

Resolution

No. _____

URGING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF
PARKS AND RECREATION TO ENTER INTO A
SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE
HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
ASSOCIATION TO COMPENSATE OCEAN
SAFETY EMPLOYEES FOR WATER CRAFT
OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, On July 22, 2002, Ocean Safety joined the 911 emergency response system; interfacing with MPD on 800 MHz radios. Ocean Safety Officers officially began responding to ocean rescues, using Personal Water Craft (PWC); and

WHEREAS, Prior to the 911 system and responding to calls in the "Maui Fire Department" districts, an Ocean Safety Officer's "Area of Responsibility" was limited to County Beach Park boundaries in which they are stationed; and

WHEREAS, Subsequent to the implementation of these joint operations Ocean Safety Officers, members of Unit 3 of the Hawaii Government Employees Association ("HGEA"), became responsible for the public's safety over entire coastlines; and

WHEREAS, Ocean Safety Officers functioning as Rescue Operators and Rescue Grabbers have greater risk, responsibility and tremendously greater wear and tear on their bodies with no additional compensation or hazard pay; and

WHEREAS, Ocean Safety Officers volunteered to become PWC Operators with the promise that compensation would follow; and

WHEREAS, Over the past twelve years, the County's dependence on the services provided by Rescue Operators has grown with increased shark attacks and sightings, missing persons, introduction of kite surfing, and stand-up paddle rentals. Rescue Operators are busy year

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round with the majority of incidents being miles outside of the Ocean Safety Officer's assigned park; and

WHEREAS, On July 1, 2006 the City and County of Honolulu entered into a Supplemental Agreement for the compensation of PWC Operators. The Employer agreed to compensate eligible Water Safety Officers (WSO) for the operation of the PWC at \$2.50/hr. for all hours the officers are assigned to perform the duties. This includes maintenance and transporting of the PWC; and

WHEREAS, Since the City and County of Honolulu's implementation of the Supplemental Agreement, Kauai County has followed suit with an agreement for their PWC operation; and

WHEREAS, By not properly compensating PWC Operators for the past 12 years, the County of Maui has saved over \$1 million dollars. (Two operators per PWC paid an extra \$20/day or \$2.50/hr.); and; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That the Council urges the Mayor and Director of Parks and Recreation, in recognition of the 47 certified County of Maui Water Safety Officers who volunteer to be PWC Operators, implement a Supplemental Agreement to properly compensate the employees; and
2. That the Council urges the Mayor and Director of Parks and Recreation to pay for and schedule all County of Maui certified operators to get their USCG Auxiliary Boating and Seamanship Course and conduct annual recertification as laid out in the Supplemental agreement;
3. That the Council urges the Mayor and the Director of Parks and Recreation to provide retroactive compensation for the services of the current PWC operators; and
4. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Alan M. Arakawa, Mayor, County of Maui; Ka'ala Buenconcejo, Director of Parks and Recreation, County of

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Maui; Michelle Mitra, Maui Division Chief, HGEA; Randy Perreira, Executive Director, HGEA; Marian Feenstra, Aquatics Chief; Cary Kayama, Ocean Safety Supervisor; Brad Quinto, West Maui District Supervisor; Zach Edlao, Makena Supervisor; Keola Brown, North Shore Supervisor; Jeff Meadows, South Maui Supervisor; Kekai Brown, Training Supervisor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Department of the Corporation Counsel
County of Maui