

**RES24-050  
Testimony**

**MISC. COMM. 76**

BUDGET (BUD)

**BUDGET (BUD) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Mar 5, 2024 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 83

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Kalei Kekumano	Email: kkekumano2022@damien.edu	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 29, 2024 @ 07:15 AM
Testimony: Do it		
Name: Drew Lamore	Email: drewlamore@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Ocean safety	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 01:00 PM
Testimony: I support this resolution, 24–50 in effort to make ocean safety, its own standalone department for the benefit and safety of all beachgoers. This resolution would allow for Ocean Safety to be autonomous in making the best possible decisions for all ocean related services.		
Name: Sarah Fairchild	Email: sarah@dukefoundation.org	Zip: 96791
Representing: Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 01:00 PM
Testimony: 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. 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. Mahalo, Sarah Fairchild Executive Director Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation		
Name: Chelsey Hatori	Email: chlsyhtr@gmail.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 01:21 PM
Testimony: I fully support Ocean Safety becoming it's own department.		
Name: Derek Wong	Email: wongderek808@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 03:13 PM
Testimony: I support Ocean Safety becoming its own department.		
Name: Scott Alexander	Email: scott@offthewallhawaii.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 03:20 PM

Testimony:

Ocean safety is paramount to health of our residents, visitors, the economy and ecosystem.

Name: Kaiulani Bowers	Email: oceanbeandip@yahoo.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 03:28 PM

Testimony:

Aloha, I support RES24-050 whole heartedly as it is what is needed to serve and protect the community and visitors of Oahu better than ever. As a lifeguard with Ocean Safety for 16 years I have seen the many downfalls of not being our own department. Making extremely important decisions, that should be easy and clear, are either overlooked or not considered because it's not in the best interest of the whole or would cost too much because instead of it just being for OS it is needed for a much larger group. We are a very specialized specific group and with the amount of people and constant ever changing hazards we must deal with daily it is time that Ocean Safety be made it's own department so that we can do our jobs better. When I say better I mean, with proper tools and equipment, much of our equipment is very old, falling apart and could hurt us or the patient at anytime, such as rescue boards either having exposed fiberglass or aged soft top padding, broken handles or not receiving a board at a tower because it's not in the current budget. A tower should be able to get a new rescue board when deemed necessary, not when we have money the next time around. Each tower should also have a training board available, so that we may practice our skills daily to ensure top tier skills when the time comes, currently no towers have a training board and we are forced to use the tower board directly in front of the tower in case it is needed. This is just one of many problems that could be fixed with our own department. If Ocean Safety is made it's own department it will be able to not only address issues such as these but create solutions in a timely fashion allowing for safer beaches, coast lines and a stronger work force. Mahalo

Name: Christian Hemmings	Email: aloha_hemmings@yahoo.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 03:28 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Council, please support Ocean Safety becoming its own department.

Name: Aubrie Owens	Email: aubriekjo@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 03:32 PM

Testimony:

With Hawaii having the 2nd highest drowning rate in the nation for residents. Plus, drowning is the leading cause of death for visitors. Our lifeguards are overwhelmed and needing support now more than ever. Ocean safety deserves its own department and its own funding.

Name: Josh Rossen	Email: rossenjosh@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 03:36 PM

Testimony:

In strong support of Ocean safety becoming its own department.  
Mahalo

Name: Joseph Simpliciano	Email: jks0609@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 04:05 PM

Testimony:

Aloha, as a State employee and the Waianae Harbor Master I fully support such a resolution that makes absolute sense! On the westside of Oahu our lifeguards is always at the forefront of any ocean safety rescues (even on land) especially in a place where

the coast guard does not come out to Waianae to rescue people or vessels as much as our ocean safety does! I have seen many times where our ocean safety guys are pulling in boats with their jet ski, you name it and some people does not understand the value and potential of ocean safety having its own department. Ocean safety isn't only about rescuing people, it's about being the first responders / reporters of things that is happening in our beach parks and ocean from crime to protecting our environment and ocean. Establishing an ocean safety department has so much untapped potential and future benefits, please consider supporting this as well! Mahalo.

Name: Racquel Achiu	Email: rhachiu@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 04:06 PM

Testimony:  
Aloha. My name is Racquel Achiu, District 2, North Shore in support of Resolution 24-50. Having Ocean Safety operate under its own department has become critical to continue to be an effective, efficient and balanced operation. Ocean Safety's operation requires independence to successfully service our communities. I believe our communities will express that need through the voting process.

Further, in the Mayor's 2023 city address the mayor announced the implementation of a task force to address the need and process of Ocean Safety being its own department. the findings of that task force were expected to be revealed in "early 2024". Well, its "early 2024" and not only do we NOT a report of findings, but we dont know anything about this task force, who was involved, how they were selected, when/if they met, what was the focus/goal. I am greatly concerned that this process, like 4/10's & Dawn to Dusk are being unnecessarily delayed without reason. The chase for the separation of department has been going on for years. Have details like, the expense ever been reviewed/considered? Was there a determination? Where are the findings of the task force? Has the Mayor & Chief ever had a discussion in regard to a potential plan? Implementation? This entire process is exactly why Ocean safety needs to have its independence. It is critical that their program be allowed to operate efficiently and effectively.

Lastly, the consideration of an Ocean safety Commission should not be tossed onto the table frivolously. The commission should include individuals with experience and knowledge in and of Ocean Safety, individuals that promote continuous education training and support, individuals from the communities of each Ocean Safety district, Individuals that will provide balance accountability and support in moving towards a positive future. This commission must be implemented with structure, goals and a plan that creates an inclusive productive & positive environment. MAHALO

Name: Randy Perreira	Email: jkuwabara@hgea.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: HGEA	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 04:11 PM

Name: Kanaloa Kane	Email: kanaloa.kane.kk@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 04:35 PM

Testimony:  
My name is Kanaloa Kane and I'm currently a Water Safety Officer for the city and county of Honolulu. I strongly believe that the city and county of Honolulu's ocean safety division should have its own department, with it's own delegated funding. It is my personal opinion that when it comes to getting funding for the things that we need, we shouldn't have to go through the emergency services department and have them be the sole decision makers in regards to our needs as ocean safety. We are the boots on the ground, day in and day out when it comes to the ocean and the safety of the public, ESD doesn't see everything that we see so how can they understand the severity/gravity of the situations we see on a day to day basis?

Thanks for reading my brief testimony, it is my hope that eventually we will have our own department.

Name: Sebastian Durand	Email: sndurand02@gmail.com	Zip: 75098
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 04:36 PM

Testimony:

I no longer live on Oahu but I was raised there between 2011-2020. Priced out of paradise. I am a waterman, bodysurfed every day up and down the west side and even the North Shore. Ocean Safety is crucial to the safety of residents and tourists alike. Many times I've seen em in action. We need our Ocean Safety lifeguards to be their own Department of Public Safety in order to keep their services fresh and reliable. Thank you.

Name: James Foti	Email: jkfoti@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Kanaka Ikaika Racing Association	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 04:40 PM

Testimony:  
Aloha,  
My name is Jim Foti, Executive Director of Kanaka Ikaika Racing Association. We operate ocean paddling events on Oahu and between islands. I am in favor of Res24-050 regarding the establishment of a Dept. of Ocean Safety that is stand alone.

We live on an island with thousands of ocean users every day. When there is an emergency in the ocean, the dispatch goes to Fire, but I believe it should go directly to Ocean Safety for expeditious response. If Ocean Safety needs assistance, they should be the ones to call fire. This would accelerate the reaction time to dispatch personnel and equipment since Ocean Safety is located on the ocean. Further, if Ocean Safety is in charge of their own budget, I believe they could make more economic efficiencies in how they spend the funds, with less bureaucracy and red tape to get approvals for needed expenditures. Also, they could utilize their personnel more efficiently if the department is it's own entity. I would run it like a business; recognizing talents, handicaps, injuries, etc... and moving personnel around so that the department is maximizing their people and resources based on constantly moving variables.

Name: Ralph Goto	Email: ralphgoto@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 04:45 PM

Testimony:  
I support the intent of Resolution 24-050 and urge your committee's approva of the measure.I.

Name: Hose Ramos	Email: bigtails808@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 04:55 PM

Testimony:  
Aloha all, I'm here in support of the 24-50. To me as a waterman is very important the relationship of lifeguards and safety of the public in our oceans. They're heroes and deserve the best opportunities that there is.

Name: Bruce Lum	Email: savealamoanabeachpark@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 05:12 PM

Testimony:  
Aloha Kkou Chair Cordeiro, Vice Chair Matt Weyer and Honorable Committee Members Kiaaina, Say and Tulba,  
My name is Bruce Lum, co-founder of Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui. I am testifying in full support of Resolution 24-50, and all its particulars "...RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN SAFETY".

We, people of the People's Park (AMRP) are beneficiaries of the outstanding services provided by Ocean Safety's staff. We are regular and frequent users of the world-class 1,400+ meter swim channel, beach, reef and surf breaks that make up the Ala Moana entry way to the ocean. We swim, surf, fish, paddle, walk, wade, play, picnic, jog in full confidence that Ocean Safety lifeguards and staff have our safety as their top of mind priority every minute they are on duty at AMRP. The peace of mind that we enjoy at AMRPs beach and ocean is priceless, and much of that blessing we owe to the excellent service Ocean Safety delivers on a daily basis.

Please adopt Resolution 24-50, we the people of the People's park will be eternally grateful for your help in establishing a

Department of Ocean Safety that can have all of our backs secured county wide.

Mahalo,

Bruce Lum

savealamoanabeachpark@gmail.com

Name: Nanea Tannehill	Email: naneat808@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 05:17 PM

Testimony:  
Support our ocean safety ohana

Name: Jessamy Town Hornor	Email: jessamyhornor@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 05:21 PM

Testimony:  
Aloha Council Members,

I am submitting the same testimony as before in strong support of this resolution with one additional comment, that I hope the task force report is made available in time for the hearing with full transparency as to the process so that we in the community are aware of how the final recommendation is made.

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 by 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.

Mahalo, Jessamy Town Hornor

Founder, Ocean Safety 'Ohana / Coordinator, Hawaii Water Safety Coalition

Name: Evan Hodges	Email: evan_hodges@outlook.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 05:26 PM

Testimony:  
Aloha,  
I am an Ocean Safety Officer currently serving for the City and County of Honolulu. I support RES24-050, because even though EMS and Ocean Safety both serve an emergency response role we are two very different entities. Just as HPD, HFD, and EMS are all different departments because they provide different services I believe we should be as well. The added freedom and responsibility to operate with Ocean Safety as our sole priority will only allow us to keep our beaches safer and obtain the proper funding and personnel to do so.

Thank you, Evan Hodges		
Name: Kona Llamas	Email: konallamas@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 05:54 PM
Testimony: I believe ocean safety should be its own department. It would allow for the benefit of the lifeguards as well as the beach patrons.		
Name: Tony Freitas	Email: supcamp@icloud.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 06:02 PM
Testimony: We need the lifeguards to be better prepared and have their own budget to do so. Mahalos		
Name: Norman Skorge	Email: msdhawaii01@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 07:00 PM
Testimony: Improved employee morale. Public better served. Win-win.		
Name: Frederic Booth III	Email: freddybooth@hotmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 07:11 PM
Testimony: If EMS and Ocean Safety have their own departments they can have their own budgets and their own voices. i believe this will allow each department to better serve our community and visitors in a safer and more timely manner. This is long overdue.		
Name: Sharlene Chun-Lum	Email: sharstocks@yahoo.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 07:19 PM
Testimony: Aloha Budget Chair Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair Matt Weyer, and Committee members Esther Kia`aina, Calvin Say and Augie Tulba,  My name is Shar Chun-Lum, a founding member of Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui. 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. Ocean Safety provides critical services to locals and tourists alike who flock to our beaches—in truly life and death situations at times. It deserves to be a separate department.  As a regular at Ala Moana Beach Park, I Stand-up paddle inside the reef from Kewalo to Magic Island. I appreciate having lifeguards on duty to be on the lookout for swimmers and paddlers alike, while providing information to tourists and newcomers, first aid to people who approach their towers, and warnings about box jelly fish or sharks. Their job is tough as they also are responsible for water emergencies up to a mile off shore.  I support Ocean Safety becoming its own department so they will be able to determine their priorities and present their needs directly to the Council and Administration. We appreciate the Mayor and City Council allocating \$1.6M in funding to further implement the Extended Lifeguard Services Program known as “dawn to dusk lifeguards” in the current FY 2024 budget for an		



addition of 16 full time lifeguards. But even more funding and personnel are needed. The start time for lifeguards at Ala Moana continues to be 8 a.m. There are many seniors or kupuna at the beach in the morning when I am there at 6:30 a.m. and there have been medical emergencies where lifeguards could make a big difference as first responders.

As a stand-alone department, the Director will be able to better determine and defend the budget needed to provide much needed coverage to parks around the 227 miles of beach on O`ahu.

Please pass Res. 24-50 in your committee and recommend it to the full council for passage.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Name: Tina Parker	Email: tina.y.parker@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
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Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 07:35 PM
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Testimony:  
Subject: Support for Ocean Safety

Aloha.

I am writing to express my strong support for the separation of ocean safety services from emergency services within our city and county. As a vital component of our community's safety infrastructure, it is imperative that ocean safety be afforded the autonomy necessary to effectively carry out its duties.

By granting ocean safety control over its own budget and staffing decisions, we can ensure that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively to address the unique challenges and demands of coastal safety. Furthermore, autonomy within the city and county will empower ocean safety officials to implement tailored strategies and protocols that prioritize the safety and well-being of beachgoers and marine enthusiasts.

Separating ocean safety from emergency services not only recognizes the distinct nature of coastal rescue operations but also underscores the importance of proactive measures in safeguarding lives and preventing accidents. As residents who cherish our beaches and coastline, we owe it to ourselves and future generations to support initiatives that enhance the effectiveness and autonomy of ocean safety services.

I urge you to consider this proposal favorably and to take the necessary steps to support the independence of ocean safety within our city and county. Together, we can ensure a safer and more resilient coastal community for all.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mahalo,  
Tina Parker

Name: Sailor Groom	Email: sailor.groom@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
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Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 07:37 PM
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Testimony:  
As an Ocean Safety Officer this would greatly enhance the department as a whole by getting the funding us Lifeguards need to do our job.

Name: Mahina Garrity	Email: mahinagarrity@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
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Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 07:44 PM
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Testimony:  
The brave members of Ocean Safety should be supported in the best ways and decisions possible that the department can go

forward with.		
Name: Jude Parker	Email: 808heyjude@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 07:45 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>As a veteran of ocean safety services, I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse the separation of ocean safety from emergency services within our city and county. Having dedicated years to protecting our coastline and its visitors, I understand firsthand the critical importance of autonomy in ensuring the effectiveness and responsiveness of ocean safety operations.</p> <p>Granting ocean safety control over its own budget and staffing decisions is paramount to addressing the unique challenges and demands of coastal rescue operations. With autonomy within the city and county, ocean safety officials can implement specialized strategies and protocols tailored to the ever-changing dynamics of our shoreline, thereby enhancing our ability to safeguard lives and prevent accidents.</p> <p>Separating ocean safety from emergency services not only recognizes the specialized nature of coastal rescue operations but also underscores the need for proactive measures in protecting our community members and visitors. As a veteran of ocean safety, I have witnessed the invaluable impact of timely and well-coordinated responses, and I am confident that granting autonomy to ocean safety will further amplify our ability to serve and protect.</p> <p>I urge you to lend your support to this initiative and to advocate for the independence of ocean safety within our city and county. By doing so, we can ensure a safer, more resilient coastal community for generations to come.</p> <p>Thank you for your dedication to our community's safety.</p> <p>Mahalo, Jude K Parker Rescue Craft Operator/EMT-B of Ocean Safety Division City and County of Honolulu</p>		
Name: Michael Cieslak	Email: michael.ksk.cieslak@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 08:05 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am writing to support this resolution, 24–050, to make ocean safety, its own standalone department for the benefit and safety of all. This resolution would allow an Ocean Safety department its own autonomy in making the best possible decisions for all ocean related services. It would also allow for our EMS services to better focus on their primary scope.</p>		
Name: Christa Cieslak	Email: christa.mh.cieslak@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 08:06 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am writing to support this resolution, 24–050, to make ocean safety, its own standalone department for the benefit and safety of all. This resolution would allow an Ocean Safety department its own autonomy in making the best possible decisions for all ocean related services. It would also allow for our EMS services to better focus on their primary scope.</p>		
Name: Bronson Tiwanak	Email: tiwanakbronson@yahoo.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 08:23 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I believe Ocean Safety being its own entity would be vital to operations and allocation of resources. They are absolutely necessary for the safety of locals and visitors alike.</p>		
Name:	Email:	Zip:

Tamayo Perry	oahusurfingexperience@aol.com	96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 08:55 PM
Testimony: I support Resolution 24-050 . It is a step in the right direction in regards to advancing public safety.		
Name: Kurt Lager	Email: lager.kurt@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 09:02 PM
Testimony: I am in strong support of this resolution		
Name: Justin Riddleberger	Email: riddleberger56@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: C&C Honolulu Ocean Safety	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 09:03 PM
Testimony: This will provide better safety to the public and tourists of Oahu and Islands wide.		
Name: John Powell	Email: aaronintheocean@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 09:06 PM
Testimony: If EMS and Ocean Safety have their own departments they can have their own budgets and their own voices. i believe this will allow each department to better serve our community and visitors in a safer and more timely manner. This is long overdue.		
Name: Emilia Perry	Email: emiliadas@aol.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 09:12 PM
Testimony: I support Resolution 24-050 . To allow Ocean Safety to have their own Department & own Budget will allow Ocean Safety to better serve the community. It is a step in the right direction in regards to advancing much better safety for the public at large.  Thank you for your acknowledgement on this urgent matter.		
Name: Chris Stacy	Email: ikuwai19944@yahoo.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 09:14 PM
Testimony: I am in full support of ocean safety becoming their own department. These men and woman truly put their lives on the line for a complete stranger and have showed our community their full commitment and dedication to saving lives, preventing dangers in and out of the waters. They deserve everything they could ever ask for. Ocean safety are the real professionals when it comes to ocean rescues, cpr, first aid and medical care for patients in the community. I really hope the city sees what these men and women do for their community and vistors. They are on the front lines of the dangerous hazards of the ocean. Hawaii is the number one destination for beach activities so why not give these heros what they deserve! Mahalo for your time and consideration, Aloha		

Name: Ikaika Won	Email: ikaikawon@yahoo.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 09:20 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support Ocean Safety to become it's own department. This will only benefit the people of Hawaii and it's visitors. Long have the brave and highly skilled men and women of this organization been deprived of the proper equipment, facilities and funding they need to do their jobs and maintain a sustainable career. Despite these deprivations, this organization still manages to be the best Lifeguard organization in the world. Making Ocean Safety into a Department will free this workforce from the constraints of inexperienced and unknowledgeable administrators that have held this organization down for decades, and will allow more well suited and effective individuals to lead. This will benefit the people of hawaii and it's visitors tremendously.</p>		
Name: Patrick Watson	Email: surftone@hotmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 09:22 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>I would like to support the establishment of the Department of Ocean Safety. The lifeguards on Oahu are outstanding and deserve the full support of the City and County to provide them with additional life saving resources and proper funding for insurance, training and staffing. needs. I have seen multiple selfless rescues and outstanding emergency care administered by our lifeguards. Courageous heroes that deserve the best!</p> <p>Mahalo,</p> <p>Patrick Watson</p>		
Name: Ian Bachmann	Email: ianbachmann638@hotmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 09:36 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>It is beyond time to have ocean safety to become its own department! We having the most dangerous beach's out of anywhere on the planet. This will better our local community's &amp; the high influx of travelers that come to our islands. Please help ocean safety to become its own department! This is very much needed. We can't keep piggy backing off of EMS! Please help us to push forward with this!</p>		
Name: Natalia Macias	Email: taliamacias808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 09:39 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support this because it will get ocean safety to where they need to be to protect and serve our locals and tourists while at the beach to the highest level</p>		
Name: Jenna Bachmann	Email: jennafettig@yahoo.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 09:41 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Ocean safety needs to become their own department in order to keep our people safe due to the unique demands of the job.</p>		
Name:	Email:	Zip:

Joey Cadiz	joeycamillewedding@gmail.com	96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 09:46 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I strongly support resolution 24-50, in efforts to create Ocean Safety's stand alone department. This would allow autonomy and leadership to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all beach patrons both local and visitors. All public safety agencies operate with different responsibilities as first responders. Ocean Safety has more public contact and education than any other agency and should be recognized for its ability to 'prevent' actions before they become life-threatening.</p>		
Name: Miki Ohashi	Email: mikibasket@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 09:58 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Lifeguards are rescuing people from the ocean and at beaches. They are not going into burning houses, operating fire equipment or making house calls for emergencies. Their equipment, training and skills are unique.</p> <p>Lifeguards also do not live on site together. These first responders are so different that they should have separate budgets and management as each are their own specialties.</p> <p>Firefighters and police are separate- lifeguards should be, too. Their role is vital to the safety of residents and the tourism industry that still supports Hawaii. Visitors constantly underestimate the power of the ocean and rescues happen regularly.</p>		
Name: Robert Beall	Email: junta.clarity.0n@icloud.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 10:05 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support Ocean Safety becoming its own department.</p>		
Name: Gabriel Scholtz	Email: kaiposcholtz@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 10:14 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>As a parent, avid surfer, resource gatherer of the ocean, kanaka and protector of the ocean I support the advancement of the establishment of the ocean safety department. I believe the future generations will be more positively impacted with more resources for safer beaches everywhere.</p> <p>Mahalo nui</p>		
Name: Heiley Hacoba	Email: heileyhacoba@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 10:18 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>I support the establishment of the Department of Ocean Safety being independent from EMS. Being born and raised on Oahu , I am taught from a young age the dangers of the ocean and how to take precautions. However, people who partake in enjoying our ocean, especially visitors, rely and need our ocean safety to be present and in the best condition they can be in to hypothetically rescue individuals. By having their own department, Ocean Rescue will be able to do. This will give our Ocean Safety the proper funding and opportunity to voice their own needs and issues. I beg that you support this resolution as it could mean life or death.</p> <p>Mahalo!</p>		

Me ke aloha,  
Heiley Hacoba

Name: Navarra Schillaci	Email: navkings@icloud.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 10:25 PM

Testimony:  
The lifeguards on NS save lives everyday and deserve this!

Name: Rachel Porter	Email: paipoqueen@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 10:29 PM

Testimony:  
I am writing to support Resolution 24-50, which proposes that Lifeguards have their own department, separate from EMS. This makes perfect sense when one considers that lifeguards have basic EMT training, but EMT's and paramedics have no lifeguard training whatsoever.  
It makes no sense for lifeguards to be supervised by superiors who have not been trained as lifeguards and are unfamiliar with the complexities of this job and the unique skillsets required to perform in this capacity.  
There is an analogy here with HPD and HFD; they are separate departments with different skillsets and this clearly should also be true of EMS and lifeguards.  
I strongly urge you to pass this resolution.

Name: Spencer Ricciardello	Email: riccospencercontact@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 10:44 PM

Testimony:  
I support this proposal, the North Shore lifeguards deserve their own department because they are watching over one of the most dangerous and crowded beaches in all of Hawaii, and need as much support as they can get from the state to help keep locals and tourists from all over the world be safe on these beaches.

Name: Daniel James	Email: danieljames.ra@gmail.com	Zip: 96762
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 4, 2024 @ 11:04 PM

Testimony:  
Ocean Safety needs to be its own department. It's long overdue.

Name: Felicia Land	Email: felicia.williams@aol.com	Zip: 96762
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 12:13 AM

Testimony:  
The life guards/ocean safety need their own department. They have been piggy backing off EMS for years. Oahu has some of the most dangerous beaches in the world & ocean safety should be a massive priority in this state.

Name: Michael Austin	Email: manizle@aim.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 12:30 AM

Testimony:

I support ocean safety becoming its own department.		
Mahalo		
Name: Michael McHale	Email: mikemchale001@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Ocean Safety Honolulu	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 01:49 AM
Testimony: Ocean Safety would be much better off as our own Department.		
Name: Leah Van Vleet	Email: leahvanvleet@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 03:03 AM
Testimony: The lifeguards are crucial! I've watched them save several lives. They deserve all the support in Hawai'i they need!		
Name: Brian Downes	Email: bndownes@gmail.com	Zip: 96725
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 04:25 AM
Testimony: I support the measure to have ocean safety independently run & funded		
Name: Reid Novelich	Email: reidnovelich@yahoo.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 04:32 AM
Testimony: I would love to see ocean safety become its own department so they can have control of what they need and have a voice to get what is need to better their abilities to keep the community and visitors safe. Ocean safety has so much responsibility here in Hawaii of protecting the people from these treacherous waters and deserve to have their voices heard on what is needed to better their services.		
Name: Chris Latronic	Email: chris.latronic@khon2.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 04:34 AM
Testimony: They Deserve It! Long overdue! Make it happen!		
Name: Jared Jovero	Email: churverobrewers@yahoo.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Ocean safety	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 04:48 AM
Testimony: I support		
Name: Clayton Silver	Email: claytonsilverii@gmail.com	Zip: 92627
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 05:22 AM

<p>Testimony: As a past lifeguard in California, I have experienced the importance of this profession and need for ocean safety. Lifeguards need more independence and voice. These men and women work hard and have saved my life before on the North Shore and wouldn't be here today without them.</p>		
Name: alfred kondo	Email: alfpacific@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 05:47 AM
<p>Testimony: I am in support of the Hawaii Lifeguard's setting up as a single department. They are an important resource for Kamaina and visitors with a unique skillset. They should be able to manage budgets and resources independently from the EMS department.</p>		
Name: Allison Dilks	Email: alidilks@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 06:14 AM
<p>Testimony: The Ocean Safety and Lifeguard division should have every resource available to them to do their jobs successfully in keeping everyone at the beach and in the ocean safe.</p>		
Name: Bryan Phillips	Email: bryanphillips808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 06:16 AM
<p>Testimony: Aloha-  I stand in support of Resolution 24-50. I am a former lifeguard of 19 years and sat as BU15 President during my service. A budget for the cost of a new department has been prepared and discussed many times. In a city of an operating budget of \$3 billion an increase to a Department of \$1 million is not a huge impact. Mahalo for your time.</p>		
Name: Antonio Ventim	Email: gutovb28@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 06:44 AM
<p>Testimony: Fully support ocean safety becoming an independent department.</p>		
Name: Jeffrey Okuyama	Email: jeffreyokuy@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 06:58 AM
<p>Testimony: I am in support of ocean safety needing its own department.</p>		
Name: Jay Alvarez	Email: letsliveallday@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 07:07 AM
<p>Testimony: In support of our north shore life guards please allow them to move forward with their desired and chosen steps! They know best to keep us safe and themselves able to keep working and going!</p>		



Name: Joseph Vitek	Email: joevitek1@hotmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 07:21 AM
Testimony: I am in support of separate departments for Ocean Safety and EMS so when funds are distributed they can't misused.		
Name: Steven Hong	Email: piipumehanakoalani@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 07:24 AM
Testimony: Lifeguards should be a separate from ems and be there own department it will save the city money		
Name: Perry Turnbull	Email: perryturnbull@hotmail.com	Zip: 96812
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 07:26 AM
Testimony: Please support the lifeguards ! The more help we give to our first responders, the more life's they can save.  Thank you		
Name: Danielle Kauihou	Email: alphawahine@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 07:27 AM
Testimony: I support this resolution.		
Name: Kamalei Wilmott	Email: kamaleishaun@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 07:46 AM
Testimony: Supporting lifeguards become their own department.		
Name: Conner Wagner	Email: connerjwagner@yahoo.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 07:58 AM
Testimony: As a life long resident of the north shore of Oahu I support whole heartedly any revision which grants more funding and access to medical equipment to the lifeguard association. They risk their lives everyday to keep our beaches it's about time they are properly funded and supported		
Name: Will Obermeyer	Email: willjobermeyer@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 08:03 AM
Testimony: Ocean safety has always shown me the most elite level of care and training. They are a corner stone in not only tourist health but		

the island as a whole. Day in and day out the best of the best watch the water in any conditions. These men and women deserve the full support from the government and becoming its own department would encourage not only this generation of life guards but it would continue to help the highest level watermen and women join and stay with ocean safety in the future.

Name: Sarah Chandler	Email: nemagibney@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 08:38 AM

Testimony:  
Hawaii Lifeguards need to be established as their own department to properly and efficiently benefit the community. They are underpaid, understaffed and need more funding for the safety of all. Give them the resources, pay and support they deserve as they do for our people and visitors.

Name: Chase Johnson	Email: chaselkj@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 08:50 AM

Testimony:  
As a concerned citizen and advocate for public safety, I strongly endorse the establishment of a dedicated Department of Ocean Safety within the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu. Hawaii's unique coastal environment presents both opportunities for enjoyment and inherent risks that demand specialized attention and resources.

The creation of a standalone department focused solely on ocean safety is paramount for several reasons. First and foremost, it would streamline and centralize efforts to protect beachgoers and ocean enthusiasts, ensuring a coordinated response to emergencies such as drowning incidents, water rescues, and shark encounters. With dedicated personnel trained in lifesaving techniques and equipped with the necessary tools, the department can swiftly and effectively mitigate risks and save lives.

Furthermore, a Department of Ocean Safety would enhance public education and awareness initiatives, providing vital information about water conditions, hazards, and safety protocols. By promoting responsible behavior and proactive measures, such as swimmer education programs and beach signage, the department can empower residents and visitors to make informed decisions and reduce the incidence of water-related accidents.

Moreover, establishing a formalized department underscores the city's commitment to prioritizing ocean safety as a fundamental aspect of its governance and public service. By allocating resources and institutional support, the charter amendment would signify a long-term investment in protecting the well-being of our community members and preserving the natural beauty of our coastal regions.

In conclusion, the creation of a Department of Ocean Safety is not only a prudent measure but also a moral imperative to safeguard lives and promote responsible recreation. I urge the relevant authorities to proceed with the necessary amendments to the charter, thereby advancing the cause of ocean safety and ensuring a safer, more enjoyable experience for all who visit and reside in Honolulu. Thank you for considering my testimony in support of this critical initiative.

Sincerely,  
Chase Johnson

Name: Jenah Yamamoto	Email: 7822g1@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 08:51 AM

Testimony:  
Aloha mai kakou,

I'm writing here to express the need for Hawaii ocean safety to have their own department. These men and women are crucial and vital to the safety of our communities as well as tourists who frequent our shore lines. Establishing a department for ocean safety would allow for so many more resources to be deployed in an effort to keep our beaches safe. The value the men and

women of ocean safety add to hawaii is immeasurable.

Name: Ikaika Gualdarama	Email: ijkgualdarama@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 08:52 AM

Testimony:  
I'm here as a supporter of Honolulu Ocean Safety being it's own separate department

Name: patrick monaghan	Email: patrickmonaghan68@yahoo.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 08:53 AM

Testimony:  
My name is Patrick Monaghan and I work for Ocean safety , I support the decision for us to become our own department .

Name: Jose Maga'lahi Nelson	Email: jmagalahi@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 08:55 AM

Testimony:  
I support this. Our water safety officers of Honolulu have to be under their own department for the safety of others and themselves.

Name: Jake Maki	Email: jakemaki@icloud.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 08:57 AM

Testimony:  
I am in full support of ocean safety becoming its own department. Being a professional big wave surfer, I trust these lifeguards with my life, or to save my life.

Name: Micah Shepardson	Email: 712mks808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Ocean Safety	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 5, 2024 @ 08:57 AM

Testimony:  
Ocean safety makes thousands of rescues a year. Being their own department just makes the most sense for countless reasons. One big reason is we always need reliable equipment to secure and often rescue the never ending amount of tourist that visit the islands year round.



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

City Council  
City and County of Honolulu  
Committee on Budget

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 5, 2024

Resolution 24-50 (2024) – 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

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports Resolution 24-50, which proposes to place the following question on the 2024 general election ballot: “Shall the Revised City Charter be amended to establish a Department of Ocean Safety and remove ocean safety responsibilities from the Department of Emergency Services?” and amends Section 6-603, Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition).

As the exclusive representative of the Water Safety Officers of the City and County of Honolulu, we believe it is in the best interest to create a separate department. A new Department would allow for greater autonomy, management, and oversight in water safety operations and funding, which in-turn, would better support Water Safety Officers in serving local residents and visitors at our beaches.

As the exclusive representative for most employees effected in this resolution, should the City Council vote to pass this resolution and the people of Honolulu vote in-favor of this concept, we would like to kindly remind the Administration that in accordance with Chapter 89-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes and the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s), any changes affecting employee relations or conditions of work are subject to consultation with the exclusive representative. Furthermore, any changes to wages, hours, and other conditions of work specified in a collective bargaining agreement shall be negotiated between the employer and the exclusive representative.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Resolution 24-50.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Randy Perreira  
Executive Director