



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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DLNR REMINDERS FOR LABOR DAY BOATING SAFETY -- KANE'OHE BAY WEEKEND OUTREACH PLANNED

KANE'OHE - The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) will again monitor boating safety in Kane'ohe Bay over the Labor Day holiday weekend, September 4-6. During this time of increased boating traffic and heightened recreational activity in the bay, DLNR enforcement officers will increase their presence in and around Kane'ohe Bay to enforce safety equipment requirements, zone violations, boating under the influence (BUI) violations and all other regulations under the department's purview intended to ensure public safety and protect the bay's natural resources. DLNR will work cooperatively with the U.S. Coast Guard on this effort.

"Once again, over the last major summer holiday weekend, the department wants to raise public awareness of boating regulations to ensure everyone's safety," said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR chairperson.

Toward this end, DLNR's Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) will staff an education and safety information booth at the He'eia Kea Small Boat Harbor. Boating staff will provide information on boating rules in the bay, and provide loaner vests for keiki and whistles to boaters who need a sound device to legally operate on State waters. On Sunday and Monday, staff will be available to re-register vessels, provide replacement registration cards and issue ramp stickers. New registration and transfers of ownership will still need to be performed at DOBOR's main office, 333 Queen Street, Suite 300, in downtown Honolulu.

"The laws and rules that apply to boating and ocean recreation are designed to provide for the safe use and enjoyment of our wonderful natural resource like Kane'ohe Bay. If everyone takes personal responsibility to follow the rules, including caring for the bay and respecting other users, we can expect everyone to safely enjoy their outing," said Thielen.

“Another thing we ask boaters at ‘Ahu O Laka to remember is to keep their music to reasonable levels. Since sound travels over the water, complaints about excessive noise have been received from neighbors as far as two miles away. Finally, since families with children also frequent ‘Ahu O Laka we ask that everyone should extend their courtesy to one another,” she said.

While in State waters, boaters must carry certain types of safety equipment as required by the U.S. Coast Guard, including life vests for everyone aboard, visual distress signals, a sound producing device to signal oncoming boaters and appropriate running lights for times of limited visibility, to name a few.

In addition, boaters venturing more than one mile offshore are required by law to be equipped with a VHF radio or USCG approved Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB). Children 12 years of age and under must wear an appropriately sized personal flotation device such as a child’s life jacket at all times when on deck.

The Kane‘ohe Bay Ocean Recreation Management Area has designated riding zones for personal watercraft and other ocean recreation activities for safety reasons. DLNR will monitor regulated activities to make sure they are conducted in their proper zones within the management area.

Fines for violations of safety equipment requirements and zone violations range from \$50 up to \$1,000.

Under the State’s Boating under the Influence law, also known as Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence of an Intoxicant, HRS §291E-61, the threshold blood alcohol content is 0.08 grams of alcohol per two hundred ten liters of breath (or grams of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of blood). Penalties for a BUI conviction may include a fine of up to \$1,000, imprisonment of up to a year and may trigger revocation of an individual’s automobile driver’s license.

“If there is going to be drinking on a vessel, DLNR strongly encourages the crew to identify a designated driver for the safety of the vessel’s occupants, as well as other boaters and ocean enthusiasts. Exercising caution and obeying the law can prevent needless tragedy,” Thielen said.

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For more information, news media may contact:

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25-SECOND RIP AND READ:

The Department of Land and Natural Resources will heighten its enforcement presence in Kane‘ohe Bay during the Labor Day holiday weekend. The Department will continue its pilot project to improve water safety for boaters and ocean enthusiasts. Users of Kane‘ohe Bay are advised to update safety equipment aboard their vessels, observe designated riding zones and to not operate a vessel while intoxicated.