

# **JEANNINE JOHNSON**

5648 Pia Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

Phone: 373-2874 (h) / 537-7261 (w)

February 23, 2010

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair

Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair

Re: HB 2347, HD1 RELATING TO THE MAXIMUM TERM OF COMMERCIAL  
USE AND OPERATOR PERMITS FOR THRILL CRAFT & PARASAILING  
Hearing: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 11:00 am in Conf. Room 308

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Honorable Committee Members,

I strongly oppose HB2347, HD1 which removes the twenty-year limit for state parasailing and thrill craft permits, makes those permits renewable annually and directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to offer for public auction permits that have been revoked for cause.

I live near to Maunalua Bay, one of Hawai'i's largest bays that stretches from Kawaihoa (Kokohead) to Kūpikipiki'ō (Black Point). Maunalua Bay was formerly home to a great abundance of fish and fishponds. Since ancient times, stories recorded the great schools of mullet that traveled through Maunalua each year. Fish were so abundant that they would stretch as far as the eye could see and great flocks of birds from Canada would feast on the bounty.

Maunalua Bay is currently heavily used for intense commercial and personal recreational activities every week, including thrill craft and parasailing. Based on their long relationship with the waters of Maunalua Bay and their deep cultural understanding of the ocean, numerous kupuna who grew up in the area and fished in the waters of Maunalua Bay speak of the significant negative effects jet skis have had on the reef fish population and in the decline of the health of the Bay in general. According to *Personal Watercraft Illustrated*, an average two-hour "thrill" ride on a thrill craft can dump between 3 and 4 gallons of gas and oil into the water and emits twice as much pollution as an equivalently powered motorboat. Many shoreline property owners who live on the shore of Maunalua Bay have also complained about the high-pitched, chainsaw-like whine of jet skis.

Our community is currently working hard to return Maunalua Bay to the healthy, flourishing area it once was. The Maunalua Bay Reef Restoration project, coordinated by the Nature Conservancy and Mālama Maunalua, will receive \$3.4 million in stimulus funding to remove 22 acres of invasive algae from the Bay. For the past three years, volunteers in our community have regularly pulled tons of alien algae that have caused a severe loss of coral and marine life. These volunteers include residents, businesses and school children from the area. These concerted efforts will be all for nothing if commercial parasailing and thrilcraft businesses are continued to allow to operate in the Bay.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

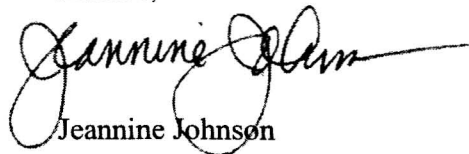
February 23, 2010

Page 2

Both the EDT and WTL Committees heard related bill SB2019 which also seeks to remove the twenty-year limit for state parasailing permits on Friday, February 19, 2010. Director Laura Theilen testified that the DLNR has reduced the number of permits available in Maunalua Bay down from three to two due to capacity of the Bay. Testimony in opposition from the community included the monopoly by one company in perpetuity and the lack of a voice in the permit process. Therefore, Sen. Clayton Hee recommended an amendment that gives the community a voice in the permit process.

E ola ke kai, e ola kākou (as the ocean thrives, so do we.) Please kōkua and oppose HB2347, HD1 or amend it to allow for a public hearing at renewal.

Mahalo,



Jeannine Johnson

cc: Sen. Sam Slom  
Rep. Gene Ward  
Rep. Lyla Berg  
Rep. Barbara Marumoto

## **FINTestimony**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2010 11:05 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** myongjaokino@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2347 on 2/24/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2347

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Myong Ja Okino  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [myongjaokino@yahoo.com](mailto:myongjaokino@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/24/2010

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Comments:**

Please support this measure support small businesses. Let the current 20 years term run out then, start the renewal every year with current requirements

## **FINTestimony**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2010 11:04 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** stellachung56@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2347 on 2/24/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2347

# **LATE TESTIMONY**

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Stella Chung  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [stellachung56@yahoo.com](mailto:stellachung56@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/24/2010

### **Comments:**

Please support this measure support small businesses. Let the current 20 years term run out then, start the renewal every year with current requirements

## **FINTestimony**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2010 10:56 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** francesmuneno@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2347 on 2/24/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2347

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Frances Muneno  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [francesmuneno@gmail.com](mailto:francesmuneno@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/24/2010

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Comments:  
Please support this bill and support small businesses.

## FINTestimony

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2010 11:00 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** tarakawa2010@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2347 on 2/24/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2347

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Tom Arakawa  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [tarakawa2010@gmail.com](mailto:tarakawa2010@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/24/2010

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Comments:**

Please correct the bill that is unfair and unfriendly to small businesses. Please support this measure. Let the current 20 years term run out then, start the renewal every year with current requirements

## **FINTestimony**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2010 11:01 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** judy.camp@live.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2347 on 2/24/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2347

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Judy Camp  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [judy.camp@live.com](mailto:judy.camp@live.com)  
Submitted on: 2/24/2010

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Comments:**

Please support this measure. Let the current 20 years term run out then, start the renewal every year with current requirements

## **FINTestimony**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2010 11:03 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** d.liu1540@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2347 on 2/24/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2347

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dickson Liu  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [d.liu1540@gmail.com](mailto:d.liu1540@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/24/2010

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Comments:**

Please support this measure support small businesses. Let the current 20 years term run out then, start the renewal every year with current requirements



## **FINTestimony**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2010 10:52 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** junebiz@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2347 on 2/24/2010 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2010 11:00:00 AM HB2347

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: June Freunds Schuh  
Organization: Aloha Ocean Sports  
Address:  
Phone: 808 737 2334  
E-mail: [junebiz@hotmail.com](mailto:junebiz@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/24/2010

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

### **Comments:**

Please support this bill. Our current law reflects how unfair and unfriendly business climate we have against small businesses in Hawaii. This measure will give small businesses a fighting chance in providing job security and maintaining safe and viable service to tourism industry.

I have spent past 13 years nurturing and building up my business and to be subjected to 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, be subjected to unfair lease negotiations, most importantly, my ability to get a decent long term financing to enhance and ensure safety our operation. These operations take enormous capital infusion to start and maintain. Financing is crucial to our business and with the term restriction, it is impossible to secure any funds in our current "credit crunched" business environment.

The thrill craft and parasail operators are currently reviewed by DLNR annually, renewed every five years and limits its operation to 20 years. No other activities such as sail boat charters, submarines, deep sea fishing, water skiing, surfing schools, Snuba tours, snorkel tours, kayaks or many other businesses that need a state issued commercial operating permit is subjected to these restrictions. It 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. It is unfavorable towards safe operation and puts companies in fear of financial jeopardy. We need all the support we can get. Please help and support small businesses.