

Bill 6 (2018)

Additional Testimony

MISC. COM. 534

ITEM 7

BUDGET



WAIKĪKĪ IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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

Before the
**Honolulu City Council
Budget Committee**
Wednesday, October 17, 2018
In consideration, of

Bill 6 (2018)

Aloha Chair Ozawa and members of the Committee,

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 calling 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.