

## LATE TESTIMONY

Feb. 8, 2009

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 requirement 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 our state's small business owners. These types of businesses require capitalization to ensure safe operation; extensive employee training and on-going equipment investments.

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

Thank you,

Christopher Haines

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Thank you,

Lisa Hatzenbuhler

# LATE TESTIMONY

In support of HB 1310,

Having been out of the industry for nearly 10 years and living away from the islands I have only my memories of Hawaii to look back on these days. Many of them are fond memories, thoughts of the hardships my business partner and I suffered through in our quest to overcome the odds and succeed in our dream of owning our own business. The all night engine changes in the rain and the tremendous financial burdens that seemed to appear just before easy street year after year after year. We had our share of bad luck and adversity, strange as it may sound, those were the times I miss the most. Us against the elements, unscrupulous competitors, against ourselves on occasion, it didn't matter though because those were things everybody expects to encounter on some level when they go into business.

We were fortunate to be in a business that provided people with what was so often described as “THE BEST THING WE DID ON OUR VACATION”, I can't count the number of times I heard that remark.

We operate on Oahu so we didn't pay much attention to reports of conflicts going on in our industry on other islands. So we were shocked and caught of guard when we discovered that we were included in the Remedy for a Problem we didn't have on Oahu. We were sure it would be fixed and that the wrong would be righted.

We were naïve enough to believe that this couldn't happen to us, not in Hawaii, not in America. But it did, and the memory of the injustice of it, that WRONG that never been remedied, never fails to jump out tarnish my strolls down memory lane, back to a time when two 20 somethings gave up everything, gave all they had and made it, overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to achieve their dream. **Then opened the mailbox one day and learned that The STATE of Hawaii was going to sell their business, then give them the opportunity to buy it back at the same price!**

That's something I have never gotten over. I can honestly say it broke me. I loved this state, and had given all I had toward building a life there and a business that promoted the Hawaiian Experience, and the reward was to be robbed.

I sincerely hope you will vote in favor of this bill and that you do so with the knowledge that you are righting a terrible wrong, and giving me and the others who have been victimized by this remnant of a dark era in Hawaii Politics, both hope for a better tomorrow, and a better TODAY.

Thank You ,

Alan Gowen

## Testimony for HB1310 on 2/9/2009 9:30:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

# LATE TESTIMON

**Sent:** Sunday, February 08, 2009 8:21 PM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

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Testimony for WLO 2/9/2009 9:30:00 AM HB1310

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Ryan Yamaguchi

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/8/2009

**Comments:**

Water, Land and Ocean Resources

Representative Ken Ito, Chair

Earl Yamaguchi

808-946-5627

Hearing Date: Feb. 9, 2009

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.

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

I also support the amendment in this bill that will 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 such a punitive operating restriction. We must support our tourist businesses, keep them viable and healthy. I urge the committee to support and readily pass these measures.  
please help

**Testimony for HB1310 on 2/9/2009 9:30:00 AM**

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

**Sent:** Sunday, February 08, 2009 9:25 PM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**LATE TESTIMON**

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Testimony for WLO 2/9/2009 9:30:00 AM HB1310

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: augustus santos

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/8/2009

**Comments:**

I am in support for this house bill 1310, for me and people who work in the same bay. have been working there for years and have made it our home. We have been employed by jeff kranz and he has made our life worth living. The state already has a high unemployment rate, so why make it higher by not passing this house bill.

**Testimony for HB1310 on 2/9/2009 9:30:00 AM**

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Sent:** Sunday, February 08, 2009 8:23 PM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

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Testimony for WLO 2/9/2009 9:30:00 AM HB1310

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Earl Yamaguchi

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/8/2009

**Comments:**

Water, Land and Ocean Resources

Representative Ken Ito, Chair

Earl Yamaguchi

808-946-5627

Hearing Date: Feb. 9, 2009

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I also support the amendment in this bill that will delete the prohibition of commercial operation of thrill craft, parasailing, water sledding or high speed boating in Maunaloa 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 such a punitive operating restriction. We must support our tourist businesses, keep them viable and healthy. I urge the committee to support and readily pass these measures.  
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mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Sent:** Sunday, February 08, 2009 8:41 PM

**To:** WLOtestimony

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

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Testimony for WLO 2/9/2009 9:30:00 AM HB1310

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Frances Muneno

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/8/2009

**Comments:**

Water, Land and Ocean Resources

Representative Ken Ito, Chair

Frances Muneno

1050 Kinau Street#201

Honolulu HI 96814

Hearing Date: Feb. 9, 2009

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# LATE TESTIMONY

Representative Ken Ito, Chair  
Representative Sharon E Har, Vice-Chair  
June Freundschuh  
Freundschun Inc.  
554 Ahina Street  
Honolulu, HI 96816

My name is June Freundschuh, owner of Aloha Ocean Sports. I have been operating a jet ski company in Hawaii Kai since 1997. I am writing to you today to ask for your support for House Bill 1310.

As a business owner, this bill is a ray of light at the end of a tunnel facing these tough economic times. I have spent the past 12 years nurturing and building up my business and to be subjected to the current laws have been difficult. Due to the limitations, if I should decide to sell, I could not get a fair market value for my business. I am subjected to unfair lease negotiations and I cannot get decent long term financing to enhance our operation. I have managed so far, but with our current economic crisis, we need all the assistance we can get.

Under the current law, Jet ski and Parasail permits are singled out unfairly whereas, this rule does not apply to other ocean related businesses that requires a state a state issued commercial operating permit. It exclusively and unfairly singles out jet skiing and parasailing permits and announces to the holder that after 20 years, the State of Hawaii will take your permit without cause or due process and put it up for a public auction which may or may not increase revenue for DLNR. It is unfavorable towards safe operation and puts companies in fear of financial jeopardy.

These operations take huge amounts of investment to start and maintain. It takes years, not months to gain the experience and the "know how" to safely run these types of businesses. **The State of Hawaii should endorse long term safe operators of these activities and not penalize them.** If safety was the concern for this statute to be in place, the state has built in safeguards to ensure operator safety. We are subjected to annual review of our permit to insure that accidents an violations are reported. If you have too many accidents, the State can and will suspend or revoke your permit. It does not make any sense to want an inexperienced operator who has financial resources to start fresh operations and expose our visitors to possible accidents because of operator inexperience. It would seem that a statute that encourages this is putting our unsuspecting visitors in the path of potential harm.

I also support the amendment in this bill that will delete the prohibition of commercial operation of thrill craft, parasailing, water sledding or high speed boating in Maunalua 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.

Please support this bill and keep our tourist businesses viable and healthy.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

June Freundschuh