

Dear Senators:

My name is Cole Ciliax and I am an employee of SeaBreeze Watersports. I strongly support this bill.

Thank You
Cole Ciliax

SeaBreeze Watersports
377 Keahole Street # 103
Honolulu, Hi 96825
808 396 0100

Dear Senators:

My name is Courtney Krantz and I along with husband, children and 25 extended family members own and operate a thrill craft operation in Maunaloa Bay. I personally have been in this industry for 17 years. I feel very strongly that some of the restrictions and newly proposed amendments are punitive, anti-business and prejudicial. Basically we feel unsupported and unrecognized for all the good that comes from our business.

The issues that bring us here today are obviously very personal to me but as a small business owner the frustration is the most disheartening. It would be nice to be appreciated for our efforts, hard work and stewardship. Let's please not forget that tourism is THE INDUSTRY of Hawaii and small business is the back bone of the economy. Obviously we depend on tourists, a market that we are very well tapped in to. The market we are unable to service is the local community. This is the primary reason that we asked to be given the ability to operate our thrill craft on weekends and holidays, we have already agreed to give up Sundays and Holidays as a compromise, as it stands now we are only asking for the ability to operate on Saturdays. In fact we would be willing to make another concession and give up Saturdays at this point if we could get the ability to operate Monday through Friday, Holiday or not. This would give our local community the opportunity to enjoy our activities with their families at least on days when they are off of work and school for a holiday. Please give us something to help us through these hard times. This would also give us an opportunity to meet with our opposition and hopefully come to mutually agreeable terms and then re visit the Saturday issue at a later date. We get phone calls daily from local residents, there is a demand for our services! In these economic times we do not want to continue to lose out on support from the local market, in fact locals are more aware now than ever that when they spend money they want to spend it in their communities, it is a win win for everybody!

"We resent the constant attack by groups, politicians and the handful of shoreline residents whose harassment has apparently intimidated state officials to over look the fact that we have rights also." This is a quote I took directly from a testimony presented on this issue in 1990 and it is exactly how we feel today. It is sad to think that our oppositional mentality today is the same that it was 19 years ago and the business owners keep conceding more, getting more restricted and paying more money just to stay in business. We have hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in our operation, my husband and I have most of our adult lives invested in this operation and my kids don't know anything different. Most of our employees have been with us for 15 years or more, some of them have never worked anywhere else. They now have spouses and children that depend on our company. This company is a career for most of us, not a stepping stone to something else.

We are regulated by the DLNR, the State of Hawaii, the United States Coast Guard, the IRS and the Hawaii Kai Marina just to name a few. There comes a point in time when we have to rely on these agencies to do what they do best and as long as we abide by their rules and standards let us do what we do best. I strongly urge you to put yourself on the business side of this issue, see the good in what these small businesses have to offer our state, our community and our tourists and support us in our efforts. Please don't make this any harder than it is, we won't survive much more. Between terrorist attacks, wars, and the economy we have enough to worry about, we aren't asking for much. Please support this bill.

Thank You

Courtney Krantz

Name: Karen HanAddress: 98-13A Koaheke Pl Apt #115

I am writing to voice my strong support of this bill and its intent to delete the 20 year maximum permit term for parasailing and commercial thrill craft commercial use and operator permits. I also support deleting the entire provision that puts a permit up for auction after this 20 year maximum permit term.

Permit holders that have met the state's requirements in the statute (in compliance with all the rules, payment of taxes and a good safety record) should be able to own their businesses in perpetuity. No other ocean sports businesses such as Scuba diving, Commercial fishing, Catamarans, submarines are subjected to these types of restrictions. A 20 year term imposed by this statute is both discriminatory and unreasonable to our state's small business owners.

These types of businesses require significant capitalization to ensure safe operation; extensive employee training and on-going equipment investments. Please keep our tourist operations safe by encouraging experienced operators to stay in business. Please help small business by voicing your support of SB367.

We must aggressively support our state's tourism operators and keep them viable entities by removing this unfair and unreasonable restriction.

Form Letter from 4 individuals

**Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice-Chair
Committee on Judiciary**

Name: Chris Quisote
Address: 625 Wyllie St.
Ph:

March 3, 2009

Support for HB1310 RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION

Aloha,

I am writing to voice my strong support of this bill and its intent to delete the 20-year maximum permit term for parasailing and commercial thrill craft, commercial use and operator permit. I also support deleting the entire provision that puts a permit up for auction after this 20-year maximum permit term.

Also, I strongly support and applaud permit holders that endure the test of time of owning a business in Hawaii. Your efforts of sharing additional ways and means of exploring Hawaii's beauty in the ocean and on land, helps Hawaii be Hawaii.

Permit holders that have met the state's requirements in the statute (in compliance with all the rules, payment of taxes and a good safety record) should be able to own their businesses in perpetuity. A 20-year term imposed by this statute is both discriminatory and unreasonable to all State of Hawaii small business owners. These types of businesses require significant capitalization to ensure safe operation; extensive employee training and on-going equipment investments. Please keep our tourist operations safe by encouraging experienced operators to stay in business.

We must aggressively support our state's tourism operators and keep them viable entities by removing this unfair and unreasonable restriction.

Finally, in supporting this amendment in HB1310 this would help delete the prohibition of commercial operation of thrill craft, parasailing, water sledding or high speed boating in Mauanalua Bay on weekends and holidays. This section restricts the ability of these companies to offer activities on weekends and holidays. This limits revenue, which affects the state in both permit fees and taxes. This provision is also discriminatory, as other similar businesses do not have such a punitive operating restriction. We must support our tourist businesses and keep them viable and healthy. I urge the committee to support and readily pass these measures.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 10:58 AM
To: JUDtestimony
Cc: junebiz@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1310 on 3/3/2009 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for JUD 3/3/2009 2:00:00 PM HB1310

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: June Freundschuh
Organization: Aloha Ocean Sports
Address: 7192 Kalaniana'ole Hwy E207 Honolulu
Phone: 737 8912
E-mail: junebiz@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/3/2009

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1310 in its intent to delete the 20 year maximum term for Commercial Thill craft and parasailing. Permit holders that have met the state's requirements in compliance with all the rules, payment of taxes and a good safety records should be able to continue with their businesses. 20 year term imposed by this statute is both discriminatory and unreasonable to our state's small business. No other ocean sports such as diving, catamarans, submarines, are subjected to these restrictions. We just want to be treated equally in line with what other ocean related businesses are required to. We have been a supporter of local businesses around our community by choosing to use the food vendors and services within our community and created jobs. I am willing to give up our request to operate on the Saturdays to address sensitive concerns raised within the community. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to voice our concerns.

My name is James Montenero and I am in support of bill 1310. I have been a small business owner for 30 years in Hawaii Kai. I do work for all of the watersports companies and Hawaii Kai boating community. I am also a water front Hawaii Kai resident for 35 years. With 35 years of experience in the repair and maintenance business I have seen 2 stroke jet skis being used, diesel engines being used and these companies voluntarily replaced their equipment with the highest environmentally sound equipment available today.

I have seen and been a part of several rescue missions and can testify that this goes regularly. These rescue efforts are always private boaters, paddle boarders, jet skiers, kayakers, swimmers and surfers. What would have happened to these people if we had not been trained and on the scene when these people needed help? I feel that these activities have very little impact on the bay. There area they operate in is undesirable for swimmers and divers and there isn't much marine life, this is why these companies were put where they are! I saw these issues arise in the late 80's and sadly I am seeing the same issues arise today. As community members and Hawaii residents we should be supporting these small businesses in stead of giving them more hurdles. It is also important to realize how the customers brought to Hawaii Kai by these businesses support our local shopping centers. Thousands of people per year spend their money at L&L drive Inn, Bale Sandwich shop, Long's drugs, Blue Water Grill, Cha Cha Cha Salsaria, McDonalds, Cold Stone Ice Creamery, The Shack, Korean BBQ, Bubbies Ice Cream store, Subway, Hawaii Kai Shopping Center Rent and Koko Marina rent, the list goes on and on! This support is huge and we need to understand how effected Hawaii

Kai would be without our Maunalua Bay small businesses. No to mention they pay thousands of dollars per month to be in the bay. So, basically these small business our not just supporting our community they are paying us to do so!

We must support this bill!

James V. Montenero Enterprises

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Aloha, I submit this written testimony in strong support of HB1310. My husband has worked for SeaBreeze Watersports as the Head Parasail Captain for the past 15 years and he is the sole provider for our family; I was diagnosed with Endometriosis in March 2001 and have been unable to work. We bought our first home in Kaneohe in August 2003 and soon after had a beautiful little girl; she truly is a miracle. We are a typical family who enjoys everything our island has to offer us, we are law abiding citizens, we support our local communities and believe we are very privileged to have been born & raised in this beautiful State.

If HB1310 is not passed our entire way of life could be jeopardized. Our future is uncertain and I am deeply saddened that a law such as this exists. It is discriminatory and unfair to be singled out and have ones means of living stripped away from you. I do not understand how the State of Hawaii could have implemented a law that could possibly remove a company after 20 years of operation and pass it on to the highest bidder. Is that safe? Is that just? Will they love and respect the ocean as we do?

My husband loves his job and is great at what he does. He has profound respect and love for both the environment and the ocean, which my daughter and I share with him. I am not being partial when I say that I believe he is the best Parasail Captain around. He has an unbeatable safety record and more experience than anyone out there when it comes to Maunalua Bay. He has worked in Maunalua Bay for 15 years, 8 hours a day, at least 5 days a week; that comes out to 31,200 hours or 1300 consecutive days spent directly in that bay. I do not believe anyone else can say that. Because he has been out there so much he has had the opportunity to save lives and prevent serious injury and/or death to other users of the bay. I believe SeaBreeze Watersports presence in Maunalua Bay actually makes the bay a great deal safer.

Part of the reason my husband loves his job so much is because of his employers; we cannot imagine our lives without them in it. There are few people like Jeff and Courtney Krantz who care so much about their staff and their families. I cannot say enough good things about them and all that they have done and continue to do for my husband, myself and our daughter. They truly are great people and make SeaBreeze a great company! SeaBreeze Watersports supports 25 employees and their families, dozens of businesses in the Hawaii Kai Community and gives tourists a positive experience to remember the rest of their lives. Not to mention a great safety record. How can any of this be bad? The State of Hawaii depends largely on tourism; it is one of the few places people return to over and over again. SeaBreeze plays a large role in this; it pays a percentage of its revenue directly to the State, so actually SeaBreeze is generating income for the State of Hawaii. No other company could do a better job, they would lack experience and that is too much of a risk. Why take that risk? I believe not having SeaBreeze Watersports in operation is a disservice to the Hawaii Kai Community and the State of Hawaii.

In these economic times it is vital that HB1310 is passed; it will ensure jobs for 25 hard working individuals, support their families and prevent the State from being burdened with higher unemployment rates. I strongly urge you to please pass this bill. My family depends on it. I would also like to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to voice my support of this bill. It means a great deal to me.

Sincerely,

Merissa Ng

karamatsu3-Leanne

From: Beth King [kings@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 12:34 PM
To: JUDtestimony
Subject: HB1310

Aloha !

My name is Capt. Theo King, and I strongly support House bill 1310.

Our family operates the jet-ski company on Kaanapali Beach Maui, and we have been in this business since 1982.

Our business have been built on years of hard work and putting everything on the line. My wife and I are raising a family and we have 9 employees, some of which have families. This business is our livelihood, and our passion.

We have a history of being safe and honest. When a ocean related business is operated with respect for the environment and the people of Hawaii, everyone is a winner. People come to Hawaii to enjoy the beaches, sun, and ocean and we give the visitor lifetime memories of Hawaii. We need activities such as ours to attract visitors.

The twenty year bid on thrill-craft permits and only on thrill-craft permits is a singling out of our business.

Could you please support this bill, and treat this business like all the other ocean activities.

Capt. Theo King
PO Box 12044
Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii
808-667-2001



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
March 3, 2009

Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu
Chair, House Committee on the Judiciary
State Capitol, Room 302
Honolulu, HI 96813

Representative Ken Ito
Vice-Chair, House Committee on the Judiciary
State Capitol, Room 420
Honolulu, HI 96813

TESTIMONY REGARDING HB1310 HD1, RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION

Dear Chair Karamatsu, Vice-Chair Ito, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing you today to **withdraw my sponsorship of House Bill 1310 HD1**, as do each of its co-signers who have joined me in this effort.

As representatives, I am sure each of you can relate to the situation that this bill has produced. The intent of HB1310 was to help a small business stay alive and keep its employees from being laid off. As Co-Chair of the House Small Business Caucus, this seemed to be a worthy measure. However, after introducing this bill by request, it has opened old and deep wounds in the community that date back to 1988, when the issue of Maunalua Bay and jet skies was last discussed. As a result, this bill has pitted the Hawaii Kai community against itself and needs to be thoroughly discussed within the community before it proceeds in this process.

This very night, Tuesday, March 3 at 6:00 p.m., my office and the Department of Land and Natural Resources will be holding a community meeting in Hawaii Kai which will, in part, address this bill. I believe that it is unfair to the Hawaii Kai community to hear this bill before the community is given the time to properly consider it and respond to it. For that reason, I ask that you reschedule this hearing until after the community is given a full vetting of this bill.

The meeting tonight with DLNR will allow the community to have an open discussion about HB 1310 as well as its Senate companion SB367. Based on constituent calls and emails, I anticipate a very large turnout at this meeting.

Lastly I should mention that the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs has deferred its decision making on SB367 until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 4, which of course follows the community meeting. I ask that your committee follow this example in deference to those who are not here today but will be present tonight.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my objections to the premature nature of this hearing. Until this matter is fully deliberated by the Hawaii Kai Community, I am withdrawing my sponsorship of this bill.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to continuing to work with you this session.

Representative Gene Ward
District 17, Hawaii Kai – Kalama Valley