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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAII SURFING RESERVES.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that designating Hawaii surfing reserves would recognize those surf sites and acknowledge their environmental, cultural, sports, and historic significance in Hawaii. Designation of a Hawaii surfing reserve would raise awareness about the importance of protecting, nourishing, and developing Hawaii's world famous surf sites. Designation of a Hawaii surfing reserve would not limit enjoyment of the designated area.

A Hawaii surfing reserve designation achieves three purposes:

- (1) Formal worldwide recognition of the sites as surfing areas that have quality surf and significant cultural, historical, recreational, and competitive sports value;
- (2) Recognition of the long and close relationship between surfers and the ocean; and
- (3) Promoting the long term preservation of Hawaii surfing reserves for recreation and competitive surfing.

To date, Australia has designated several areas as surfing reserves and New Zealand has considered taking similar action to protect its coastal environment.

The purpose of this Act is to designate the surfs of Waikiki and the area from Haleiwa to Sunset beach on the north shore of Oahu as Hawaii surfing reserves.

SECTION 2. Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§6E- Hawaii surfing reserves. (a) There is established the Waikiki Hawaii surfing reserve, which shall include the area of Oahu bounded by the Ala Wai and the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium that includes all surf breaks; and the north shore Hawaii surfing reserve, which shall include the area of the north shore of Oahu from Ali'i beach in Haleiwa to Sunset beach and includes all surf breaks. Each Hawaii surfing reserve shall extend from the high water mark and include all surf breaks within the defined reserve.

(b) In connection with surfing reserves, the department shall:

(1) Recognize that recreational and competitive surfing in all its forms is an asset to the State of Hawaii;

(2) Assist the surfing community or other private organizations in placing appropriate signs or markers to identify the respective surfing reserves; and

(3) Provide for federal, state, and county collaboration in nourishing and protecting Hawaii surfing reserves.

(c) For the purpose of this section:

"Surfer" means any person who interacts physically with the surf for recreation, including bodysurfers, bodyboarders, surfboarders, surfskiing, surfboating, all forms of surf lifesaving and lifeguarding including tow-in surfing; provided that riding waves on machines shall be excluded.

"Hawaii surfing reserve" means a part of the coastal environment recognized by the community for the cultural and historical quality and consistency of its surf and its long-term and ongoing relationship between the surf and surfers. A Hawaii surfing reserve includes the beach and adjacent surf zone from the high water mark and may include features of the marine and coastal zone that intrinsically enhance aspects of the surfing experience."

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Surfing Reserves; Waikiki; North Shore

**Description:**

Designates Waikiki and certain area of the north shore of Oahu as Hawaii surfing reserves.

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



## **THE HAWAII SURFING RESERVE BILL | SB 2646**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2010**

### **TESTIMONY | NATIONAL SURFING RESERVES AUSTRALIA**

On behalf of National Surfing Reserves, deputy chair Prof. Andrew Short (OAM), NSR Patron Wayne 'Rabbit' Bartholomew (AM) and the surfing nation of Australia, I am very pleased to support SB 2646 before the Senate.

Like Hawaii, the island nation of Australia has a strong surfing community who share a long connection with the waves, oceans and beaches – for recreation, lifestyle and income. Hawaii is, in the eyes of the world, the birthplace of surfing and has inspired many millions of people worldwide to not only take up the sport, but deeply appreciate the coastal environment. It was Hawaii's Duke Kahanamoku, who after demonstrating surfing here in 1915, inspired this now great surfing nation.

National Surfing Reserves in Australia and similarly a Hawaii Surfing Reserve (HSR) serve to meet the needs of the public to acknowledge through a symbolic enshrinement, the integral value of the rich cultural, environmental, sporting and historical importance surfing embodies.

I am pleased to advise that in Australia the NSR program is supported by the federal and New South Wales governments. NSR form part of 'special purpose zones' and are acknowledged as such under the NSW *Crown Lands Act* (1989) with the Minister for Lands and the Minister for Tourism endorsing and promoting the NSR initiative. They join the wider community officiating at each ceremony with other parliamentary and civic colleagues. Next month, Australia enshrines its 10<sup>th</sup> National Surfing Reserve after a highly successful five year community program. Like Hawaii, Australia has also been nominated for the prestigious status of a 'World Surfing Reserve'.

We Australians join with Hawaii - extending our full support to Senator Hemming's Bill before the Senate today. We look forward to attending your Inaugural HSR Dedication Ceremony.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Farmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Mr Brad Farmer**

Hon. Chair, National Surfing Reserves

Founder: Surfrider Foundation Australia, National Surfing Reserves & National Ocean Care Day

Vision Council, World Surfing Reserves

Perth, WA 17 February, 2010 | [natsurfistes@sydney.net](mailto:natsurfistes@sydney.net)