

BF Committee

From: suzanne dorn <mauisportsunlimited@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:26 PM
To: BF Committee; County Clerk
Subject: Testimony for BF-129 CC 16-273

Testimony for BF-129 CC 16-273

Date: March 29, 2017

Regarding: BF-129

Dear Budget and Finance Chairperson and Council members,

Please amend BF-129 to exclude CORA activities from the concession proposal.

Concessions are intrinsically antagonistic to recreation and disruptive to the local Maui Community. Concessions will damage the existing business infrastructure and could cost the community hundreds of jobs and tax revenue far in excess of any short term gains. When you add a new "concession", you are actually displacing local long-term established businesses that already supply that service. This puts jobs and incomes in jeopardy and endangers the local economy.

Maui is unique, and the community has been very outspoken for years at countless Council meetings and working groups that they definitely do not want to be like "Waikiki". Our community does not want commercialization of beaches and parks. That is why Maui has evolved its own system that is in keeping with the community spirit and local values. Businesses activity has never been allowed in Maui Parks. So the "Maui way has been to offer services outside of the parks. Today there are hundreds of small businesses and services that are established at the periphery of Parks and Beaches. This keeps commerce off-site.

Recreation is vital to the health and well being of our community. Attempting to over-commercialize public recreation areas, will degrade and devalue the recreational value of our Beaches and Parks. Please do not destroy our recreational assets in the name of extracting short term gains. The local community, our economy and future generations will pay the price.

1. Maui does not want to become Honolulu/Waikiki. The Maui Community has repeatedly expressed its desire to Not be like Waikiki.

2. Concessions take jobs away from the community.
3. Small businesses are already struggling and have uncertain futures, Concessions destabilize businesses by guaranteeing a temporary situation.
4. Businesses cannot have a long-term plan under a concession system, Concessions are temporary, real local businesses are long term.
5. Concessionaires will not invest in the community or infrastructure long-term.
6. Existing businesses have investments in infrastructures, equipment, business loans, debts, that they are in the process of repaying.
7. Concessions would hurt local businesses, and eliminate their ability to repay loans and repay taxes and fulfill commitments.
8. Maui residents do not want the over-commercialization of Parks.
9. Parks are for Recreation not Commercialization.
10. Commercialization of parks decreases their Recreational value
11. All commercial services are already handled by the community outside of parks.
12. Concessions inside ball parks are usually non-profit for fundraising for local sports teams.
13. The Maui Parks Model has evolved to have commercial businesses based outside of the parks. This model has worked for the last 25 years.
14. The local Maui Business Community has evolved to provide services outside of parks for the parks.

15. Many local businesses (large and small) have been established close to beaches and parks to provide services for those parks. Food vendors, restaurants, Stores, Surf Shops, Surf gear rentals etc.
16. Parks are serviced by neighborhood businesses on the periphery of the parks. These businesses count on the traffic and revenue generated from passers by and current levels of use.
17. New Concessions do not create new Business, they only take business away from someone else.
18. Concessions are just shifting market-share from one business to another.
19. Concessions hurt existing businesses, and put jobs in jeopardy.
20. The County are co-opting private businesses, for their own profit.
21. Concessions are a way for County to hijack existing local businesses, and using their power for a commercial take over.
22. County wants to take Jobs, and Businesses away from the private sector for its own gain.

Aloha and Mahalo,

Suzanne Dorn,

Maui Sports Unlimited