

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN  
MAYOR



LESTER K. C. CHANG  
DIRECTOR

GAIL HARAGUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 8, 2008

The Honorable Joey Manahan  
State Representative  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 421  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Ryan Yamane  
State Representative  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 419  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representatives Manahan and Yamane:

Subject: HCR 278

Due to the growing popularity of the sport, demand for shore water events on the North Shore and on Oahu has grown tremendously. Events are becoming more diverse. They now include surfing, body boarding, body surfing, tow in surfing, wind surfing, stand up paddling contests just to name a few. This has also contributed to the growing demand for more events.

Unfortunately while demand for North Shore water events have significantly increased, the number of events permitable has not changed. The number of organized events has to be weighed with the needs of the recreational surfers and the residential community's desire to keep events to a minimum. The City has long standing rules that attempt to keep this delicate balance. Almost half of the request for events this current surf year could not be accommodated.

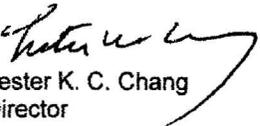
The Honorable Joey Manahan  
The Honorable Ryan Yamane  
April 8, 2008  
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The City's rules and regulations for shore water events on the North Shore currently allow for a maximum for sixteen contest days at each site on the North Shore with a holding period not to exceed fifteen days and a cooling off period (no shore water events) of at least ten days between meets. It was developed to balance the needs of the surf contests, the recreation surfer, and the impact on the community. In recent years, we have received far more event applications than the rules permit. Also, there are numerous requests with conflicts as to desired dates and location. We have an established process to resolving these conflicts.

Each permit application for shore water events on the North Shore are evaluated by a panel of six based on community relations record (60%), diversity of events (20%) and diversity of participants (20%). The evaluation for diversity of participants considers opportunities for female participants, variety of ages, and a range of skill levels. The process is a head to head comparison of events that are in conflict at a particular site. We also seek the comments and input from the North Shore Neighborhood Board and the Sunset Beach Community Association.

We feel that we have an established process that attempts to accommodates diverse shore water events, recreational surfers, and be sensitive to community concerns. Unfortunately, due to capacity limitations, all permit requests cannot be accommodated.

Sincerely,



Lester K. C. Chang  
Director

**BY FAX: 586-6011**

Committee: Committee on Tourism and Culture  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, April 10, 2008, 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Room 325  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawaii in Support of H.C.R. 278

Dear Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee on Tourism and Culture:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii ("ACLU of Hawaii") writes in support of H.C.R. 278.

H.C.R. 278 is necessary to combat discriminatory treatment of women in the use of state and county recreational areas and to ensure that state and county departments are complying with the United States and Hawaii Constitutions as well as state public accommodations laws.

Historically, pervasive and systemic discrimination against women's athletics has prevented women from participating and excelling in sports competitions, attaining educational scholarships and even aspiring to Olympic and international competition. The fact that H.C.R. 278 is so badly needed demonstrates that unfair and unequal treatment of women athletes continues today. When women athletes are treated unfairly simply because they are women, we should all be embarrassed.

Rather than supporting women surfers who have the talent and aspiration to succeed, state and county officials are sending the message that women, unlike men, should stay on the beach. By passing H.C.R. 278, this Committee will, in turn, let these state and county officials know that discrimination against women, and particularly against women surfers, will not be tolerated.

In order to ensure equality for women athletes, we recommend that H.C.R. 278 be amended in regards to the 30% annual allocation for women's events, insofar as demand for women's events may exceed this number. The method for ensuring that women are treated fairly in the permitting process may be better decided by those who participate in revising the procedures.

Finally, we commend this Committee for hearing H.C.R. 278 and recognizing the importance of women's athletics in Hawaii. We strongly urge you to pass this resolution with the proposed recommendations in support of all women in Hawaii.

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i  
P.O. Box 3410  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801  
T: 808.522-5900  
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Hon. Rep. Yamane, Chair, IAC Committee  
and Members Thereof

April 10, 2008

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The mission of the ACLU of Hawaii is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawaii fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawaii is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawaii has been serving Hawaii for over 40 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Temple  
Staff Attorney  
ACLU of Hawaii

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i  
P.O. Box 3410  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801  
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To whom it may concern:

I really hope to be able to compete at Pipeline again - just the girls. It's one of the best waves and all of us girls have been honored to have the spot to ourselves for those few years that the contest was on... something that pretty much every surfer dreams of. I can speak for the other girls too in saying that we love surfing and competing at Pipe!!

Aloha!  
Bethany

Bethany Hamilton  
#2 on, Girls ASP Tour at Present, World Tour

To: Vice Chair, Manahan

To hear HCR 278

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Mike Dixon [helmsman@lava.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 07, 2008 12:09 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** support for HRC 278

Dear Mr. Magaoy

I am support of resolution HRC 278. Until there a mandate for a certain percentage of the surf meets to be allocated to female competition it will continue to be dominated by the men's competitions.

I would myself use Title 9 as a guide and say 50% but even 30% will be an improvement.

Lets have gender equal;ity for the surf meets.

Sincerely,

Mike Dixon

April 7, 2008

Mr. Michael Magaoay,  
House of Representative  
2008 State of Hawaii Legislature Session  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HCR 278: Requesting the Mayor, the City Council, and the Departments Of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu to establish and implement a fair and balanced permitting process to ensure that women surfers and body boarders are treated equitably in their applications for permits to conduct shore water events that include surfing and body boarding contests for Women on Oahu.

Aloha e Representative Magaoay,

Since 1200 AD, surfing competitions have been part of our island culture. The first competition was held at Kamoia Point on Hawaii Island by the surfing High Chiefess Keolonahihi whose heiau is located at the same place. Both men and women alike compete in separate categories to ride on some the greatest waves that Mother Nature has provided here in Hawaii. Since then, there have been many surfing competitions throughout Hawaii.

On Oahu, many visitors and locals alike enjoy watching surfers compete and brave those awesome waves. From the shores of Makaha to Haleiwa, Pipeline, and Sunset, these "popular spots" have dominated the surfing competition for years. These contests are exclusively for surfboarders and men competitors who are selected, invited, or through application accepted with a fee. There is no body boarding or women categories. One of the most dominant permitted areas is the north shore of Oahu especially during the winter months. It's as if there is a "guarantee from the City and County of Honolulu Parks Department" for permits issued to these special surfboarding events year in and year out. No permits have been issued for Women and body boarders to hold their own competition.

In all due fairness, the City and County of Honolulu, City Council, and the Department of Parks and Recreation owe it to the residents and voters of this island to establish a fair and equal permitting process to ensure that all applications, including women surfers and body boarders are treated equitably. It is a privilege to close off beach areas for special events but in doing so, it is also fair that all competitors permit applications are received with fairness and without bias.

Me kealoha pu,

Francine Palama,  
Native Hawaiian Woman Surfer

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 08, 2008 1:52 PM  
**To:** TACtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR278

Testimony in Support of HCR278

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Manahan, Committee Members

Thank you for hearing HCR278. I have been surfing on the North Shore of Hawaii, for more than 35 years and have seen the industry grow immensely. My good fortune has come directly from the surf industry as a waterman, and I feel that we must perpetuate the economic viability of the surf industry within our state. Over the years I have coached many women on to become world champions, and had they not been able to surf at premier venues such as Sunset Beach, Pipeline and Haleiwa, their careers may not have been catapulted onto the world stage. Traditionally, it has been an ocean fraternity, with many men annoyed by the presence of women catching waves during their surf sessions, I find it amusing as they (the men) usually couldn't catch the wave anyway, it is everyones ocean, we must be respectful. I think we need to promote women just as much as men, many of our youth in the State go on to have very successful careers in the billion dollar surf industry, and many start at the contest level. Now, that I have a daughter, it becomes clearer the importance of giving her and others every advantage possible for success.

Mahalo,  
Charlie Walker

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 08, 2008 1:35 PM  
**To:** TACtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony HCR278

Testimony in Support of HCR278 with comments  
House Committee on Tourism and Culture  
Thursday, April 10, 2008 10:00 a.m., Room 325

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Manahan, and Committee Members

Thank you for hearing HCR278. I urge you to vote in favor of HCR278. This will encourage a fair and balanced permitting process for women's sports.

Mahalo,  
Tracy Walker