

**RES24-050
Testimony**

MISC. COMM. 104

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Mar 25, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 32

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 2

Name: Jessamy Hornor	Email: jessamyhornor@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Ocean Safety 'Ohana	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 21, 2024 @ 04:03 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Chair Waters and City Council members,</p> <p>I am writing as the founder of the grassroots org Ocean Safety 'Ohana that represents the perspective of those who have lost loved ones to the ocean. I am also the Coordinator of the Hawaii Water Safety Coalition.</p> <p>I support Resolution 24-50 to establish a separate Honolulu Department of Ocean Safety - as it was originally written. This department should NOT be combined with any other department (not EMS OR EMS and the Medical Examiner's Office as was surprisingly proposed in the last hearing).</p> <p>A separate Department of Ocean Safety would be an investment in our public safety infrastructure, our ocean-oriented lifestyle, as well as the tourism industry, AND it would allow for more opportunities for ocean safety education, which is critical to our keiki and community. Programs like Junior Lifeguards are so important for our youth to teach them lifetime skills, and we need robust public outreach on how to be safer at the beach, including via updated digital platforms. Outreach would also reduce the burden of on-site interventions and rescues on our lifeguards - and reduce our drowning rate.</p> <p>Data points to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Drowning is the leading cause of death for our keiki ages 1-15, and less than 2% of our second graders have the basic skills to avoid or recover from drowning. * Drowning is the leading cause of death for tourists. * Hawaii residents have the second highest drowning rate in the nation. <p>Drownings not only have a lifetime of impact on the victim's families, but they have an impact on our lifeguards and first responders as well as on our economy. A study from SafeKids in 2020 estimates the economic impact of fatal and non-fatal child drownings in the US to be more than \$16 billion https://www.safekids.org/sites/default/files/documents/drowning-fast-facts.pdf. More outreach and education has a well-documented impact on reducing drowning numbers as outlined and called for in the US National Water Safety Action Plan, https://www.watersafetyusa.org/nwsap.html.</p> <p>Oahu needs a separate Department of Ocean Safety, and it should include more outreach and education.</p> <p>Mahalo, Jessamy Town Hornor</p>		
Name: Lisa Dau	Email: lisa.dau@kapiolani.org	Zip: 96826
Representing: Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 22, 2024 @ 01:45 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition (KIPC) SUPPORTS Resolution 24-50.</p>		
Name: Luke Shepardson	Email: lukeshepardson10@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 22, 2024 @ 03:31 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am in support of ocean safety becoming its own department with a commission so the public and workers can have input and transparency and see what is happening in the department</p>		
Name: Scott Alexander	Email: scott@offthewallhawaii.com	Zip: 96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Mar 22, 2024 @ 03:32 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>For the economic health of the state it is imperative to keep our beaches and ocean areas safe. Ocean safety protects the tourism industry, along with protecting the residents of the state. Please provide them with proper funding to do their job.</p> <p>Mahalo</p>		
Name: Samuel Megowen	Email: smegowen@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 22, 2024 @ 03:46 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Establishing a department of ocean safety will allow the waterman and waterwomen of honolulu ocean safety to provide the best service to residents and visitors who want to spend time at the beach and in the water on the island.</p> <p>A commission will allow for multiple people with knowledge of the capabilities and needs of ocean safety to establish the direction and leadership of the department.</p> <p>Aloha!</p>		
Name: Derek Wong	Email: wongderek808@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 22, 2024 @ 03:52 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support ocean safety to become its own department.</p>		
Name: Nanea Tannehill	Email: naneat808@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 22, 2024 @ 04:05 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support the betterment of our ocean safety stewards in every way possible</p>		
Name: Sarah Fairchild	Email: sarah@dukefoundation.org	Zip: 96791
Representing: Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 22, 2024 @ 05:18 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha kkou,</p> <p>I'm writing in strong support of the creation of separate departments for Ocean Safety and EMS. I served on the Mayor's Ocean Safety Task Force which unanimously endorsed Ocean Safety becoming a separate department to increase efficiency and effectiveness with its mission which is of significant scope, and markedly different from that of EMS. I'm especially pleased to witness the Mayor and City Council working cooperatively on this lifesaving matter. Honolulu's Ocean Safety team is composed of the most highly skilled watermen and waterwomen in the world, and we will be proud for our City to demonstrate international leadership in this field. Hawaii is second in the nation for rate of drowning among residents; drowning is the leading cause of death for Hawaii keiki ages 1-15; and drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death for our visitors. As part of the Hawaii Water Safety Coalition, I recognize that preventing drownings requires an ecosystem of water safety awareness built by individuals, organizations, and all levels of government. The creation of an independent Ocean Safety department will be a primary step in building this new ecosystem.</p> <p>I strongly support both departments being overseen by commissions rather than solitary, appointed department heads. Commission oversight is a national best practice in public safety because the focus is on saving lives. Commission oversight fosters transparency, accountability, and trust between communities and public safety departments. It provides an additional layer</p>		

of scrutiny, potentially reducing misconduct and ensuring that department actions align with community expectations.

Mahalo,
Sarah Fairchild
Executive Director
Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation

Name: Bruce Maeda	Email: bmaeda12@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 22, 2024 @ 06:16 PM

Testimony:
This is a long overdue subject that needs to be more thoroughly invested into. As an island State, we should have better assistance for shoreline activities of our citizens.

Name: Justin Riddleberger	Email: riddleberger56@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: C&C Honolulu Ocean Safety	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 22, 2024 @ 08:41 PM

Testimony:
This will provide better safety to the public.

Name: Mike McHale	Email: mikemchale001@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Mar 22, 2024 @ 09:24 PM

Testimony:
I am a full time OSD Lifeguard in District 3 since 2004. We are very excited for the opportunity of OSD becoming a stand alone Department. I do not believe that a Commission is needed, nor do I see any long term benefits in having a Commission of civilian community members being involved in the "shaping" of a Department for OSD. Thank you.

Name: Jodie Lerner	Email: jodielerner@hawaiiantel.net	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 22, 2024 @ 09:53 PM

Testimony:
I support Ocean Safety being it's own department.

Name: Glenn Pang	Email: naia82904@gmail.com	Zip: 97644
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 23, 2024 @ 10:34 AM

Testimony:
Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written support for the development of the Ocean Safety Department, it will only strengthen our current emergency response team and allow the men & women of this department to develop and improve their skills and knowledge to continue providing the world-class service which they have given the City and County of Honolulu and our guest to our beautiful beaches and coastline of Oahu.

Name: Sharlene Chun-Lum	Email: sharstocks@yahoo.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 23, 2024 @ 09:27 PM

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

My name is Shar Chun-Lum, founding member of Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui. I am writing again 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. Discussion about making Ocean Safety a separate department first came up in 2021 and I testified in support of Resolution 21-122.

Ocean Safety provides critical services to locals and tourists alike who flock to our beaches.

As a regular at Ala Moana Beach Park, I appreciate the lifeguards on duty posting warnings about box jelly fish or sharks, looking out for swimmers and paddlers in distress, notifying NOAA when seals beach themselves on the sand, and providing first aid and/or calling for EMS when injuries are more serious. I see them on Jet skis outside the reef when there are shark sightings or turtles in distress or surfers in trouble off shore. Lifeguards on beaches in the country have many more interactions with individuals in danger, especially during high surf conditions.

Having Ocean Safety as its own department will allow its employees more direct access to a Director who understands their needs. In turn, the Director will be able to prioritize and defend the budget needed to provide much needed coverage to parks around the 227 miles of beach on O`ahu.

Please approve Res. 24-50 today.

Mahalo for your support for Ocean Safety.

Name: Bruce Lum	Email: savealamoanabeachpark@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
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Representing: Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 23, 2024 @ 10:45 PM
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Name: Robert Beall	Email: robertbeall123@gmail.com	Zip: 95816
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Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 10:45 AM
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Testimony:
I support

Name: Pono Ornellas	Email: pono_ornellas@aol.com	Zip: 96816
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Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 10:53 AM
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Testimony:
I support ocean safety in becoming its own department.

Name: Jake Silva	Email: j115.silva.2000@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
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Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 10:55 AM
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Testimony:
I support Ocean Safety in becoming its own department.

Name: Kiai Flood	Email: kiaiflood808@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
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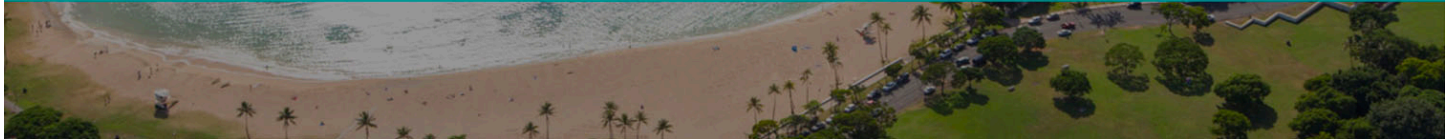
Representing: Ocean Safety HESD	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 11:03 AM
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Testimony:
I support Ocean Safety being established as its own department, I am looking forward to the many opportunities and job perks.

Thank you		
Name: Kaimana Gomes	Email: gomeskaimana@gmail.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 12:28 PM
Testimony: I support Ocean Safety in becoming its own department.		
Name: Matthew Beall	Email: mattbeall808@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 12:31 PM
Testimony: I support ocean safety becoming its own department.		
Name: Drew Lamore	Email: drewlamore@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Ocean Safety	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 12:58 PM
Testimony: I am in support of ocean safety detaching from EMS and becoming its own department.		
Name: Mo Freitas	Email: momosurfs@yahoo.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 01:03 PM
Testimony: Support		
Name: Kurt Lager	Email: lager.kurt@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 02:42 PM
Testimony: I am in strong support of this resolution		
Name: Danielle Troup	Email: dtroup7@yahoo.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 03:42 PM
Testimony: I am in strong support of this resolution.		
Name: Brett Gilstrap	Email: bagstrap@hotmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 03:43 PM
Testimony: I strongly support		
Name: patrick monaghan	Email: patrickmonaghan68@yahoo.com	Zip: 96712

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 08:15 PM
Testimony: I support ocean safety becoming its own department.		
Name: Daniel-Ray Kahalepauole-Bizik	Email: kawaonuiiola808@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 08:54 PM
Testimony: I support ocean safety in becoming its own department.		
Name: Bryan Phillips	Email: bryanphillips808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 08:57 PM
Testimony: I am in strong support of Resolution 24-50 in its original form. I strongly believe that a commission will best serve the future Department of Ocean Safety. The commission, like our brothers and sisters in HPD and HFD, will provide transparency to the workforce, the public and it fosters accountability in public safety. Bringing this to a vote on the November ballot with the charter amendment passing will allowing for planning for additional staff, facilities and cost. I do NOT believe rushing this process is the best way forward. Mahalo, Bryan Phillips		
Name: Frederic Booth III	Email: freddybooth@hotmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 09:27 PM
Testimony: This opinion is coming from someone who's worked on the NS for 22 years. i am in full support of this resolution and starting a department with a commission. i strongly feel that anything less is just that. Less. Anyone not wanting to go this route in my opinion doesn't have our best interests at heart. This should not be rushed. With directors it will be more of the same. i believe wholeheartedly in everything Andria Tupola said in the last meeting and i want to remind the council what the Mayor said. He didn't just say he was committed to making Ocean Safety its own Department. He said he was willing to work with Ocean Safety and the council to get it done. Unless we do an entire Lifeguard vote Chief Titchen IS Ocean Safety. He's saying slowly and with a commission. Tupola is saying slowly and with a commission. Are they listening? We are here to serve the public and our growth these last few years can be largely attributed to community support and Chief Titchen. i am not only unafraid of a public vote and Chief Titchens support of this resolution. i am encouraged and excited for it. The standard is Fire and Police. Why would we strive for any less? Why would anyone want any less for us? Mahalo		
Name: Tamayo Perry	Email: oahusurfingexperience@aol.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 10:45 PM
Testimony: I Tamayo Perry believe it is a great benefit & a huge step in the right direction to better serve the community & visiting travelers alike by Ocean Safety becoming their own department. As well, in the development of Ocean Safety becoming their own department, I am also in favor of Ocean Safety having a "Commission" be established. Mahalo for listening & taking action. Sincerely, Tamayo Perry		
Name: Emilia Perry	Email: emiliadas@aol.com	Zip: 96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Mar 24, 2024 @ 10:51 PM
<p>Testimony: I Emilia Perry, believe it is a great benefit & a huge step in the right direction to better serve the community & visiting travelers alike, by Ocean Safety becoming their own department. As well, in the development of Ocean Safety becoming their own department, I am also in favor of Ocean Safety having a "Commission" be established. Thank you for your attention towards this urgent matter.</p> <p>Aloha, Emilia Perry</p>		
Name: Chelsey Hatori	Email: chlsyhtr@gmail.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 24, 2024 @ 11:34 PM
<p>Testimony: Let's make Ocean safety its own department.</p>		
Name: Racquel Achiu	Email: rhachiu@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 25, 2024 @ 09:39 AM
<p>Testimony: Aloha Council. Racquel Achiu North Shore in Support of Resolution 24-50. The goal of creating a separate department for Ocean Safety is has been long road and an overdue task. We've been asking for this for YEARS. It's time for Ocean Safety to become their own and grow efficiently and effectively. As our communities, beaches and oceans become increasingly overwhelmed daily with not only visitors but our own residents, the NEED for Ocean Safety to operate and function independently becomes a great necessity. Whether it goes to ballot or ordered by the mayor, it is critical for Ocean Safety to be independent. MAHALO</p>		



SAVE ALA MOANA BEACH PARK HUI

<https://savealamoanabeachpark.org>

March 23, 2024

Aloha kākou,

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, 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