

From: Lisa Cates [lisacates@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 4:43 PM
Cc: lisacates@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee Testimony

Bill 11 (2012), CD1

I am writing in support of Bill 11 regarding commercial activity at Kalama and Kailua beach parks.

Kalama beach park is a very small beach facility with extremely limited parking. Any type of commercial activity there would be destructive to the park's character as well the surrounding neighborhood. Whatever the outcome of this bill, no commercial activity should ever be allowed at Kalama beach park.

Concerning Kailua beach park, the commercial activity that the general public has been having to endure has finally reached a tipping point. This type of commercialization has begun to impede upon the ability of the general public to enjoy the park and it's beaches. The explosion of commercial vendors and tour bus activity have become incompatible with our infrastructure, our neighborhoods, and the true character of our little beach community. The unique thing about Kailua beach park and the ocean waters that surround it, is the fact that generations of families are laid to rest in Kailua bay. We have a deep spiritual connection to our waters, and to see it exploited for monetary gain is hurtful, degrading, and in essence has pushed an entire community to unite and ask for legislation to prohibit such activities.

Finally, Bill 11 is the result of residents crying out for some kind of relief from the over-commercialization of our public resources, and the adverse impact it has had upon our parks, beaches, and offshore sanctuaries. Bill 11 is a step in the right direction, however, the language in the CD1 currently only address "permits". The term "concessions" also need to added to the bill since city concession contracts are a different type of revenue generating activity and may not be currently recognized by Bill 11 under the term "permit". Therefore, please add amendments to include the term "concessions"

Mahalo,
Lisa Cates
Kailua, HI

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