how the C&C Ocean Safety and Lifeguard program operates, having many close friends in the dept. I see an enormous amount of inefficiencies which result in money and productive time wasted, which translates into the Ocean Safety department not being able to perform their task to the best of their ability. We are an island and Ocean Safety is a big concern.

I am in favor of making Ocean Safety a stand alone department to manage their personnel, funding and resources in the most efficient manner.

Mahalo,
Jim Foti

Name: David Kalani Vierra	Email: dvierra@kauai.gov	Zip: 96766
Representing: Hawaiian Lifeguard Association	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 12:59 PM

Name: Jared Jovero	Email: churverobrewers@yahoo.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Ocean safety	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 01:09 PM

Testimony:
I support. Make it happen

Name: kamakani froiseth	Email: kamakanifroiseth@live.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 01:48 PM

Testimony:
I support RES24-050. The beaches seem safer with their extended hours and with Ocean Safety having their own budget this could help the lifeguard's working conditions and better equipment. Mahalo

Name: Kurt Lager	Email: lager.kurt@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 02:10 PM

Testimony:
Aloha Council Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

I write in STRONG SUPPORT of Res24-050, "INITIATING AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 1973 (AMENDED 2017 EDITION), AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN SAFETY."

Our Honolulu Lifeguards deserve to be an independent City Department. In the course of their 107-year history, they have grown

and established themselves as an equal among other first responder agencies, outgrowing their current position underneath the Emergency Services Department. This is the correct and necessary next step in them being able to provide world-class service to all residents and visitors of Oahu. Please allow the public the opportunity to support our lifeguards by putting this measure on the ballot as a Charter Amendment in 2024.

Mahalo,

Kurt Lager

Name: Josh Rossen	Email: rossenjosh@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 03:07 PM

Testimony:
I am in very strong support of Ocean Safety becoming its own department.
Mahalo

Name: Donald Rodgers	Email: djrogers03@yahoo.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Pacific Ocean Patrol LLC	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 03:30 PM

Testimony:
Ocean Safety needs better facilities and better equipment. If ocean safety becomes its own Department I believe it will achieve these goals. The public deserves better and Ocean Safety needs more funding. I hope my testimony is valued. Mahalo.

Name: Emilia Perry	Email: emiliadas@aol.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 07:54 PM

Testimony:
I Emilia Perry, support
Resolution 24-050 . It is in everyone's best interest for
Ocean Safety to become its own independent Department. This is a good step in the right direction. It will allow Ocean Safety to become a more effective & useful tool in regards to public safety.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

From,
Emilia Perry

Name: Josh Barber	Email: jbb0811@gmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 08:14 PM

Testimony:
Aloha, my name is Josh Barber and currently serving as a Water Safety Officer (WSO) for Honolulu Ocean Safety (HOS). I would like to begin with adding that I am in full support of HOS becoming its own department.

The upper echelon of the decision-making process needs to be from those who are educated and experienced within the realm in which we operate. Utilizing experienced EMT's and paramedics as an example, they perform phenomenally and untouchable at what they do and are in direct command by others who have previously filled those duties. The continued success, negotiation of challenges, and/or improvements of any organization starts with the best leaders being in the best positions. We have spectacular leadership however, falling under an umbrella of another limits them to a large degree. WSO's have an entirely different skillset predominantly operating off of the abilities of proactiveness, ocean knowledge/experience, strategic vigilance and proper application of all. Any department expected to perform at its fullest potential needs to have its leaders in positions who have

experience operating in the capacity of our mission statement.

Secondly, funding is another topic that can be handled in an improved manner. This year the funding of HOS differs significantly compared to the previous year. The condition of our equipment and needs for new equipment is the result. As HOS operating as its own department will alleviate need in taking needed funds for the needs of another entity. Funding is an integral aspect when it comes to expectations of operating at fullest potential.

Lastly, I would like to briefly touch on manpower. HOS is responsible for providing service to 227 miles of coastline surrounding the island of O'ahu. This includes beaches and near-shore waters (1 mile offshore). A major challenge that we have faced is not a lack of willing and able people who want to join our ranks as WSO's, it is the lack of positions available and has been an ongoing issue. With the ever-increasing amount of commercial/ocean-related activity we need to further consider HOS as a department to better adapt with challenges faced that are increasing over the years. This is another form of improvement that could be addressed and handled seamlessly by HOS being its own department.

In conclusion, times are constantly changing along with the challenges faced. HOS operating as its own department can only help with furthering our success and adaptation in terms of future operational capabilities. Ultimately our service to the people remains our top priority. If you do not think Honolulu Ocean Safety would excel as its own department, I would like to invite you to come see us in action. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully sent,
Josh B. Barber

Name: Bryan Phillips	Email: bryanphillips808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 10:38 PM

Testimony:
I am in strong support of Resolution 24-050. As a former lifeguard of 19 years on the North Shore of Oahu I wore many hats. I patrolled the coast, did rescues and also sat as the president of both BU 14 and 15 as lead negotiator for 3 separate contracts. I have been following all City and State lifeguarding issues intimately. Ocean Safety has outgrown the EMS Department. Their missions are similar yet so different. A separation of both departments will benefit both services. Discussions can be streamlined for expansion where there is no tug of war for budgetary resources. Let lifeguards lifeguard. Let EMS be EMS. Lifeguards are long past the point of management by non-lifeguards. I am a member of the taskforce organized by this administration to study if Ocean Safety should become its own department. I cannot speak on behalf of the taskforce but I am confident that our findings will support Resolution 24-050. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of Resolution 24-050.

Name: Bradley Young	Email: bryoung@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96749
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 26, 2024 @ 11:31 PM

Testimony:
Aloha Honolulu City Council and Mayor Rick Blangiardi,

My name is Bradley Young and I am a Water Safety Officer from the County of Hawaii. Thank you for all your support for the Water Safety Officers (WSOs) of Honolulu City and County. I am writing to submit testimony in support of Resolution 24-050; to establish a Department of Ocean Safety for Honolulu City and County.

According to the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) Statistical Data Base, your WSOs performed 6,180 rescues despite 1,621,691 preventative actions in addition to 167,479 medical aids, in the year of 2022. These numbers have been increasing annually.

Through my career, I have been greatly honored to have met and serve along side some of your Water Safety Officers from Honolulu City and County. Many operational and rescue systems pioneered by your WSOs are now implemented across Hawaii and around the world. Supporting resolution 24-050 will be another big accomplishment as leaders in ocean safety and give the WSOs the ability to meet the needs of the community.

Recreating safely at our beaches provides a strong foundation to the identity and culture for the people of Hawaii. Please continue to invest into one of our greatest assets by supporting resolution 24-050 and give the people of Hawai'i the opportunity to vote and support it also. Thank you for your consideration in regards to this matter,

-Bradley Young

Name: Sharlene Chun-Lum	Email: sharstocks@yahoo.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 12:40 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters and members of the City Council,

My name is Shar Chun-Lum with Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui. As a kupuna living in Halawa District 6, I go to Ala Moana Beach Park as part of my morning routine on weekdays and appreciate the lifeguards on duty protecting the swimmers and surfers alike, while providing information and first aid to people who approach their towers.

I am writing in strong support of Resolution 24-50, INITIATING AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 1973 (AMENDED 2017 EDITION), AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN SAFETY. When making Ocean Safety a separate department first came up in 2021 in Resolution 21-122, I testified in support.

Locals and tourists alike flock to O`ahu beaches for fun and relaxation. The Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Division is the primary responder for emergencies on the beaches and in the near shore waters, including ocean rescue, prevention, emergency medical first response, dispatched mobile patrol, education, outreach, and injury prevention programs, all related to ocean safety.

The Division has been challenged with maintaining service levels by an ever-increasing amount of ocean activity. The increase in ocean and beach use over the past several decades have seen significant increases in off shore activity, particularly with the introduction of kayak rental operations, stand up paddling activities, and surf instruction operations. With climate change, the beaches and shores have become more dangerous for all beachgoers. Even unaware sightseers who endanger themselves without even getting in the water need assistance or warning from our lifeguards!

Currently, Ocean Safety is a division of the Department of Emergency Services, which serves as the City's primary provider of emergency medical care; developing and providing training and educational programs related to emergency medical services and injury prevention; being responsible for medical matters relating to public health and welfare; and being responsible for the administration of the City's health services programs and medical evaluations of current and prospective City employees. Under this set up, Ocean Safety has not had the priority and autonomy it needs to operate most effectively.

With its own director, the Department of Ocean Safety will have a strong and knowledgeable advocate with respect to its budget and operations, who can also promptly respond to the needs of Ocean Safety staff as they give their 110% every day to keep our residents and visitors safe.

Please give your support of Res. 24-50 and let O`ahu citizens vote to make Ocean Safety its own department. Mahalo nui loa.

Name: Bruce Lum	Email: savealamoanabeachpark@gmail.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 02:42 AM

Name: Kaiulani Bowers	Email: oceanbeandip@yahoo.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 08:00 AM

Testimony:

I support this Bill whole heartedly. I've worked for Ocean Safety for 16 years and have seen us suffer because of being grouped with department that have little to do with us, making it near impossible to get things vitally needed to serve and protect our community. By muting Ocean Safety it's own department it will greatly increase our ability to do our job better and get what we need to do it

Name: Matthew Beall	Email: mattbeall808@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 08:08 AM

Testimony:
I support this bill because ocean safety is a very unique department, with very specific needs. This means having the ability to serve the community better.

Name: Ronald Iwami	Email: ronald@kewalo.org	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 08:10 AM

Testimony:
Aloha,
As a retired Fire Captain with the Honolulu Fire Department, I have performed many rescues with Ocean Safety. They have performed with utmost professionalism.
I fully support the process to make Ocean Safety its own department which will make them an even stronger department to better serve the community.

Mahalo,
Ron Iwami

Name: Thomas Copp	Email: waikikitommy@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Palekaiko Bueachboys Club,Inc.	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 08:13 AM

Testimony:
Aloha Council Chair Waters and members of the Council,
Palekaiko Beachboys Club supports the adoption of RES24-050.

The establishment of a Department of Ocean Safety is long overdue.

Mahalo for giving us the opportunity to support RES24-050.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Copp
Acting Executive Director Of Palekaiko Beachboys Club

Name: Bouvey Bradbury	Email: bouveybradbury@yahoo.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 08:18 AM

Testimony:
I'm in support of Ocean Safety having their own department

Name: Abraham Wills	Email: awills96792@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 09:01 AM

<p>Testimony: I support Ocean Safety being its own department</p>		
<p>Name: Derek Wong</p>	<p>Email: wongderek808@gmail.com</p>	<p>Zip: 96817</p>
<p>Representing: Self</p>	<p>Position: Support</p>	<p>Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 09:01 AM</p>
<p>Testimony: I support Ocean Safety becoming its own department.</p>		
<p>Name: Christopher Gagnon</p>	<p>Email: cmpgags@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Zip: 96815-4438</p>
<p>Representing: Self</p>	<p>Position: Support</p>	<p>Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 09:18 AM</p>
<p>Testimony: I'm in favor of this bill. I think it would be beneficial for both ems and ocean safety. It will also greatly benefit the beach going public. Hawaii lifeguards are the best in the world and should be recognized with thier own department to facilitate the very unique challenges they face. Thank you.</p>		
<p>Name: Sarah Fairchild</p>	<p>Email: sarah@dukefoundation.org</p>	<p>Zip: 96816</p>
<p>Representing: Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation</p>	<p>Position: Support</p>	<p>Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 09:30 AM</p>
<p>Testimony: Dear Council Members,</p> <p>I'm writing in strong support of RES24-050 to move towards Ocean Safety becoming a stand-alone department. The Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation became a founding member of the Hawaii Water Safety Coalition in response to Hawaii's high drowning rates. Hawaii ranks 2nd in the nation for rate of drowning among residents and drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death for our visitors. With 227 miles of coastline with varying conditions, year-round inviting water temperatures, and a few million visitors arriving each year, ocean lifeguards on Oahu have one of the heaviest responsibilities in the nation, if not the world. Their work is crucial to protecting our residents and the tourism economy. With functions that are inherently different than EMS, Ocean Safety should be a stand-alone department so it can advocate for and decide how to effectively allocate its resources. Further, to recruit and retain the best lifeguards in the world, Ocean Safety should have a similar employment structure to Police or Firefighters.</p> <p>With Hawaii's epic waterman heritage and Native Hawaiian ocean-oriented culture, Honolulu could be and should be a world leader in ocean safety. Let's make Ocean Safety a separate department so it can shine.</p> <p>Mahalo, Sarah Fairchild Executive Director Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation</p>		
<p>Name: Ken Martyn</p>	<p>Email: kmhawhome-permit@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Zip: 96791</p>
<p>Representing: Self</p>	<p>Position: Support</p>	<p>Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 10:22 AM</p>
<p>Testimony: I am in strong support of Res. 24-050. Our lifeguards are some of the best in the world, and they are doing a difficult but extremely important job for us, keeping residents and tourists safer in the ocean. A separate Department of Ocean Safety will help support that safety mission better, so it should be put to a vote of the people as a Charter amendment.</p>		
<p>Name: Larry McElheny</p>	<p>Email: lkmcelheny@gmail.com</p>	<p>Zip: 96712</p>

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 10:30 AM
Testimony: Aloha Council Members I strongly support Res24-050. Mahalo Larry McElheny		
Name: Danielle Troup	Email: dtroup7@yahoo.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 10:39 AM
Testimony: I support this resolution for Ocean Safety to be their own department. Their skill set and responsibilities are very specialized and they should have autonomy over decision making so they can do more effectively what they know needs to be done to support the lifeguards around the island and protect the public. Mahalo.		
Name: Ujena Johnson	Email: kaleouilani@hotmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 11:07 AM
Testimony: I support Ocean Safety and having their own department.		
Name: Kaimana Gomes	Email: gomeskaimana@gmail.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 12:29 PM
Testimony: Aloha, I believe this bill will ensure that both EMS and Ocean-safety gets the fundings that both departments deserve. This will also serve as the foundation to for both departments to fully focus on the sole development of their own wants and needs.		
Name: Kiaikilipuekawelo Flood	Email: kiaiflood808@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 01:57 PM
Testimony: I support Ocean Safety becoming its own department.		
Name: Christopher Murphy	Email: femur808@yahoo.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 02:46 PM
Testimony: I support ocean safety becoming its own department.		
Name: Jan Ventura	Email: jvcsales@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 03:15 PM
Testimony: I support this resolution to make ocean safety division independent. Much appreciation for our hard-working lifeguards! Mahalo!		
Name:	Email:	Zip:

Janice Giles	giles.janice@gmail.com	96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 06:02 PM
Testimony: City and County of Honolulu Ocean Safety needs their own department.		
Name: Alexa Vitek	Email: lexicon3@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 06:27 PM
Testimony: Ocean Safety is ESSENTIAL to Oahu for the safety and support of our residents and visitors. They absolutely need a division solely dedicated and focused on the unique nature of water response resources.		
Name: Sharee Orr	Email: manapua22@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 08:01 PM
Testimony: Ocean Safety should be its own department. This way funds for EMS and Ocean Safety aren't shared and shorted between the two.		
Name: Shantel Gouveia	Email: keoneg@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 08:13 PM
Testimony: I support ocean safety		
Name: Nicholas Bresnan	Email: bresnannicholas@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 08:15 PM
Testimony: I support that the City and County of Honolulu's Ocean Safety Division become its own stand alone department. It is a shame that the world's top ocean safety department with the hardest physical requirements on the planet is left in rundown facilities across the entire island. Becoming its own department will lead to improved allocation of funds and resources. Top Watermen and Women from all over the world should want to come to Hawaii for a chance to work in Ocean Safety. This can create opportunities toward livable wages for staff as well.		
Name: Christian Hemmings	Email: aloha_hemmings@yahoo.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 08:56 PM
Testimony: Aloha Council, I ask you one simple question why would you have HPD working under HFD ? Ocean Safety has been far too long under the shadow of other departments. First Parks and Rec and now EMS. Ocean Safety does not have ambulances nor does it operate in the capacity of EMS. It's time for Ocean Safety to be its own department to better serve our community and public. Mahalo		
Name: Ian Bachmann	Email: iambachmann648@hotmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Feb 27, 2024 @ 09:29 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>It is time for ocean safety of Honolulu to become its own department. In terms of ocean rescues and responses to medical emergencies/traumas we are one of the busiest in the nation. Lives are saved on a daily basis due to the availability of our ocean safety teams on our beaches here in Hawaii. Becoming our own department would allow us to better implement how to support our staff in their training/other job related needs in order to save more lives.</p>		
Name: Joshua Rocha	Email: rocha.josh@yahoo.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 09:41 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I highly believe this will benefit the community, especially all first responders such as EMS and Ocean Safety</p>		
Name: Natalie Iwasa	Email: iwasajunk@mail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 10:16 PM
Name: Eliot Beebe	Email: eliothawaii@yahoo.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 10:19 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I'm strongly in support of Ocean Safety Honolulu becoming its own department. Lifeguards in Hawaii are looked upon as the standard which all other lifeguards are measured the world over. They look to Hawaii for guidance in training and revere their bravery in dangerous conditions year round. They deserve to be their own department to better navigate their own destiny as their services evolve and grow. The world is watching.</p>		
Name: Jesse King	Email: jking808808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 10:31 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am in strong support of this Resolution 24-050. Ocean Safety must become its own department. It's long overdue. Moreover, it's an absolute necessity in order for Ocean Safety to best serve the public. Mahalo!</p>		
Name: Kamaile Lopes	Email: kamaile61916@gmail.com	Zip: 96717
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 11:45 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha! My name is Kamaile. I am writing this testimony in support of making Ocean Safety its own department. I highly respect all ocean safety staff. They put their lives on the line by being first responders to people in need. I fully support this bill in hopes for appropriate budgeting for better/safer equipment. It would truly help and increase their intervention time, safety of themselves, and safety of other people. Mahalo nui loa.</p>		
Name: Haven Yamasaki	Email: havenyamasaki@gmail.com	Zip: 96730
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 11:46 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha my name is Haven Yamasaki, I have worked for the ocean safety for several years. This job is not only a career but it is my</p>		

life. Becoming our own department is beneficial in every aspect, it would allow us more funding for essential supplies, overtime for employees and equipment that we are spread so thin on.

Name: Racquel Achiu	Email: rhachiu@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 27, 2024 @ 11:53 PM

Testimony:
Aloha. Racquel Achiu, District 2, North Shore in support of Resolution 24-50. This is a positive effort to pursuing the establishment and implementation of an Ocean Safety Department. Placing this question on the ballot will provide clarity to our leaders for the need and desire of our communities to support Ocean Safety operating as its own Department. Separation of department will provide a more efficient and effective structure for our Ocean Safety Program.
I would also like to note, in regard to a Task Force that was presented/created by the mayor in his 2023 state of the city address, it would help to know the findings of this "task force" and understand any recommendations and/or concerns that the task force may reveal to make this a stringer effort. Mahalo

Name: Rosemarie Vailisale	Email: rvailisale@yahoo.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 01:28 AM

Testimony:
In support of bill 24-050.

Name: Joey Cadiz	Email: joeycamllewedding@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 02:25 AM

Testimony:
I strongly support resolution 24-50 in efforts to revise the city charter and creation of an Ocean Safety Department. As Hawaii's primary agency of first-responders who interact with the public, the efforts of ensuring safety and wellbeing for all beach patrons needs to be supported at a department level. This autonomy would allow for a higher level of service for general public and visitors.

Name: Andrew Logreco	Email: andrewlogreco@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 06:21 AM

Testimony:
Of course the department that protects Oahu's most valuable resources should have its own department. Our local people, foreign visitors and our priceless coastlines.

Name: Paul Franco	Email: paulfranco@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 07:06 AM

Testimony:
Aloha Honolulu City & Co. Council Members,

My name is Paul Franco and I would like to voice my support for the upcoming process to streamline Honolulu Ocean Safety as its own Department within the City and Co. of Honolulu. I've been an Ocean Safety Professional for 20 years, with 17 of those years (as of April THIS year) here in Honolulu. I am excited to see the current steps being taken to develop Ocean Safety into its own organizational department not only with the help and guidance of our current City administration and elected officials, but also with the input of our Kama'aina and Ocean Safety Administrative and Operational Personnel, as it should be. I am not only humbled to have served our Oahu Visitors and Local Patrons with Honolulu Ocean Safety for as long as I have, but am

enthusiastic to see what we all can do together, to better serve them in the future. Please accept my Aloha and sincerest commendations to you for taking and committing to these next steps and I wish you well in this endeavor to do so!

Name: Gabriel Wilson	Email: gabe32561@gmail.com	Zip: 32561
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 07:32 AM

Testimony:
I work for the city and county as a lifeguard and I support Ocean Safety being it's own department. I am happy seeing the growth of Ocean Safety in the previous years, I would like to see Ocean Safety continue to blossom in the short future. If Ocean Safety is able to represent themselves I believe we will be better equipped to helping our beautiful island and the visitors that come to visit. thank you. Gabriel

Name: Adam Lerner	Email: adamklerner@hawaiiantel.net	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 07:50 AM

Testimony:
As a Lifeguard of more than 20 years I am in support of Ocean Safety being separated from Emergency Services and becoming its own department!

Name: Sam Megowen	Email: smegowen@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 07:52 AM

Testimony:
I support this bill because ocean safety is a very specialized organization and by making it its own department it will better be able to serve the public and visitors

Name: John Kahalewai	Email: Jakahalewai@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 08:05 AM

Testimony:
I am in support of RES24-050

Name: Kalai Maxilom	Email: maxilom@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 08:12 AM

Testimony:
I support this bill whole heartedly. Ocean Safety is a very specific and specialized group which requires specific tools, equipment, training and making us our own department would make acquiring all of this much easier, therefore we are able to serve the community and visitors to a higher standard

Name: James Bradley	Email: jb11001010@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 08:31 AM

Testimony:
Aloha, I am writing to express my strong support for the initiative to separate the Ocean Safety Department from the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department in the City and County of Honolulu. I believe that establishing Ocean Safety as its own distinct department is crucial for effectively addressing the unique needs and challenges associated with beach safety on the island of Oahu.

Oahu's coastal environment attracts a large number of residents and visitors who engage in various water activities, making it imperative to prioritize and enhance the safety measures in place. The separation of the Ocean Safety Department from the EMS Department is a step in the right direction, allowing for a more specialized focus on the specific requirements of ocean safety.

The role of the Ocean Safety Department is unique, requiring expertise in water rescue, lifeguarding, and other specialized skills related to beach safety. By establishing it as a separate entity, the department can tailor its training programs, equipment, and resources to better serve the needs of beachgoers. This separation enables a more efficient allocation of resources, ensuring that ocean safety personnel are adequately equipped and trained to handle the distinct challenges posed by Oahu's diverse coastal areas.

Furthermore, having a dedicated Ocean Safety Department allows for a more focused approach to public education and outreach on water safety. This separation enables the development of targeted awareness campaigns, emphasizing the importance of respecting ocean conditions and promoting responsible behavior among beachgoers. Such initiatives are vital for preventing accidents and fostering a culture of safety along Oahu's shores.

In conclusion, I urge you to support the separation of the Ocean Safety Department from the EMS Department in the City and County of Honolulu. This move will undoubtedly enhance the effectiveness of beach safety measures, better serve the unique needs of Oahu's coastal communities, and contribute to the overall well-being of residents and visitors alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, James O. Bradley

Name: Joseph Cruz	Email: josephginapp@yahoo.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 08:47 AM

Testimony:

My name is Joseph Cruz. I am a currently employed Honolulu Ocean Safety Water Safety Officer.

I STRONGLY support the Honolulu Ocean Safety Division becoming its own Department. It is long overdue. This is so obviously needed not just by managerial efficiency, but just common sense and organization. Police departments should be run by experienced law enforcement officers, Fire depts. should be run by experienced firefighters and Ocean Safety should be run by experienced ocean lifesavers.

To quote someone of authority and experience that i know:

"Hawaii is an island state surrounded by water reliant on the ocean and beaches for its economy, culture and lifestyle. We should have the premier lifeguard agency in the world but we really don't. We have some of the best watermen /women at our disposal, but the agency still exists as the lessor priority red headed stepchild in the public safety realm and will likely remain as such if it stays under HESD."

I implore you all to do something that takes you standing up and doing whats right for the people you represent.

Name: Alan Lamphere	Email: lamphere_alan@yahoo.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 08:59 AM

Testimony:

Im a full time ocean safety officer and believe it is time we have our own division. I fully support this bill

Name: Paul Giles	Email: buckgiles@gmail.co	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 09:16 AM

Testimony:

As the Captain of Ocean Safety Communications I am in full support of the establishment of a department of Ocean Safety. The level of professional and expertise recognized world wide should be championed by the state of Hawaii and establishing a

department of Ocean Safety brings us to the table of self and fiscal autonomy like the other agencies we work side by side with giving Ocean Safety the ultimate potential to deliver the best public safety model to our residence and visitors.

Paul Giles

Name: Samuel Wehmueller	Email: sam23@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 09:17 AM

Testimony:
Since I have joined Ocean Safety, I have seen that being one part of a block of the Emergency Services has not been optimal for our department. I believe being our own separate department outside of this Emergency Service block would allow Ocean Safety to better allocate resources for our needs and thus provide an even higher standard of safety and service to our community.

Name: Trevor Hall	Email: kaithall@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 09:24 AM

Testimony:
I support ocean safety for becoming its own department

Name: Jodie Lerner	Email: jodielerner@hawaiiantel.net	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 09:26 AM

Testimony:
I support Ocean Safety being its own department.

Name: Maile King	Email: maileking808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 28, 2024 @ 09:34 AM

Testimony:
I support Resolution 24-050. Ocean Safety is responsible for the entire coastline on O'ahu. They need their own department.
Mahalo.

Aloha my name is John Silberstein. I am a former Honolulu Ocean Safety Officer, former Ocean Safety Chief for Maui County, former Federal Beach Lifeguard Manager, former Ocean Safety Administrator for Oahu and Maritime Enforcement Specialist for the USCG. I am currently the Oahu Island Chief for DLNR Conservation /Marine Enforcement. I've spent my entire adult life in the public safety /lifesaving field. This is my personal view based on my professional experience for the past 38 years.

I STRONGLY support the Honolulu Ocean Safety Division becoming its own Department. It is long overdue. As a former OS Chief, one of the biggest frustrations I endured was running an agency under the oversight and purview of non-lifeguards. Most EMS personnel are amazing lifesavers and true hero's. They are amazing at what they do and they should be given all the respect and resources they deserve. However, police departments should be run by experienced law enforcement officers, fire depts. should be run by experienced firefighters and lifeguards should be run by ocean lifesavers. There is some crossover on the emergency medical side for paramedics but the job of a lifeguard has its own unique skillsets, approach and idiosyncrasies often misunderstood by those who never sat in a tower. Lifeguards are pro-active preventative public safety specialists while paramedics are primarily reactive responders to 911 calls. Sorry to be blunt, but my former leadership at EMS purchased thousands of dollars worth of swift water rescue gear (for river rescue) even though beach lifeguards don't do swift water rescue. They purchased a prop driven Whaler boat that couldn't make rescues in the surf zone or over shallow reefs like a PWC. All went unused. Wasted tax payer dollars. Just two examples of not getting it but also not having the humility to defer to the subject matter experts below them in assessing actual lifeguard needs and priorities.

Hawaii is an island state surrounded by water reliant on the ocean and beaches for its economy, culture and lifestyle. We should have the premier lifeguard agency in the world but we really don't. We have some of the best watermen /women at our disposal, but the agency still exists as the lesser priority red headed stepchild in the public safety realm and will likely remain as such if it stays under HESD. I urge you to put politics and funding apprehension aside. Do what's right for the people and visitors of Oahu and establish Ocean Safety as its own Department so that it may succeed toward becoming the best of the best. Something the Mayor and the Council can be proud of. We already have the best pool of talent. Let's move them out of converted broom closets between park bathrooms and give them the proper oversight, facilities, tools, and training they deserve. What is more important and more honorable than a clear and direct mission to save a precious human life. Why are we even debating this, it's a no brainer this is simply the Pono thing to do.



2/26/2024

Dear Council Chair Waters and Members of the City Council,

Position: Support Res24-050

Surfrider Foundation strongly SUPPORTS Res24-050, "INITIATING AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 1973 (AMENDED 2017 EDITION), AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN SAFETY."

Honolulu Lifeguards are chronically under-supported yet operate under some of the most challenging ocean conditions in the entire world. They are world class and deserve a level of support that reflects their unique mission and skillsets. Our Honolulu Lifeguards deserve your support to become an independent City Department.

Please pass this Resolution and allow the public the opportunity to support our Lifeguards by putting this measure on the ballot as a Charter Amendment in 2024.

Sincerely,

Lauren Blickley
Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Ralph S. Goto
44-547 Kaneohe Bay Drive
Kaneohe HI 96744

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair,
And Members
Honolulu City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu Hale
530 S. King Street
Honolulu HI 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Members,

RE: RESOLUTION 24-050: RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN SAFETY

My name is Ralph Goto, I was in charge of the City and County Honolulu's Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Division for 32 years, from 1981 until my retirement from the City at the end of 2013. During my tenure, I was privileged to be associated with some of the finest watermen and women in the ocean safety profession, and participated in the evolution of the City and County's ocean lifeguard service into a leader in the international lifesaving community.

At the beginning of my career, Honolulu's water safety operation was a section in the Department of Parks and Recreation that comprised of approximately 30 fulltime lifeguards and 25 parttime, hourly employees with an annual operating budget of a few hundred thousand dollars. Over the years, strategies were implemented to improve training and operational standards in the division; staffing and budgets were gradually increased, albeit slowly and incrementally. I served under five mayors and ten different parks directors, some more aware of the importance of ocean safety and its connection to tourism than others.

Hawaii is recognized as the surfing mecca of the world, attracting thousands to our islands to challenge the unique conditions of our ocean and surf. In the early 1990's, a group of forward thinking and skilled lifeguards began using jet skis to perform rescues in the big surf of Oahu's North Shore. Initially viewed with skepticism, the use of personal watercraft for ocean safety rescue has now become a standard for lifesaving agencies around the world. City and County Ocean Safety personnel were the pioneers in the development of the jet ski as a lifesaving tool, and countless lives have been saved as a result of their efforts.

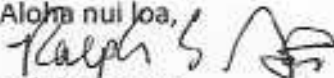
During the last two decades of my tenure, with the support from the administration, City Council, public employee union and, most importantly, the residents and citizens, City and County lifeguards began to be recognized as legitimate public safety professionals. Salaries and budgets were increased, union negotiated benefits improved, the level of training and professionalism was significant. City and County Water Safety Officers have worked for and have now begun to receive compensation and benefits commensurate with the essential lifesaving duties they perform. In 2022, the State Legislature and the Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA) created a new bargaining unit within the HGEA, Bargaining Unit 15, exclusively representing Water Safety and Ocean Safety Officers in the State of Hawaii.

The City and County of Honolulu's Ocean Safety Division is recognized as the largest year-round professional lifeguard operation in the world, currently employing over two hundred fifty fulltime lifeguards with an annual budget exceeding \$20 million. The division is a certified agency in the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) and serves as a resource for training and operations for national and international lifeguard leaders seeking advice and information.

The next logical step in this developmental continuum is to amend the City Charter of Honolulu to establish a Department of Ocean Safety. Currently administered by the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, the division shares administrative support, budgets, and direction with the Emergency Medical Services Division and the Health Services Branch. Although similar in general duties (emergency medical response), the three divisions have unique missions and functional plans. A task force has been appointed and convened to research and develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a Department of Ocean Safety as one of the twenty departments as allowed in the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu. Results and recommendations for the Mayor are currently being finalized and will be presented to the Mayor in the near future.

As a member of the task force and as the retired administrator of the City and County's Ocean Safety Division, **I strongly and respectfully request your consideration and favorable support of Resolution 24-050.** The establishment of a Department of Ocean Safety will not only improve the administrative and operational functions of our ocean lifeguard service, it will ultimately benefit the safety and well-being of the millions of visitors and residents who enjoy our ocean and beaches every year.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Aloha nui loa,

Ralph S. Goto



February 25, 2024

Honolulu City Council

Subject Resolution 24-50

Board of Directors

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Honorary Legends

Ralph Goto
Brian Keaulana
Archie Kalepa
Mark Cunningham

On behalf of the Board and membership of the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association (HLA), whose mission is to support all ocean safety efforts in the State of Hawai'i, we are in strong support of Resolution 24-50 to establish a Department of Ocean Safety.

We thank the Honolulu City Council and Mayor Rick Blangiardi for their unwavering support of our county lifeguards. HLA believes Resolution 24-50 correctly puts to the electorate and the ballot the issue of creating separate EMS and Ocean Safety Departments in the City and County of Honolulu. Voters will have the opportunity to determine the need for this important and historic step in the 107-year history of the service on O'ahu, and also the opportunity to comment publicly during this process before the Honolulu City Council as the Resolution is heard in order to make any adjustments to a possible structure of the future Department of Ocean Safety.

HLA stands in strong support of Resolution 24-50 as written, calling for an Ocean Safety Commission to have oversight of the future department. HLA believes this structure involving an Ocean Safety Commission encourages improved transparency, allows for expanded public input with respect to the expenditures of taxpayer dollars, and will vastly improve the prioritization of ocean safety related operations and programs in the City and County of Honolulu. Simply by giving Lifeguards the chance to advocate for Lifeguards, Resolution 24-50 is historic – but on an island of roughly 600 square miles that is home to a million residents, with sometimes as many as quarter of a million visitors, this initiative makes strong fiscal, administrative, and operational sense.

HLA is especially proud to see Mayor Blangiardi and the Honolulu City Council united in their support of Honolulu Ocean Safety and looks forward to working with the new department, if the initiative is approved by voters this fall.

D. Kalani Vierra

Kalani Vierra
President

Hawaiian Lifeguard Association

P.O. Box 844 Kapa'a, Hawai'i 96746
info@hawaiianlifeguardassociation.org
Tax ID 99-0308213

February 26, 2024

Aloha kākou Chair Waters and honorable council members.

My name is Bruce Lum and out of great interest in the continued delivery of excellent service by the Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Division, to the people of the City and County of Honolulu, I am testifying on behalf of Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui in full support of Resolution 24-50. Mahalo to Council Chair Tommy Waters for hearing Resolution 24-50 and Councilwoman Andria Tupola for introducing this measure.

We respectfully urge Mayor Blangiardi to exercise his executive reorganization authority to create a separate Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Personnel Department for the City and County of Honolulu and we thank the Mayor for his steadfast guidance and support from May of 2021 to now, the time during which we have been in support of establishing a standalone Department of Ocean Safety.

We, Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui, support the entirety of Resolution 24-50 and the entirety of the BE IT RESOLVED particulars of §1-§8 and all its underlined particulars.

Each time a lifeguard responds to a user-crisis in the ocean, it usually starts out as “one man/ woman against the sea” calling upon every bit of physical, mental, medical and fitness skill, to overcome the life threatening hazards of the ocean and the panic of a user in distress. Also keep in mind that lifeguards and OSLGS personnel guarantee our safety and peace of mind at 198 beaches around O‘ahu comprising 227 miles of coastline. We appreciate that the purpose of this resolution acknowledges and recognizes that ocean safety is a public necessity for the City and County of Honolulu.

We see Ocean Safety’s focus as being a blend of proactive and reactive disciplines applied constantly and consistently to provide peace of mind and safety to all of Oahu’s ocean users and beach goers. Because Ocean Safety is uniquely defined by its operational environment (the ocean), Ocean Safety is constantly challenged to be ready for the extreme demands of the unpredictability of the ocean and the ways in which people engage the ocean environment. Ocean Safety officials are constantly endeavoring to improve their delivery of services through rigorous and consistent programs for staff education, training, staff fitness, staff use of tools, staff versatility, emergency skills, ocean knowledge, extreme ocean survival skills, and the unique list of qualities goes on and on.

From a purely practical standpoint, creating a separate more autonomous Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Personnel Department will ensure that taxpayers can continue to receive the high level of service and safety they are accustomed to plus look forward to timely improvements when critical demands on training and expansion of personnel and response effectiveness is warranted. Please keep in mind that our lifeguards are constantly tested to meet standards in lifeguard proficiency, first-responder medical skills and knowledge and user crisis management.

Please support Resolution 24-50. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Bruce Lum

Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui
savealamoanabeachpark@gmail.com
website:savealamoanabeachpark.org

TO: Members of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Natalie Iwasa, CPA, CFE
808-395-3233

DATE: Wednesday, February 28, 2024

SUBJECT: Resolution 24-50 Proposed Charter Amendment
to Establish a Department of Ocean Safety - **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

Thank you for allowing testimony on Resolution 24-50, which proposes a charter amendment to establish a Department of Ocean Safety as well as a new commission to oversee that department.

Many residents on Oahu continue to have a difficult time making ends meet, and more people have been moving out of Hawaii than in for the past few years. A new department, along with a related commission and staff, will add to the cost of government and thereby add pressure to the budget.

Please **vote "no"** on this proposed charter amendment and instead work toward making government more efficient and less costly.