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**From:** Lawson Teshima [mailto:lawson.teshima@kobay.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 02, 2012 7:14 AM

**Subject:** City Council Public Hearing Testimony

May 2 7 20 AM '12

CITY CLERK  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Re: Bill 11, CD 1

I am Lawson Teshima, Secretary-Treasurer of PHT, Inc. a motor coach operator. We have many clients that come to Hawaii to visit our beautiful islands and beach. The Hawaii Visitors Bureau promotes the islands by informing prospective visitors about places to see and visit. Without places to see and visit on Oahu except for Waikiki beach, Oahu would soon lose its luster as a popular visitor attraction.

For many of us that travel, suppose we wanted to visit the Grand Canyon in Arizona and were told that we are forbidden to go there and we must only stay in Phoenix. Why would I want to go there or anywhere that restricts my American right to freely traverse this nation that is not security sensitive like military bases.

This was a hot issue several years ago when cartoonist were drawing a channel from Honolulu International Airport to Waikiki, with captions like come to Waikiki, spend your money and leave. Do not go outside of Waikiki. Can you imagine what tourist would think of Hawaii if this ever became national news. Better yet, what if the residents of Waikiki and Kapahulu decide that they don't want tourist in Waikiki either just like the Kailua residents are proposing? Yes, there are not as much businesses that are affected by Kailua beach closures to tourist and/or commercial activities compared to Waikiki beach closure; but the same principles apply.

I personally find it troubling that tourist are prevented from visiting the public beaches. The City did a number on us when it claimed many years ago that Hanauma Bay was being destroyed by the sheer number of tourist visiting there. They took the area around the life guard station, counted the number of visitors and extrapolated the number across the entire beach area and claimed that 10,000 people a day were visiting the beach at Hanauma Bay. We had video evidence that that number was 4 times too high but regardless the City won. So what do we have now? Just as many people go to Hanauma Bay as before but now they have to pay (except for residents). The city use to have 1 bus an hour that stopped at the entrance to the Bay but now runs more buses to the lookout in the Bay. And now our visitors are only allowed 10 minutes to stop and look from the lookout.

I am against closing Kailua Beach to commercial activities and the dropping off of tourist to use the beach. I am against this blatant discrimination against our tourist industry.

Sincerely,  
Lawson Teshima

MISC. COM. 1203

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