

Great Committee

From: Keani N. Rawlins
Sent: Thursday, September 8, 2022 9:23 AM
To: Great Committee
Subject: Fwd: BICYCLE-TOUR PUBLIC SAFETY AND RELATED LITIGATION CONCERNS (GREAT-44)

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Albert Perez <makaleha63@yahoo.com>
Subject: BICYCLE-TOUR PUBLIC SAFETY AND RELATED LITIGATION CONCERNS (GREAT-44)
Date: September 6, 2022 at 6:37:22 PM HST
To: "alice.lee@mauicounty.us" <alice.lee@mauicounty.us>, "keani.rawlins@mauicounty.us" <keani.rawlins@mauicounty.us>, "gabe.johnson@mauicounty.us" <gabe.johnson@mauicounty.us>, "tasha.kama@mauicounty.us" <tasha.kama@mauicounty.us>, Kelly King <kelly.king@mauicounty.us>, "mike.molina@mauicounty.us" <mike.molina@mauicounty.us>, "tamara.paltin@mauicounty.us" <tamara.paltin@mauicounty.us>, "Shane M. Sinenci" <shane.sinenci@mauicounty.us>, "yukilei.sugimura@mauicounty.us" <yukilei.sugimura@mauicounty.us>

You don't often get email from makaleha63@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Chair Molina and members of the GREAT Committee,

The following relates to the GREAT-44 item scheduled for September 8, 2022 at 9 am.

This past Sunday we followed the bike tour routes up and down Haleakalā, from Kula to Makawao, Pā'ia and Ha'ikū. We shot video and took still photos. Then I came home, learned how to make a video compilation on my computer, and uploaded it to YouTube.

Being my first video ever, it is not professionally done, but it will give you a sense of what it's like to be on the road with bike tourists. I hope that you will find it useful and compelling.

Previously, I had run into these tours when I drove up and down the mountain, but the extent and frequency of the safety issues had never been clear to me until I traveled along the full tour routes. These unsafe situations are occurring multiple times every day. People are getting injured, paralyzed, and even killed. It occurs to me that we

separate surfers, windsurfers and kiteboarders because those activities are incompatible. Although there was some initial resistance to that idea, over time it improved the safety and enjoyment of people engaged in those activities. The same principle would work well for this bike tour issue. Let's separate bike tours from residential areas - it's a good idea, and the problem will only get worse if we don't act.

We need to do something for the safety of both residents and visitors. Although the bike companies talk about how much they emphasize safety, the truth is revealed in the many comments that we are seeing on Facebook (and on the [change.org](https://www.change.org) petition site, which has garnered over 1,000 signatures in just one week, almost all from local residents. Many unsuspecting tourists are put in harms way by these bike tour companies every single day, and apparently there is at least one company that is avoiding liability by "selling" the bikes to tourists for the day, and then "buying" them back when the tour is over.

Speaking of liability, I'd like to emphasize that the title of the bill under consideration includes ". . . RELATED LITIGATION CONCERNS." The County should be very concerned about the precedent set by the settlement with Jessica Harris, who is now a paraplegic. The best way to avoid similar lawsuits in the future is to ban these dangerous tours completely.

Failing that, I urge you to at least adopt the compromise solution that was reached earlier:

- ban the unguided tours, and
- restrict the guided tours so that they can only take place on Haleakala Highway between mile markers 9.5 and 3.0, above the residential areas of Kula, Makawao, Pā'ia and Ha'ikū, where accidents are much more likely.

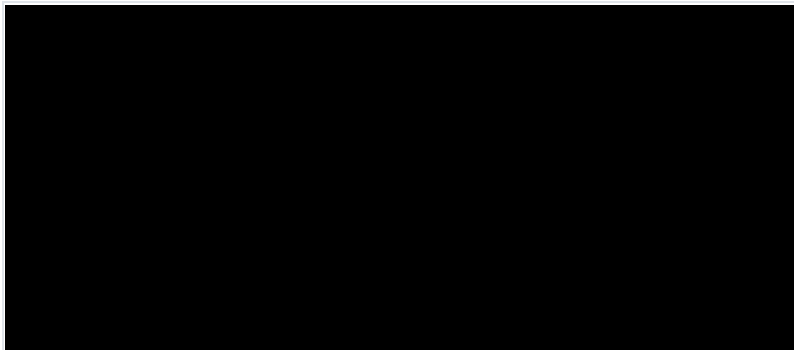
If the bill does not specify where bike tours are ***permitted***, the tour operators will move their operations to other parts of the County like the Hāna Highway and Kahakuloa.

After getting picked up at mile marker 3.0 (about 4,500' elevation), the bike tourists can be taken to businesses in Makawao, Pā'ia and Ha'ikū to shop, so it won't affect merchants there. This is the wisest, safest solution for all concerned.

Mahalo nui loa,
Albert Perez

The link to the video is here:

[Maui Bike Tours](#)

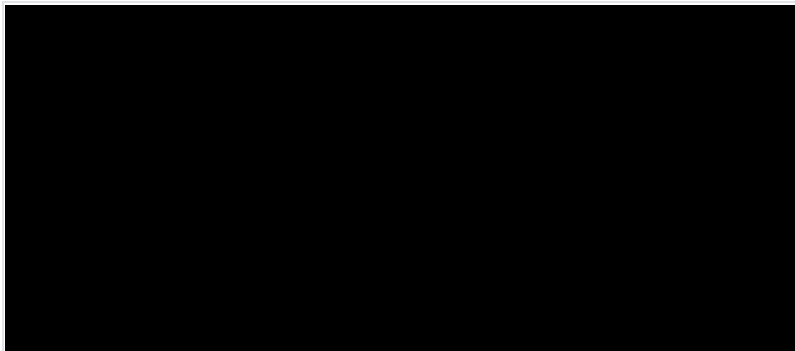




Maui Bike Tours

The link to the petition is here:

[Sign the Petition](#)



Sign the Petition

MAKE MAUI ROADS SAFE - Regulate Bike Tours!