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Subject: Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee Testimony

Committee on Public Parks
Discussion relating to Bill 11 (2012) CD1
Tuesday, June 26, 2012 10:30 pm

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I am Lawson Teshima, secretary-treasurer of PHT, Inc. a motor coach operator on the island of Oahu. PHT is opposed to Bill 11 CD1

The extent of the commercial activity that our company does at Kailua Beach is a 15 to 20 minute photo op once or twice a week. The bus drops off the tourist and returns after 15 to 20 minutes to go to other scheduled tour destinations. The reason that Kailua Beach is popular among the Japanese visitors is that it is adjacent to Lanikai which translated means beautiful, peaceful place. The travel news media has been promoting Kailua Beach for many years as an undiscovered white sand beach. Everyone wants to get out of Waikiki and see other attraction sites and not necessarily swim or picnic there either. Hanauma Bay was an attraction that Japanese use to go to for swimming, snorkeling and picnics until the City banned tour vehicles from dropping visitors off to go down to the Bay. The reason for the ban was to limit the number of people going down to use the beach facilities. However the City subsequently installed a "gate keeper" to control the number of visitors including residents. However, visitors that went on the City bus were allowed to go down to the bay after the bus stop was moved from the highway to the lookout. This was and remains a discrimination against the tourist industry. This may be one of the reasons that tourist go to Kailua Beach for activities; they do not have to hike up from Hawaii Kai Shopping Center to the Bay.

Ban of commercial activities at Kailua Beach will eventually lead to the ban of the annual "lantern festival" and surfing competitions held at Ala Moana Beach Park or the surfing competitions held at other places like Sunset, Pipeline and Waimea. There are many ramifications that may follow such a ban that is proposed by Bill 11.

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PCA