

April 2, 2012

Re: Bill 11 (2012) – second reading

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IKAIKA ANDERSON, VICE CHAIR
ROMY M. CACHOLA, FLOOR LEADER
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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Aloha,

My name is Arlene Cabacungan; I am an active voting resident of Kailua, and I run a small business called Hawaiian Watersports in Kailua since 1998.

In regards to Bill 11 (2012), we ask that you vote NO against the bill.

I cannot believe that such a blanket ordinance of “no commercial permits” might be passed by the City Council in order to accommodate the few but very loud and vocal Keep it Kailua and Lanikai Association residents who want to turn Kailua into another California. If it were up to these groups, they would put the gates up at Castle Junction and at the entrance to Lanikai to keep everyone, both tourists and other islander Locals, out of “their town” and “their beaches.” The use of this type of terminology and this “all or nothing” attitude is insulting and appalling. It reeks of socio-economic prejudice and snobbery that needs to be kept in check. Judge Richardson originally established a systematic public access program to all beaches, in order to defend all islanders against the privatization of beach parks and shores by private homeowners, ensuring that we did not turn into another California, creating a classism of beach property owners and those who are not.

This issue is a complex one, and to lump all commercial users into one large group in this BILL 11 (2012) is doing a disservice to both to small Kailua businesses and to Local residents alike.

There are the big tour busses, little tour vans, the weddings, the bouncy houses, the segways, the lunch wagons, work out and yoga groups, canoe clubs, and there’s us, the vendors of beach activities, who do kayaking, windsurfing, kiteboarding, standup paddling and surfing. The beach park has reached an overcrowded condition and we are all like crabs stepping on each other trying to get to the top. And we all want our guaranteed access to the beach.

I have said it once and I will say it over and over again, the City needs to REGULATE, LIMIT and ENFORCE. I and many other Locals believe that passing a “no commercial permits” system at Kailua beach park which will in essence deny everyone the ability to learn how to SAFELY kayak, standup paddle, surf, and most importantly, windsurf and kitesurf at the beach where windsurfing and kitesurfing was essentially born and established by two of its world famous Kailua residents, Robby Naish and Pete Cabrinha.

Know that Kailua Beach Park offers the perfect environment to learn and practice windsurfing and kitesurfing, sports that you cannot SAFELY learn or practice anywhere

else on the island of Oahu. The winds are the right direction of side onshore, the waters are calm, the bay is curved to catch any windsurfer or kiter, and the bay is lifeguarded. If you take away any and all permits to teach these sports, you will open up the doors to illegitimate, uninsured, and unsafe instructors making their money off ignorant students to places like Waimanalo Bay, Kaneohe Bay, Laie, or Kahuku bay, and eventually to the North Shore and the South Shore. The City will continue to have this problem, just at another beach.

Stop this problem now, with a viable and reasonable solution instead. Again, REGULATE LIMIT and ENFORCE. But this "all or nothing" attitude does not benefit anyone.

If you deny access to ONE, you must deny access to ALL. If you allow access to ONE, you must allow access to ALL. Judge Richardson already establishes the ordinance; the City must keep access open to all beach users, tourist and Locals, Kailua residents and island-wide residents alike. DO NOT TURN KAILUA INTO A SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLASSIST CALIFORNIA. Moreover, we will be known as the only place in the world where windsurfing and kiteboarding were born but shut down.

Please vote NO to Bill 11(2012).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Aloha, Arlene Cabacungan
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