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Subject: Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee Testimony

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Following is my testimony regarding Bill 11, for May 21, 2012:

I support Bill 11's passage in the strongest possible terms. Allowing ANY commercial activities in either Kailua or Kalama Beach Park is contrary to the best interest of the community in many ways. It is also contrary to the wishes of an overwhelming majority of Kailua's residents:

1. Overcrowding of our beaches and their parking lots has led to great and premature deterioration of the beaches themselves as well as the restrooms and parking areas.
2. The commercial activities presently ongoing prohibit enjoyment of our beach parks by those for whom they were designed and intended. Residents and visitors alike frequently cannot peacefully enjoy these parks without competing with commercial businesses and tour operators that are sometimes aggressive in their intrusion.
3. When Kailua Beach Park was first established, the City and County made guarantees it would not permit commercial enterprises. The public has the right to expect these guarantees to be honored in the present tense.
4. I believe the wishes of the majority of the Kailua community must be honored by the governmental bodies, whether elected or appointed, who are responsible for carrying them out and for making sure our greatest assets are not abused or destroyed by greed or self-interest on the part of anyone.

Our beach parks will no longer be desirable as some of the world's best if we permit them to be exploited by commercial interests of any kind. We must not allow the prospect of short term dollars to overcome long-term common sense and the protection of our Hawaiian livestyle and our greatest assets.

Please pass Bill 11 as written.

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