



June 26, 2012

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL'S
COMMITTEE ON PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
ON BILL 11 CD1, RELATING TO PUBLIC PARKS**

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 CITY CLERK
 HONOLULU, HAWAII

Thank you Chair Berg and Committeel members. I am Gareth Sakakida, Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) with over 400 transportation related members throughout the state of Hawaii.

Hawaii Transportation Association opposes Bill 11 as it relates to recreational stops by tour companies.

Recreational stops afford our visitors a few minutes to feel the sand, take in the vista, take a few photos, then are whisked away to their next experience. This taste on a motorcoach, minibus, or van has less impact on the beach and park than having each visitor get there in a car.

A motorcoach can save 14 - 30 or more cars from coming in, and when visitors come on their own their stay is an extended one. This is especially true for sights that are highly touted by visitor bureaus and by visitors themselves through social media.

Our visitor industry is the only one we have that creates any scale of jobs for residents. Unfortunately, it is also an extremely fragile one industry where negative perceptions and barriers can crack it.

About all we have to fuel the visitor industry is sun and surf. If we shut that off then no one would have reason to come, revenue and jobs would evaporate, and no one in Hawaii could maintain their standard of living.