

Bill 6
Additional Testimony



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI
PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
January 31, 2018**

Re: BILL 6 (2018) RELATING TO PUBLIC NUISANCES

Good afternoon Chair Menor and members of the Honolulu City Council. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii (RMH) is a statewide not-for-profit trade organization is committed to support the retail industry and business in general in Hawaii. The retail industry is one of the largest employers in the state, employing 25% of the labor force.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii SUPPORTS Bill 6 (2018). Tourism remains a vital part of the economic engine for not only the City and County of Honolulu, but the businesses and residents as well. Many of our family, friends and neighbors rely in some way on the visitor industry.

We are seeing more and more "kiosks" popping up in front of businesses on the sidewalks of Waikiki. It is our understanding that these kiosks do not pay rent that the brick and mortar must pay and yet the Kiosks are allowed to peddle their wears including but not limited to discounted tours and activities on the public sidewalks of Waikiki. Often times those in the Kiosks call out to the visitors to attract them to their kiosk, and pass out brochures that are often disregarded on the sidewalk in front of our retail stores.

Some people save up all of their lives to visit Hawaii. When they finally do arrive, we do not believe the image of people in kiosks hawking their wears in Waikiki is image that we would like showcased as paradise. Waikiki should remain a pristine destination where visitors and kama'aina alike are able to walk down the uncluttered sidewalks of Waikiki. We need to ensure that visitors want to continue to come to Hawaii and this measure helps to close a loop hole.

Again mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2018 2:16 PM
Subject: Council Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Revell Newton
Phone 808-557-1603
Email revell.newton@outrigger.com
Meeting Date 01-31-2018
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item Bill 6
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization
Organization Outrigger Hotels and Resorts
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Aloha, Chair Menor and members of the Honolulu City Council.

As General Manager of the Outrigger Waikiki beach Resort situated on Kalakaua Avenue in the heart of Waikiki but also on behalf of all of Outrigger's eleven Waikiki properties and our thousands of hosts and guest, I am submitting this written testimony in strong support of Council Bill 6.

Written
Testimony

Mobile kiosks on Waikiki's public sidewalks have become an incredible scourge on our visitor and host experience in addition to a threat to public safety. This is nothing more or less than illegal commercial activity maksing behind a claimed loophole which this bill would close.

My hotel sits at Ground Zero of this issue. Every day our vital tax-paying visitors and kama'aina are harassed by these aggressive peddlers. For the Outrigger Waikiki, our guests are immediately besieged as they leave the resort desiring to enjoy Waikiki and Hawaii. Instead they are pestered and hindered on the already-narrow public sidewalks and often forced to walk into the street to make their way and avoid this activity. In fact, one of the very top complaints of our visitors, easily broadcast internationally via social media, is the overall congestion and commercialization of Waikiki's public spaces and the invasion of their privacy and vacation time.

These mobile kiosk vendors flout ordinances carefully designed to provide for appropriate and legal commercial activity in Waikiki. Their activities encourage similar illegal activities by others through a lack of effective enforcement. Because they operate directly in front of legal retail establishments on and near the public sidewalks of Waikiki, they steal business from law-abiding establishments and drive away customers seeking to avoid the intrusive hawking.

This unregulated illegal commercial activity must stop. We deeply appreciate the Council's consideration of our concerns and ask for prompt passage of Bill 6.

Mahalo,
Revell Newton
General Manager
Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort

Testimony
Attachment
Accept Terms
and Agreement 1



WAIKĪKĪ IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

**Testimony of Rick Egged
President, Waikiki Improvement Association**

**Before the
Honolulu City Council
Wednesday, January 31, 2018
In consideration, of**

Bill 6 (2018)

Aloha Chair Menor and members of the Council,

My Name is Rick Egged, representing the Waikīkī Improvement Association (WIA). The WIA is a membership organization consisting of land owners, hotels, retailers and restaurants in Waikīkī, the businesses that serve them and those interested in the future of this important part of our community and economy.

The Waikīkī Improvement Association (WIA) strongly support Bill 6 (2018), Relating to nuisances on public sidewalks. Bill 6 eliminates the sidewalk nuisance exceptions in Waikīkī effectively prohibiting what we are call rolling kiosks.

Waikīkī provides roughly a little over 20% of all the taxes collected by the City and County of Honolulu. (Includes Waikīkī's share of property tax and TAT). Each year evaluations increase, over 30% in the last four years, providing the city with increasing contributions from our hotels and commercial properties.

The 12 to 15 mobile kiosks that are wheeled onto Waikīkī sidewalks each day to promote their merchandise and services are obstacles to the safe mobility and access of the almost 5 million visitors and residents that traverse these sidewalks each year. The mobile kiosks are stationed by the entrances to tax paying properties inhibiting access and visibility. These mobile kiosks are physical obstructions that annoy our visitors and actually impede pedestrian traffic. They cause a pedestrian inconvenience and compress the public on Waikīkī's crowded sidewalks. WIA believes Waikīkī's sidewalks are no place for these rolling billboards promoting their commercial products in the public right of way.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Honolulu City Council

Bill 6 (2018)
Relating to Public Nuisances

Dear Chair Menor and members of the Honolulu City Council, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, of which many are located in the Waikiki stretch—supports Bill 6 (2018) which aims to amend Section 29-16.6, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, to exclude the public nuisance exception of having objects such as rolling kiosks on the sidewalks in the Waikiki Special District.

Over the years there have been notable complaints from local residents, visitors, and the traditional brick-and-mortar businesses in Waikiki regarding the sidewalk kiosks that are circumventing the law. Some of these kiosks make it difficult for the public to walk safely on the sidewalks and also engage in conducting transactions off the beaten paths thereby giving them an unfair advantage over businesses that are paying a premium for rent space in the Waikiki area.

With public safety a major priority objective for HLTA, we support this bill as it seeks to make the walkways and sidewalks less congested and safer for the public. We commend Waikiki Councilmember Ozawa, the Honolulu Police Department, and our partner Waikiki organizations for their collaborative efforts in finding solutions to this issue. We urge the Honolulu City Council to support this measure.

Mahalo.

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 12:10 PM
Subject: Public Health, Safety and Economic Development Speaker Registration/testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Philippe Brillon
Phone 8089246760
Email Bestislandactivities808@gmail.com
Meeting Date 01-31-2018
Council/PH Committee PublicHealth
Agenda Item Bill 6
Your position on the matter Oppose
Representing Organization
Organization Best Island Activities
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written
Testimony

Respected members of the council. Presently city ordinances do not permit peddling on public sidewalk and HPD currently enforces such ordinance under current rules. The aforementioned kiosks at least from our company and at least one other entity, do not peddle from our kiosks. They serve as a venue for promoting the activities which are sold at our offices. Peddling is when those services are offered for a price at the kiosk. We do not quote prices nor accept cash at our kiosks. They serve as only a conduit to attract customers to our office where they are serviced. Although, I cannot speak for all the kiosks owners in Waikiki I can say our company is a fully licensed Activity Desk by the state of Hawaii, we have a registered trade name, GE License, we pay taxes to the state on our revenue. They serve only to attract potential customers to our office in Waikiki which is not visible to the general public. Not unlike all other Waikiki businesses we pay for commercial space in Waikiki. Our kiosks also promote small and large activity providers which also contribute to our local economy, provide jobs, pay taxes and follow current rules which have been in place and effectively enforced by HPD for over a decade. Unlike Major activity providers, our companies are able to give consumers a better price on their activities than retail outlets, which have a higher overhead. Any changes to current ordinances would be unnecessary. I could give numerous more reasons, by to save the councils valuable time. I say if it is not broken don't fix it.. A compromise would be to regulate who has a kiosk, by limiting the number, having them registered with the city county and or state, charge a fee, which we would gladly pay and insuring that they are legitimate entities within the state. Thank you

Testimony
Attachment
Accept Terms
and Agreement

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