



Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii, Inc.

June 4, 2019

Aloha Chair Sinenci, Vice Chair Kama & Committee Members;

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Toni Marie Davis. It's been my honor to serve as the executive director of the Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii for 22 years. More than half of our membership operates within Maui County. Maui CORA operators are some of the smallest owner-operators, many of which have been in business well over 25 years.

I respectfully request that you defer this Bill, as it is not complete. Two viable solutions:

1. Amend this Bill to address the displaced companies and note that they will be permitted at another suitable County Beach Park.
2. Bring the stakeholders together (Canoe Club, Commerical Activity Permittees, Lifeguard, and residents) to come up with solutions to any "real" issues.

The second of these is more challenging, but will bring the community closer as opposed to being at odds, and bowing down to harassment and anti-commercial sentiment. It is the better solution as it respects the large amount of resources spent to set up our current County Beach Park Permitting system which addresses capacity, environment & user group impacts. I was very surprised by this Bill, which sites an increasing incompatibility between Canoe Clubs and Commercial Activity Users. Having been a canoe paddler for years, there is a large downtime in the middle of the day. Scuba diving companies, park, walk across the beach are down under the water for the most part. Hanakao'o is a large park – how is there a conflict?



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I called Parks (no returned calls). There was no way to call canoe clubs, so I look forward to hearing their testimony. I spoke with Council Member Paltin and was thankful for her time and candor along with a few operators. What I was told is that a small number of individuals have been harassing commercial operators and their guests at this location. The police were called at least twice, as these people are threatening physical harm. Many of the operators have chosen to go elsewhere to avoid bullying. This anti-commercial sentiment is a reflection of a larger problem, the current ratio of visitors to residents, which exceeds the Maui County Plan. Please do not penalize these few small businesses as a result of a much larger issue. While also bowing down to inappropriate behavior.

This Bill will force permitted business out of business. Government's role is to enable growth and vitality for all concerned. These are small small operations. Visitors in an unorganized, unsupervised capacity cause an increased conflict, detriment, and safety hazard. Whereas with a commercial operator, there is a supervised entry into these areas, rules can be recited to guests and followed. There is an opportunity to teach and educate respect for the environment and culture. They pay usage fees to the County for the privilege to conduct business in "this" park. They also watch over and protect these resources while assisting customers and noncustomers.

Please defer this Bill as currently written.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify,

Toni

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