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To:
Cc:
Subject: Zoning Committee Testimony

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

Dear City Council Member:

Please OPPOSE BILLS 6, 7
Please SUPPORT BILL 8

Vacation rentals in any form are commercial activities and do not belong in our residential neighborhoods (with the exception of those still holding valid non conforming use certificates issued in 1989). The Planning Commission unanimously says so . Numerous neighborhood boards say so via resolutions and commentary (there are virtually no Neighborhood Boards in Support of Bill 6, 7), and the neighborhood residents (your law abiding constituents) say so.

Since 1989 we have been more than willing to tolerate those that are currently properly permitted, and eagerly anticipate the relief as they diminish in number via the non- renewal attrition plan agreed upon during the 1989 uprising. This process was well thought out, and nobly conceived; and EXCEPT FOR THE GROWING NUMBER OF ILLEGAL RENTALS, and pathetic enforcement on behalf of the DPP, has been working as anticipated.

It has been the lack of adequate and enthusiastic enforcement of our present laws by the DPP, which specifically prohibit the unpermitted renting of accommodations to visitors, that is destroying the residential quality of life for island residents.

It is also clear, and readily admitted by the DPP that they saw their mission while reviewing City Council Bills 05-187 and 05-186 to revise it for passage by the City Council. They did not perceive their mission as impartially evaluating it with the possibility of rejecting it, despite the overwhelming disapproval from the residential community at large, and numerous Neighborhood Board's opposition. The preponderance of testimony in support came only from those with a personal profit motive; illegal operators and their business support systems, ie: cleaning services, yard maintenance services, webmasters, and lobbyists.

The facts are as follows:

- Illegal rental units in our residential neighborhoods have artificially inflated real estate values and therefore property taxes.**
- Illegal rental units have dried up the availability of affordable housing accommodations for island residents, causing outrageous commute times, and even extensive homelessness.**

- **Illegal rental units have attracted criminals to our residential neighborhoods who prey upon naive tourist renters.**
- **Illegal rental units have created unstable neighborhoods with constantly changing vacation rental occupants.**
- **Illegal rental units have put extra strain on our infrastructure. Our roads, our police, emergency responders, fire department, our sewer system, our residential neighborhood parks and beaches.**
- **Illegal rental units cause traffic and noise in residential neighborhood during inappropriate hours with no regard for the sanctity of the permanent residents.**
- **Illegal rental units punish the honest citizens that have been paying the biennial NCU permit fees (\$400), have been filing the biennial occupancy reports necessary for renewal, and have diligently been paying their taxes.**
- **Those operating illegally have not paid the required permitting fees, have not filed the occupancy reports, and have been reaping the handsome monetary rewards and literally raping the system.**
- **Legalizing additional residential neighborhood vacation rentals would in effect reward their illegal behavior, and punish those honest operators who have suffered the unfair competition, and expenses over the past 18 years.**

PLEASE OPPOSE BILLS 6, 7 Urge the enthusiastic enforcement of the vacation rental laws presently in place,
AND SUPPORT BILL 8

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony,

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