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Subject: Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee Testimony for Bill 11 CD1

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 CITY CLERK
 HONOLULU, HAWAII

The subject of kayak rentals has wide ranging implications. I think some people are just thinking that they have had enough with these kayaks!! They want NO commercial entities on the beach and no drop offs at the canal. I personally don't think this is fair. It will put several companies out of business and create a monopoly for the only company that is within walking distance of Kailua Beach, which will have a steady stream of kayaks going to the beach. Two reasons this isn't good: 1 - this company will have a monopoly, and 2 - the traffic, which is already horrendous leaving Lanikai will come to a standstill with all these people crossing at the crosswalk. (I hope you notice they are also crossing on the other side of the street where there is NO crosswalk, and this is very dangerous.) (Also, with all these extra kayakers we will need to have a pedestrian walk signal put in at the crosswalk ASAP!!) (I'm also thinking those "other" kayak companies might try to drop off at the public parking lot there where Kailua Sailboard and Kayaks is. Is this a possibility?) Therefore, I think it is extremely unwise to ban all commercial put-ins at the canal. There should be a place for companies to launch so that one company doesn't have a monopoly. I have read there is (or used to be) a 15 minute allowance for launching. If we have occasional inspections at the launch area then I think this will work. If a company has several infractions, they will not be allowed to launch anymore. It's that simple. What about adventure buses stopping there to unload kayakers? I saw one the other day dropping off clients. Maybe we limit the size of the bus to a van? Or not?

There needs to be a better way of limiting kayakers. There are more kayak companies popping up every day because it's so lucrative. I strongly believe there should be a **quota per company** of a certain amount of people on a tour, and a certain amount of rentals per day. I was out at the Mokulus as a few months ago, and there was nowhere to land. Kailua Sailboards had a tour of 25 people, and there were 25 more of individual kayakers. If the 3 (or so) companies who have been in business for at least a year are allowed a quota per day, I think this would work. If we don't start a quota system, we will never be able to regulate how many kayaks are out there. It's gotten absurd! Also, besides the quota system, they should be educating their renters about the sensitivity of our aina and what they are allowed to do and not do. Kailua Sailboards and Kayaks has a video they make renters watch about safety and the Mokes. This should be mandatory with anyone not on a tour. I have a video that I am sending a link to which you will find very interesting. I found a video camera on the beach last month which had been washed ashore from tourists who took videos of their outing. I was amazed at what I found on the camera. They walked all over the Mokes, they went on the back side with the dangerous surf, they chased turtles, they had a speargun, and they rode waves in one foot of water out there where several kayakers have lost their lives. No wonder we are rescuing them. Whose responsibility is it to inform renters of their responsibilities and the dangers? I think it is the kayak companies, they are the ones making the profits. They should also be required to carry insurance coverage, not just a waiver.

This is the video I made of the clips from their camera - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5-60lcHzqg>
 So in summary, any kayak company renting kayaks has a responsibility to inform the kayakers of the dangers of the surf and the rules of landing on our protected islands, they should have a quota system so our islands and water are not inundated (as they are now and will continue to increase), and they should be required to carry insurance for rescue. They are making thousands of dollars a day, this should be very little to ask.

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