

August 29, 2015

John A. and Sharon H. Moore
78 Wilikoki Place
Kailua, HI 96734

Mayor and Council
City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK
C & C OF HONOLULU
2015 AUG 31 AM 8:20

Re: Illegal vacation rental proliferation in Kailua

Dear Mayor and Council:

Please accept these comments with respect to two matters pending on the September 2, 2015 Agenda which we believe are interrelated, the motion to adopt Bill 20 as introduced by Councilman Menor and secondly the request of the Department of Planning and Permitting (“DPP”) for another extension of time for Council to act on Bill 22. As a basic premise of this letter, we are both strongly opposed to any action by Council which would increase transient vacation rentals or bed and breakfasts on Oahu. The proliferation of illegal vacation rentals in Kailua and other residential beach neighborhoods has adversely affected the residents of Hawaii and must be stopped. We also believe the time has come to eliminate the illegal rentals by enforcing current law and by strengthening it. Please provide the DPP with the resources and encouragement it needs to properly enforce the law in an age of anonymous internet advertising.

We support Bill 20 because it provides additional housing for Hawaii residents. As such it will strengthen neighborhood and family ties and allow our children and grandchildren the opportunity to live in the areas of Hawaii where they grew up. However, every Ohana which is converted to a transient vacation rental removes a home for a Hawaii resident and enriches a few greedy property owners at the expense of those who follow the law. Bill 20 will only serve the public if it is rigorously enforced by the DPP. If not, the problem of illegal rentals will only be increased by passage of Bill 20.

For this reason it is very important that the Council act on Bill 22 as well. How can illegal vacation rentals be stopped if the law does not address the myriad advertisements on VRBO, AirBNB and similar sites? Similarly, if a beach home can be rented for hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to vacationers, why will the owner stop if fines are reduced to the cost of doing business or not collected at all? How can a fine of over two hundred thousand dollars be imposed without aggressive collection attempts by the City and County? Only through strict enforcement will this blight be stopped.

We applaud the Kailua Neighborhood Board for its actions to help address the problem. Many of the enforcement suggestions passed on by our Neighborhood Board would provide the DPP with both a belt and suspenders when it comes to the thorny problem of internet advertising. We ask that Council insist

that the Zoning and Planning Committee (which has prompted the DPP to ask for the extension) use the time to write an even stronger bill for Council to consider in the near future. Putting off addressing illegal vacation rentals will not create housing for Hawaii residents. Action is required.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

John A. Moore

Sharon H. Moore

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