SB 367

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BRYAN Y.Y. HO ATTORNEY AT LAW A LAW CORPORATION

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### Facsimile Cover Sheet

Date: February 11, 2009

To: HON. CAROL FUKUNAGA - 586-6899 HON. ROSALYN H. BAKER - 586-6071 HON. CLAYTON HEE - 586-7334 HON. DAVID Y. IGE - 586-6231 HON. SAM SLOM - 586-8426

- From: Bryan Y.Y. Ho, Esq. Phone: (808) 541-9799
- Re: S.B. 367 Hearing: 2/11/09 Time: 1:15 p.m.

Our File:

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NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUSIVE OF THIS PAGE) 6

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MESSAGE:

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### Bryan Y.Y. Ho

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February 11, 2009

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VIA FACSIMILE

### HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA Economic Development & Technology 11<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

Room 216, Hawaii State Capitol 415 So. Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

> Re: SB 367 Hearing: 2/11/09 Time: 1:15 p.m. Conf Room 016

Senator Fukunaga:

I write in strong support of SB 367 as the preferred alternative to HB 1310, which was passed by the House Water, Land & Ocean Resources Committee, with amendments, on February 9, 2009.

The sole purpose of SB 367 is to eliminate the 20 year term limit applicable to commercial parasail and thrill craft (jetski) permits issued by the Department of Land & Natural Resources ("DLNR"). Parasail and jetski permits are the only commercial permits issued by the DLNR subject to a term limit, at the end of which the permit automatically expires and is made available for re-issuance to the general public by public auction. All other commercial permits issued by DLNR are renewed annually in perpetuity. As long as the permit holder has complied with all applicable statutes and regulations, as well as, paid all taxes owed, renewal of their permit is automatic, without risk of the permit automatically expiring and being given to another operator. Parasail and thrill craft operators are entitled to equal treatment and protection under the law.

The 20 year term limit should be abolished because it unfairly handicaps a company's ability to operate successfully. A new parasail boat costs between \$100,000 -\$150,000. Based on a sale that occurred within the last six months, a used boat in good condition costs \$80,000. Each boat must be operated by a U.S. Coast Guard licensed

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#### HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA February 11, 2009 Page 2

captain and a single trained deck hand. A new jetski costs between \$6,000 - \$8,000. Taking into consideration transportation, labor expenses, fuel, maintenance, insurance premiums, and permit and mooring fees, a 20 year term is not long enough for a single owner, much less a hui of investors, to recoup their investment and earn a fair rate of return.

The expiration of these permits at the end of 20 years interferes with an operator's ability to secure financing and other long term commitments. Banks are not willing to loan money, issue lines of credit and grant other privileges because the life of the operation is uncertain.

#### One Minor Modification Required

SB 367 requires one minor amendment. The current version proposes to delete subsection (l) of Hawaii Revised Statute §200-37, which states:

(l) All new commercial use and operator permits issued by the department for commercial thrill craft, and parasailing activities after June 18, 1996 shall be issued at public auction.

This section should be left intact because:

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- 1. This section does not apply to, or impact, the renewal of commercial parasail or jetski permits already issued by DLNR. It only applies to permits that have been: a) returned by an operator; b) revoked by the DLNR for violations of law; or c) newly created by the DLNR.
- 2. It provides the fairest and most reliable method for the DLNR to issue a new permit at a price genuinely reflective of its fair market value because:
  - a. The permit is issued to the bidder that submits the highest offer via full, open and competitive public auction instead of based on a wait list established on a first come first serve basis; and
  - b. All interested parties have an equal opportunity to acquire the permit.

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HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA February 11, 2009 Page 3

#### <u>SB 367 Is A More Prudent Choice Than HB 1310</u>

The material difference between SB 367 and HB 1310 is that in addition to abolishing the 20 year term limit, HB 1310 also seeks to modify HRS §200-37(g) and HRS §200-38 by allowing the <u>commercial operation</u> of jetskis in Maunalua Bay on Saturdays. Presently, the commercial operation of jetskis in Maunalua Bay is prohibited on all weekends, state and federal holidays. The weekend/holiday ban on commercial jetski operations was first implemented in 1990 via Act 313 (H.B. 2994) to address the following express findings and conclusions made by the Legislature after significant study, debate and participation by members of the Hawaii Kai and Portlock communities:

- The operation of thrill craft and high speed motorized vessels in the waters of the Sate <u>poses an unacceptable risk of harm to</u> <u>humans</u> and the environment.
- 2. The operation of thrill craft and high speed motorized vessels in some of the State's heavily used recreational waters has resulted in the severe injury and death of recreational swimmers, not to mention a number of "close calls";
- 3. The operation of thrill craft and high speed motorized vessels in the waters of the State poses a visual and aural nuisance to the residents in the communities in which they are operated.
- 4. <u>The Legislature declares that the waters of the State used</u> extensively by recreational swimmers should be safe from the dangers of thrill craft and high speed motorized vessels which, by their very nature, are inherently risky vessels.
- 5. In view of the inherently risky nature of thrill craft and high speed motorized vessels and the documented injuries and deaths that thrill craft and high speed motorized vessels have inflicted on people, the legislature declares that the <u>unrestrained operation of thrill craft</u> and high speed motorized vessels in the waters of the State <u>poses and</u> <u>unacceptable risk of harm to humans</u> and the environment.

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#### HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA February 11, 2009 Page 4

6. The Legislature is cognizant that, except as otherwise provided by law, all ocean areas appertaining to any government management shall be and are forever granted to the people for the free and equal use by all persons. However, the State is mindful that in managing and regulating ocean use, priority should be given to those seeking non-commercial recreational opportunities as opposed to those seeking commercial recreational opportunities and not an exclusive right. (Emphasis added)

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 See: Act 313, 1990 Session Laws Of Hawaii; Conf. Com. Rep. No. 15, (H.B. No. 2994, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1), Senate Journal (1990), at p. 668; and Conf. Com. Rep. No. 15 on H.B. 2994, Senate Journal (1990), at p. 762-763.

On February 9, 2009, the House Water, Land & Ocean Resources ("WLO") Committee passed HB 1310, as amended, proposing to allow the commercial operation of jetski in Maunalua Bay on Saturdays. WLO passed this measure even though the Committee:

- 1. Was provided extensive written testimony regarding the legislative history and underlying health, safety and policy considerations that led to the implementation of the weekend and holiday ban on commercial jetski operations in Maunalua Bay under Act 313;
- 2. Was not provided any evidence or information that prior concerns expressed by community members regarding: 1) conflicts between weekend recreational and commercial jetski operators; 2) noise levels resulting from commercial operations; and 3) hazards associated with increased levels of thrill craft, are no longer valid, warranting the continued enforcement of the weekend and holiday prohibition of commercial jetski operations.
- 3. Received verbal testimony from DLNR, DOBOR's Administrator, Ed Underwood, that DLNR had not polled the Hawaii Kai and Portlock communities to determine if they are willing to allow for the commercial operation of jetski in Maunalua Bay on Saturdays.

Given the significant research and debate that went into developing HRS §§200-37 and 200-38, if this committee is presented with a choice between SB 367 and HB 1310, there is no question the Senate draft is the preferred course under the present circumstances. The protections afforded by these statutes are significant and genuine HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA February 11, 2009 Page 5

and unless there is clear and convincing evidence presented that demonstrates the hazards and threat to public that originally warranted the weekend and holiday ban on commercial ocean recreation activities no longer exists, it should not be abolished purely for economic reasons. After all, to be a commercial operator is a privilege and not an exclusive right. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Myan 2 4 Ho Brvan Y.Y. Ho

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cc: Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker (Vice Chair) Hon. Clayton Hee Hon. David Y. Ige Hon. Sam Slom

SENATOR FUKUNAGA

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#### WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR BILL 367

February 9, 2009

In '1976, I introduced Parasailing to Hawaii. I've spent 30 plus years of hard work since, working early morning to late at night 7 days a week helping to build this industry into the hugely popular attraction it now is statewide.

There are 12 Parasail and Jet Ski companies permitted by the DLNR here, some of them pioneers as well. We were in the business years before being subjected to regulations under the permit system, forced to except this regulation in question. Most of these companies have many employees who have been trained for years in becoming professionals at their respective positions, maintaining the utmost degree of safety necessary with such an activity that has customers nearly 500 feet in the air. Some of these employees are the best there is at what they do, having dedicated a good part of their lives also with their respective companies.

There is "safety, discrimination, moral and legal issues here."

The "safety issue" is that safety could be compromised by taking away the permit of these professionals and auctioning it off to some other company who might be inexperienced with conditions in that area or with parasailing in general. Vessel and equipment maintenance is critical, as well as training and experience in all forms of weather.

The "discrimination issue". Parasailing and jet skiing are the only commercial ocean activities permitted by the DNLR subjected to such a devastating regulation that abruptly ends their lifelong business and dreams. Why are we singled out like this and for what reason.

There is the "moral issue". Who in their right mind thinks it could be justifiable to take away ones permit who is in good standing with the department, without cause, reason or due process, especially after already permitting use for 20 years. This is morally despicable, a definite case of government gone wrong. DLNR provides nothing of substance, only permission, in the form of a piece of paper and sticker, while collecting 3% of gross income for it. They then feel free to manipulate these vulnerable businessmen even further with regulations that are not unlike communism, contradicting the very concept of business.

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There is also a "legal issue". These parasail and jet ski operators promote tourism, yet are expected to risk their life savings with business that has government in place at the end of the rainbow to reap the rewards of their prosperity instead, after 20 years of blood, sweat and tears. What justifies governments' role in destroying these good en trepreneurs' lives at a point when they will be too old to pick up the pieces and start all over again. This is not supposed to happen in a free society under a democratic government. Revenue generating in this manner should be condemned as it possibly violates ones constitutional right to the pursuit of happiness and prosperity. The taking away of the permit in this manner feels like theft, then the auction process, extortion, for selling back the permit to the original holder.

The price tag for the permit of a successful company will likely be too high for the original permit holder to buy back. The value of his success becomes the cost he has to pay to hold on to his business, spelling disaster. The manipulation of laws by government at the expense of small business, that's what that is. The 3% of gross is quite high already, is this not revenue generating enough, is this not fair enough given what little DLNR provides in return. DLNR should look to other ways and means of generating more revenue than destroying good hard working people's lives who essentially were loyal business partners for 20 years.

Finally yet importantly, this regulation requiring permit removal and subsequent auctioning off thereafter is an anti economic stimulus. In a climate having businesses all over the country closing, then you have government purposely and forcefully taking away a perfectly legitimate and successful business. This is shameful. The only reason this regulation was written is because it was written by persons who don't care since they are not affected by it. Help to correct bad governance by supporting Bill 367.

MARK NEUMANN PRESIDENT OF HAWAIIAN PARASAIL INC.

#### H-16 Friday, January 14, 1977 HONOLULU ADVERTISER

# **Request for floating platform** off Waikiki runs into flak

#### **By JAKE WILLIAMS** Advertiser Staff Writer

Four hotels and three organizations objected at a public hearing last night to a proposal to place a floating platform off Waikiki, but the State Board of Land and Natural Resources put off a decision

until next month. Mark Neumann is seeking board ap-proval to place a 25 by 35 foot platform 3,600 feet offshore from the Royal Hawaiian Hotel to launch and land paraglide riders.

The board also heard an application for a permit to extend a Kaneohe Yacht Club floating pier to moor boats. There was no opposition to the proposal to ex-tend the pier by some 400 feet in the southwest section of Kaneohe Bay. Decisions will be made on both appliFebruary. No date has yet been set for that meeting.

This morning the board meets at 10 a.m. and is scheduled to consider a proposal for 65-year leases to Mokauea Island fisherman as an educational and scientific community.

Neumann's proposal would bring a new activity to Walkiki. A paraglide business has been operating off Kona since last year. Riders are strapped into a parachute and pulled by a jet-powered boat at the end of a 330-foot line, reaching altitudes of about 150 feet.

Those opposing the platform raised a variety of concerns, including noise, potential danger to persons in the water, danger to boats from the platform and visual impact. The land board staff will cations at the board's second meeting in a not require an environmental impact

statement, but several government agencies raised concerns.

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The Office of Environmental Quality Control was concerned about noise from the boat and suggested that riders be picked up as Ala Wai boat harbor in-stead of a small coral beach near Ft. DeRussy, as proposed by Neumann.

The Department of Transportation believes there will be a conflict with other uses and questioned the adequacy of the two 500-pound concrete anchors that would keep the platform in place. The Fish and Game Division suggested that the platform be towed to and from the area as a safety precaution. Opposed came from the Waikiki improvement and residents associations, the Shoreline Protection Alliance and the Royal Ha-waiian, Surfrider, Moana-Ocean, Lana) and Sheraton-Waikiki hotels.



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most fabulous collection of

eating places—from quickie snack

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City presents

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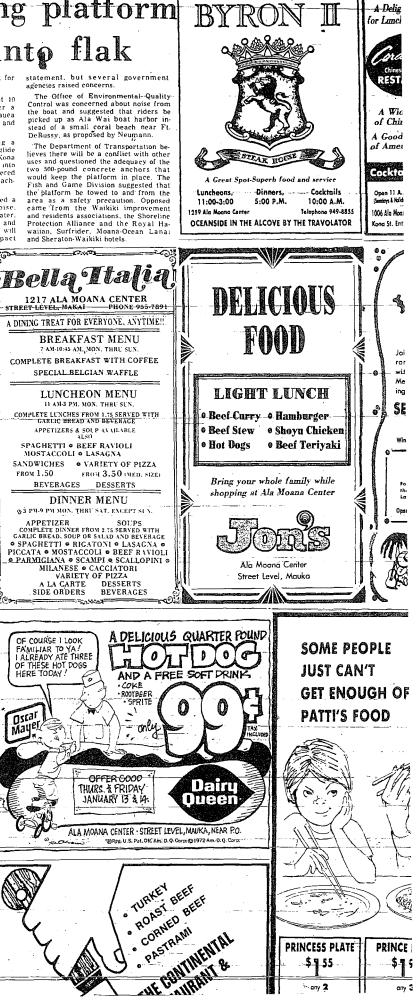
shooting suit

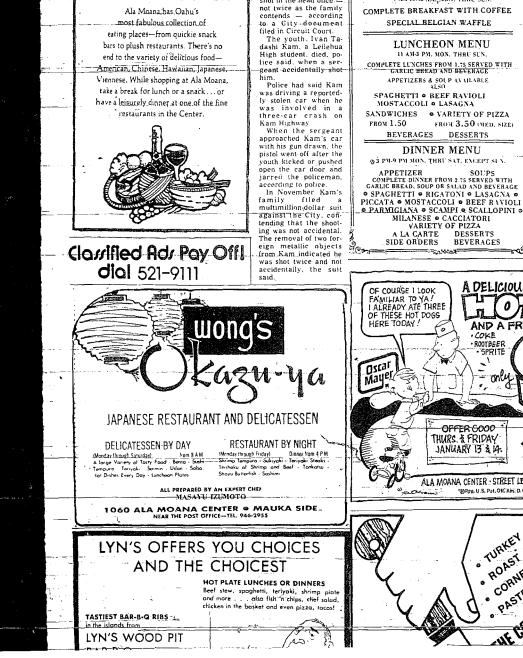
A 16-year-old who was accidentally killed by police in 1974 was shot in the head once.

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Testimony for EDT 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM SB367

Conference room: 016 Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Jenny Perri Organization: Individual Address: Phone: 801-419-9113 E-mail: JennyPerri1@gmail.com Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

February 10, 2009

#### SB367 Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

#### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

#### SUPPORT

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. 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. The idea that a business must surrender a permit won at auction back to the state after 20 years is absurd. Other state permitted businesses are not subject to such a harsh consequence.

We must aggressively support our state's tourism operators and keep them viable entities by removing this unfair, unreasonable and discriminatory restriction. There are no other permitted watersports activities that are subject to this punitive measure. The state is populated with numerous watersports activities such as catamaran rides, surfing, scuba diving, submarine rides, dinner cruises, etc. that do not have a 20 year or other finite restriction on their businesses. They can operate in perpetuity.

Long term operators become long term stewards of the resource they use. Short term operators become abusers of a resource as they are forced to cut corners to recoup initial investments which are high. Long term operators are invested in safe operations; our visitor industry needs to promote and support these operators. Remove this 20 year term without any reservation.

AT

Testimony for EDT 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM SB367

Conference room: 016 Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Leslie Jenson Organization: Individual Address: Phone: 949-500-5095 E-mail: Legsly@Cox.net Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

February 10, 2009

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Conference room: 016 Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Dave Astin Organization: Individual Address: Phone: 801-580-7543 E-mail: <u>Ramprat123@netzero.com</u> Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments

February 10, 2009

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Conference room: 016 Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Rolynn Perri Organization: Individual Address: Phone: 801-631-2001 E-mail: <u>RfPerri@msn.com</u> Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

February 10, 2009

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### ATE

Testimony for EDT 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM SB367

Conference room: 016 Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Kim Marrot Organization: Individual Address: Phone: 801-455-8822 E-mail: <u>Kimie@qwest.net</u> Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

February 10, 2009

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Conference room: 016 Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Paula Bergstrom Organization: Individual Address: Phone: 702-785-3317 E-mail: <u>Rentalssss@aol.com</u> Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

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Testimony for EDT 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM SB367

Conference room: 016 Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Scott Ng Organization: Individual Address: Phone: 277-0547 E-mail: <u>Merissa Ng@yahoo.com</u> Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

Dear Committee:

I am strongly in support of SB367.

I am an employee of a company that will be adversely affected if this bill is not passed. I don't understand why any company should have their rights to operate taken away.

I also support the amendment in this bill that will delete the closure of commercial operation of thrill craft, parasailing, water sledding or high speed boating in Maunalua Bay on weekends and holidays. This will allow us to work more hours and also service the local community that is off work on weekends.

Please pass this bill.

## LATE

Testimony for EDT 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM SB367

Conference room: 016 Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Suzanne Luyt Organization: Individual Address: Phone: 722-2550 E-mail: <u>Caughtinmouserap@aol.com</u> Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

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Testimony for EDT 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM SB367

Conference room: 016 Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Tom Arakawa Organization: Individual Address: Phone: 277-3307 E-mail: <u>Tonarinototoro200@hotmail.com</u> Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

February 10, 2009

### <u>SB367</u>

Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

#### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

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LATE

February 10, 2009

Testimony of: George Baxter

#### <u>SB367</u>

#### Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

#### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

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LATF

February 10, 2009

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#### SB367

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February 10, 2009

Testimony of: K Smith

#### SB367

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February 10, 2009		
Testimony of:	fun	
	DUY K NGUYEN (808)627-5533	

SB367 Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

#### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

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SIGNED:

February 10, 2009

(727) 417-9392 Testimony of:

<u>SB367</u> Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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I urge the committee to support and readily pass these measures SIGNED:

February 10, 2009

Testimony of: Carl Johnsen Phone: 396-4402

SB367 Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

#### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

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SIGNED:

LATE

February 10, 2009

Testimony of: <u>Debrienne Saffea</u> phine 396-4407

SB367 Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

#### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

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SIGNED: Oddera Sago

## ATE

February 10, 2009 Testimony of: Ma DUNE 389-1230

<u>SB367</u> Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

#### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

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and Sak SIGNED:

February 10, 2009

Testimony of: <u>John-Brandon Pang</u> Phone - 479-8098

SB367 Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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SIGNED:

# ATE

February 10, 2009

restimony of: <u>Holly Gorence</u> phonet 227-8565

SB367 Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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SIGNED: Holy Abrence

Testimony of: <u>Suzanne huyt</u> DMNe - 122-2550

SB367 Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

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Testimony of: Michelle LUKE

SB367 Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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SIGNED: drichter R. L.

# ATE

February 10, 2009

Testimony of: Beverly A Liddle phone 396-2469

<u>SB367</u> Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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Reverf. I.dd SIGNED:

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February 10, 2009

Testimony of: <u>Jason Clardy</u> phone # (702) 575 - 9376

SB367 Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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Leigh Villarasa

SB367 Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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AF

Testimony of: LAURIE KUKKONEN Ph# 808-286-4999

<u>SB367</u> Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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avid Defrancesca Testimony of: BAN 3966669

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February 10, 2009 Testimony of: <u>Lesley R. Stove</u> phone#72291032

<u>SB367</u> Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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We must aggressively support our state's tourism operators and keep them viable entities by removing this unfair, unreasonable and discriminatory restriction. There are no other permitted watersports activities that are subject to this punitive measure. The state is populated with numerous watersports activities such as catamaran rides, surfing, scuba diving, submarine rides, dinner cruises, etc. that do not have a 20 year or other finite restriction on their businesses. They can operate in perpetuity.

Long term operators become long term stewards of the resource they use. Short term operators become abusers of a resource as they are forced to cut corners to recoup initial investments which are high. Long term operators are invested in safe operations; our visitor industry needs to promote and support these operators. Remove this 20 year term without any reservation.

SIGNED:

### SUPPORTING BILL SB 367

Dear Senator Carol Fukunaga,

I am writing to urge you to support Bill 367. This bill is vital to our watersports industry, tourism and our economy.

This bill will remove the expiration of a permit after 20 years, from parasailing and jet ski permit holders. The regulation as is presently written is discriminatory in that it only applies to parasailing and jet skiing and not to any other commercial ocean user activities such as sail boat charters, submarines, deep sea fishing, snorkel tours, surfing schools, scuba dive tours and many other companies alike.

Please keep our tourist operations safe by encouraging experienced professional operators. Help the small businesses in these hard economic times by voicing your support of Bill 367.

Thank you,

Kelun Sce

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J. Kenna Summer Kenn

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Thank you ,

Wark Un

Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name: Lood K. ARA	Houn	
Address or Phone number:	523-8688	

Wednesday, February 11 2009

Support of SB 367 RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION AND COASTAL AREAS PROGRAMS

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name: Naomi Omori	
Address or Phone number: 50/ Hahaione St 9L, 808-395-4	2019

Wednesday, February 11 2009

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name: Jonahson Kunikane Address or Phone number: 395-002/

Wednesday, February 11 2009

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name: <u>Hanold Vuga</u> Address or Phone number: <u>732-732</u>

Wednesday, February 11 2009

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name: DAUM	XEG1	Sis
Address or Phone number:	258 3839	······································

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name: RICK Nomura Address or Phone number: 395-0001

Wednesday, February 11 2009

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name:	Chiham	Skaggs	
Address or	Phone number:	396-1600	

Wednesday, February 11 2009

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name: <u>August Van Biene</u> Address or Phone number: <u>697 Kumn Kahi Place</u> 796825 fel: 8.8-349-5-788

Wednesday, February 11 2009

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Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

ST PUWHHOU ST HI Sobre Tel: (Seve) most. Name: Address or Phone number:

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name: St F Honolulu HI 96825 Address or Phone number: 135 Whiniha Wednesday, February 11 2009

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name: Bilk-Kawg Address of Phone number: 41-286 Nakini 284-2312 Name:

Wednesday, February 11 2009

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name: KETTH Williques			
Address or Phone number: Ale-264	- PULASAWAY ST KUNEDHE	A	20744
Wednesday, February 11 2009	POS 225-8196 Hu 247:5776		

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name: <u>CHIEKO KELLY</u> Address or Phone number: <u>3644</u>	Chiel		Kuz	
Address or Phone number: 3644	t Diamond	Hea	<u>d</u> <u>Ci</u> rcle	
Wednesday, February 11 2009	Honolulu	Ηſ	96815	392-0535

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name: 1 Name: <u>DAISHI TCHIZAWA</u> Address or Phone number: <u>(808)497-2789</u>

Wednesday, February 11 2009

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name: Donon	AN LEE	
Address or Phone n	number: (808) 387-5055	

Wednesday, February 11 2009

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name: NOBOJI TORILO HENDNO ST (tON.11] Address or Phone number: 753-20-00

Wednesday, February 11 2009

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee

Name:	ALGRIC ABUAN
Address	or Phone number: 375-1422

Wednesday, February 11 2009

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Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Roslyn H. Baker Vice-Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Committee Name: <u>Name</u> 2007 Address or Phone number: <u>395</u> 377

Wednesday, February 11 2009

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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. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. LATE

## ATT

Dear: Senator Fukunaga

I am writing to urge you to support SB367. This bill is vital to our watersports industry, tourism and our economy.

This bill will remove the expiration of a permit after 20 years from parasailing and jet skiing permit holders. These are the only businesses that are subject to this permit rule.

This rule does not apply to or affect other activity providers in our state such as sail boat charters, submarines, deep sea fishing, snorkel tours, surfing schools, catamarans or many other like companies. Please keep our tourist operations safe by encouraging experienced operators. Please help small business by voicing your support of SB367.

Thank you, PATRICK SKELTON atrick Skelton

## ATE

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Janiee Kim

Dear: SENATOR BAKER

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Please keep our tourist operations safe by encouraging experienced operators. Please help small business by voicing your support of 56367.

Thank you.

LARRY FRAME ALGHA JETSKI OUNER

521-2446

### <u>SB367</u>

### Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009

### 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

### SUPPORT

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We must aggressively support our state's tourism operators and keep them viable entities by removing this unfair, unreasonable and discriminatory restriction. There are no other permitted water sports activities that are subject to this punitive measure. The state is populated with



numerous water sports activities such as catamaran rides, surfing, scuba diving, submarine rides, dinner cruises, etc. that do not have a 20 year or other finite restriction on their businesses. They can operate in perpetuity.

Long term operators become long term stewards of the resource they use. Short term operators become abusers of a resource as they are forced to cut corners to recoup initial investments which are high. Long term operators are invested in safe operations; our visitor industry needs to promote and support these operators. Remove this 20 year term without any reservation.

I urge the committee to support and readily pass these measures.

-Antonio Gaona

### fukunaga4 - Michelle

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 10, 2009 5:55 PM
То:	EDTTestimony
Cc:	bdensmore email@yahoo.com
Subject:	Testimony for SB367 on 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM SB367

Conference room: 016 Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Brandy Densmore Organization: Individual Address: 94-416 keaoopua St 53 b mililani HI, 96789 Phone: 808-428-0802 E-mail: <u>bdensmore email@yahoo.com</u> Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:

I am writing to voice my strong support and urge the committee to support and pass these measures. Please delete the 20 year maximum permit term for parasailing and commercial thrill craft commercial use and operator permits.

A 20 year term is does not allow for a small business owner to benefit fully from their dream of owning and operating as a para sailing and commercial thrill craft commercial business owner. With a time limit on the permits a family business can not be handed down to the next generation. Other state permitted businesses are not subject to request their permits after 20 years of continued business and hope that they get the permits. Permits needed to continue to work in the only means of income for their family that they have had for 20 years. Letting the permits be indefinite will not negatively affect anyone but it will provide a sense a security knowing a small business will not lose its permit after 20 years. In a business the years go by so fast and with expanding cost and maintaining through the hard times the business owner puts everything they have into their business and can not pay back loans and continue to live the same life style if permits are not approved after they reach 20 years of business. The longer a company is in business the more experience, pride, customer loyalty and employees they will have so not letting a small business with this much time invested continue to have their permits is absurd and unfair.

The state is populated with numerous water sports activities such as catamaran rides, surfing, scuba diving, submarine rides, dinner cruises, etc. that do not have a 20 year or other finite restriction on their businesses. They can operate in perpetuity. So adding para sailing and commercial thrill craft commercial use and operator permits would be easy and the just thing to do.

Being a three time war veteran and being able to enjoy the adventure the island has to offer gives me an unbelievable feeling of stress free relaxation allowing me to over come the hardships of war and self reflect in a peaceful environment. The Small business owners are more like a family and provide support and escapes for all the Soldiers, tourist and locals looking for some fun. The bond between the small business owners is evident in supporting each others businesses and ensuring everyone maintains the positive image desired to show the warm hearted Aloha to all visitors.

AL

#### fukunaga4 - Michelle

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Wednesday, February 11, 2009 9:41 AM
То:	EDTTestimony
Cc:	collin@aloha.net
Subject:	Testimony for SB367 on 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM SB367

Conference room: 016 Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Collin Miyamoto Organization: Individual Address: Phone: E-mail: <u>collin@aloha.net</u> Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments: Support of SB367 RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION

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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.

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.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify

#### fukunaga4 - Michelle

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Tuesday, February 10, 2009 6:16 PM
То:	EDTTestimony
Cc:	valeger1@hotmail.com
Subject:	Testimony for SB367 on 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM SB367

Conference room: 016 Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Valerie Leger Organization: Individual Address: 304 N 8th St Marshalltown, IA Phone: 641-485-9258 E-mail: <u>valeger1@hotmail.com</u> Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:

People that own these type of businesses are good friends of mine. In the united states of America small business owners are being shut out, on the contrary they should be able to keep a business and hand it down from generation to generation. The family's have put their life savings into buying equity that has not reached it's full potential and i believe that the American dream should allow someone to be an entrepreneur. The government shouldn't put a cap on how long they can run a business if permits are in good standing and they are profitable. I support and encourage the maximum 20 year permit to be expelled.

1

February 10, 2009

Testimony of: Lisa Hatzenbuhler

#### <u>SB367</u>

## Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

#### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009

#### 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

#### SUPPORT

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. 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. The idea that a business must surrender a permit won at auction back to the state after 20 years is absurd. Other state permitted businesses are not subject to such a harsh consequence.



We must aggressively support our state's tourism operators and keep them viable entities by removing this unfair, unreasonable and discriminatory restriction. There are no other permitted watersports activities that are subject to this punitive measure. The state is populated with numerous watersports activities such as catamaran rides, surfing, scuba diving, submarine rides, dinner cruises, etc. that do not have a 20 year or other finite restriction on their businesses. They can operate in perpetuity.

Long term operators become long term stewards of the resource they use. Short term operators become abusers of a resource as they are forced to cut corners to recoup initial investments which are high. Long term operators are invested in safe operations; our visitor industry needs to promote and support these operators. Remove this 20 year term without any reservation.

From:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.govSent:Tuesday, February 10, 2009 6:45 PMTo:EDTTestimonyCc:trimark1@lava.netSubject:Testimony for SB367 on 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM SB367

Conference room: 016 Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: David C. Livingston Organization: Individual Address: 303 Kipukai Place Honolulu, HI Phone: 808 542-4945 E-mail: trimark1@lava.net Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments: Testimony of: David C. Livingston

SB367

Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Public Hearing - February 11, 2009

1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

SUPPORT

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February 10, 2009

Testimony of: Christopher Haines Jr.

#### <u>SB367</u>

### Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

#### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009

#### 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

#### SUPPORT

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# L ATE

February 10, 2009

Testimony of: Jet Ski's Plus, Haleiwa Boat Harbor

#### <u>SB367</u>

#### Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

#### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009

#### 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

#### SUPPORT

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February 10, 2009

Testimony of: Scott Williams

#### <u>SB367</u>

#### Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

#### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

#### SUPPORT

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. 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. The idea that a business must surrender a permit won at auction back to the state after 20 years is absurd. Other state permitted businesses are not subject to such a harsh consequence.

We must aggressively support our state's tourism operators and keep them viable entities by removing this unfair, unreasonable and discriminatory restriction. There are no other permitted watersports activities that are subject to this punitive measure. The state is populated with numerous watersports activities such as catamaran rides, surfing, scuba diving, submarine rides, dinner cruises, etc. that do not have a 20 year or other finite restriction on their businesses. They can operate in perpetuity.

Long term operators become long term stewards of the resource they use. Short term operators become abusers of a resource as they are forced to cut corners to recoup initial investments which are high. Long term operators are invested in safe operations; our visitor industry needs to promote and support these operators. Remove this 20 year term without any reservation.

Economic Development and Technology Senator Carol Fukunaga Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker Vice Chair

Senate Bill 367 Hearing Date: February 11, 2009

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 Senate Bill 367

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 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.

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

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

I also propose to 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 are not subjected to such a punitive operating restriction. We are forced to turn way business 1/3 of the year. This is tough to deal with especially during these touch economic times. We must support our tourist businesses, keep them viable and healthy. I urge the committee to support and readily pass these measures.

## LATE

February 10, 2009

Testimony of: Randy Amine

#### SB367 Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

#### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

#### SUPPORT

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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Dear Senator David Y. Ige,

I am writing to urge you to support Bill 367. This bill is vital to our watersports industry, tourism and our economy.

This bill will remove the expiration of a permit after 20 years, from parasailing and jet ski permit holders. The regulation as is presently written is discriminatory in that it only applies to parasailing and jet skiing and not to any other commercial ocean user activities such as sail boat charters, submarines, deep sea fishing, snorkel tours, surfing schools, scuba dive tours and many other companies alike.

Please keep our tourist operations safe by encouraging experienced professional operators. Help the small businesses in these hard economic times by voicing your support of Bill 367.

Thank you , Drey Jono

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Thank you,

Ward Un

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Please keep our tourist operations safe by encouraging experienced professional operators. Help the small businesses in these hard economic times by voicing your support of Bill 367.

Thank you,

SHARTEL KELLIN

Dear Senator David Y. Ige,

I am writing to urge you to support Bill 367. This bill is vital to our watersports industry, tourism and our economy.

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Please keep our tourist operations safe by encouraging experienced professional operators. Help the small businesses in these hard economic times by voicing your support of Bill 367.

Thank you,

MARK NEUMANN PRES. HAWAHAN PARASAIL

1

PAGE Ø1

#### **SUPPORTING BILL 367**

Dear Senator Sam Slom,

I am writing to urge you to support Bill 367. This bill is vital to our watersports industry, tourism and our economy.

This bill will remove the expiration of a permit after 20 years, from parasailing and jet ski permit holders. The regulation as is presently written is discriminatory in that it only applies to parasailing and jet skiing and not to any other commercial ocean user activities such as sail boat charters, submarines, deep sea fishing, snorkel tours, surfing schools, scuba dive tours and many other companies alike.

Please keep our tourist operations safe by encouraging experienced professional operators. Help the small businesses in these hard economic times by voicing your support of Bill 367.

Thank you,

ł

Kelin Da

#### fukunaga2 - Francis

From: Sent: To: Subject: EDTTestimony Wednesday, February 11, 2009 10:53 AM fukunaga2 - Francis FW: Testimony for SB367 on 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM

Please print.

-----Original Message-----From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov] Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 9:46 AM To: EDTTestimony Cc: randy@islanddivershawaii.com Subject: Testimony for SB367 on 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT 2/11/2009 1:15:00 PM SB367.

Conference room: 016 Testifier position: support Testifier will be present: No Submitted by: Randy Fallau Organization: Individual Address: 425-d kalama st. kailua Hi Phone: 808-693-6012 E-mail: <u>randy@islanddivershawaii.com</u> Submitted on: 2/11/2009

#### Comments:

In these tough economic times we need to support our local businesses which have estabilished themselves to running safe operations and have complied with regulations. Creating limitations on permits dosent allow business to plan for the long term thereby depriving our visitors quality of services due to short term planing models as well as cutting jobs for local people who have invested their time with an established company only to have their employment terminated by statute.

February 9, 2009

Testimony of: (Jeffrey Krantz / Seabreeze Parasailing)

#### <u>SB367</u>

#### Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

#### Public Hearing – February 11, 2009

#### 1:15 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 016

#### SUPPORT

Dear Committee Chairperson Carol Fukunaga:

I am in favor of SB 367.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY GREAT APRECIATION FOR PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK HERE TODAY.

There are some things that you should know about the parasailing and thrill craft companies to get a better understanding of the size and scope of their operation, and the economic impact they are feeling.

1. Jet ski/ thrill craft operators are only allowed to operate 6 units at one time and must remain in areas designated by the DNLR. This was supported by a study from the Atoni Association addressing environmental impacts and user conflicts.

2. Parasailing companies are only allowed to operate one boat per permit and must also remain in certain areas designated by DLNR.

These two limitations inhibit the companies from expanding and serve to limit the activity so all users can enjoy the water without conflict.

There has been a notion that these companies are a threat to the environment and/or the public. This could not be further from the truth. In fact, these companies are providing a vital service to the community and contribute substantial funds to maintain the areas the public uses.

We provide rescue to people all year long; many have been revived and are here today because we are out there. I think the community needs to take into considerations the security we provide to surfers, swimmers, kayakers and boaters who, without us, would most likely have perished. What is the value to the state for having a team trained in lifesaving on location? This is something that seems to miss the headlines and fails to get the recognition it deserves. In short, we are great stewards of this precious resource.

I ask are we not a better prepared community because of the resources that are available from these companies operations. They provide jobs, community services, and lifesaving for the public. I almost forgot to mention they do it for free!!! That's right at no charge.

The statutes should be revised to remove the 20-year expiration of the permit and repeal the Saturday and holiday closures of thrill craft in Mauanalua Bay. The statute should promote uniformity. We are all sensitive to the community and believe that the people all around the Island deserve the same availably to the water. I propose a compromise for the community that thrill craft be closed on Sundays on Oahu. This would provide a fairness of competitions and allow the public to have a day of their own.

The current statute effectively tells a thrill craft or parasailing permit holder that after 20 years of capitalizing a business and investing time, the State of Hawaii will rescind your permit and auction it to the

#### highest bidder.

This only applies if you have a thrill craft or parasailing permit. This statute does not apply to 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. It exclusively singles out jet skiing / thrill craft 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. These operations take enormous capital infusion to start and maintain. We find ourselves subject to short term lending and unfair lease negotiations and held to a discriminating Statute.

The State of Hawaii should endorse long term safe operators of these activities and not penalize them. The state has built in safeguards to ensure operator safety. If you have too many accidents, the State can suspend or revoke your permit. This is agreeable as all tourism operations hare this sentiment.

It does not make any sense to want an inexperienced operator who has financial resources to start fresh operations and exposure 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.

#### Key Question to ask

1.Ask DNLR to explain why we are subjected to this law and whethert is fair in comparison to the other commercial permits they issue.

2. Ask DNLR why thrill craft have different operating days among the different bays.

3. Ask if the level of commercial activity has increased in Mauanalua Bay.

4. Ask if they have the resources to man a full time lifesaving team.

#### BACKGROUND

Act 313 was passed to place several restrictions upon commercial operators in Mauanalua Bay with out clear and just cause. The resulting operational limitations are contained in HRS§200-37(g)(h):

"During all weekends and state and federal holidays, no commercial operator shall operate a thrill craft, or engage in parasailing, water sledding, or commercial high speed boating or operate a motor vessel towing a person engaged in water sledding or parasailing Mauanalua Bay on Oahu as provided for in section 200-38"

These restrictions on Mauanalua Bay are not reasonable and expressly conflict with the state's Declaration of Policy in HRS §200-21 to promote and attain: "(3) a **reasonable uniformity of laws and rules** (emphasis added) regarding the use of the waters of the State."

Mauanalua Bay is located on the same south shore where both Waikiki and Keehi Lagoon operators feature parasailing, jet skiing, commercial high speed boating, scuba diving, dinner cruise, snorkel cruise, sightseeing vessels, catamaran rides, and other water sports. The restrictions in HRS§200-37(g)(h) only apply to Mauanalua Bay operations on the south shore. This is not a reasonable and uniform application of rules regarding the use of the waters of the State; it favors the Waikiki/Keehi Lagoon operations by allowing more commercial operating days per year and unfair completive advantages. Waikiki and Keehi are much more populated with commercial marine operators and water sport participants than Mauanalua Bay and contend with millions of swimmers, surfers, sailors ,kayakers ,and beach goers . We want to make clear we are not looking to populate Mauanalua Bay in the same manner as Waikiki. Currently, there are permits limits and we aren't asking for a permit increase just fair business practice.

Section 1 of Act 313 states:

"The legislature finds that: (1) The operation of thrill craft and high-speed motorized vessels in the waters of the State poses an unacceptable risk of harm to humans and the environment. The operation of thrill craft and high-speed motorized vessels in some of the State's heavily used recreational waters has resulted in the severe injury and death of recreational swimmers, not to mention a number of "close calls";"

Section 1 is not an effective means to mitigate the risks or environmental issues that were brought up. The risk referred to in this section pertains to recreational rather then commercial exposures. There have been many more incidents involving privately owned thrill craft and high speed vessels than those companies managing safe commercial operations that are under strict regulation by both the state and United States Coast Guard.

Environmental concerns have been addressed by the Federal government in the restriction of emissions and all commercial operators are under state supervision in their restricted operating areas. Emissions from thrill craft engines have become cleaner with the exclusive use of 4-stroke engines that meet the tier II standards set by EPA and California ARB.

Section 2 of Act 313 addresses the operation of thrill craft, parasailing, etal during times that may pose a threat to humpback whales. Again, strict US Coast Guard and state supervision as well as restricted operating areas address this concern. There are a small number of vessels involved and this is not even a comparison of the harm that has been proven with the military use of sonar. The whale population is growing and we applaud these efforts. Whales do not approach thrill craft operating areas in Mauanalua, our restricted and designated areas are inland from the surf and wale habitat and pose no danger to the marine manuals.

Section 3 does not currently apply. Most thrill craft operations are in areas where there is limited residential developments and in the areas that the state has approved. This section was an ambitious attempt to satisfy those who have felt they are more deserving than others and is a direct hit against the equal right of the state waters use.

The facts are that commercial operation have long been a desired activity for our tourism and provide a large amount of funding to the state, which in turns benefits the general public. The economy has always played a part in the ability for the state to have funds used for repairs of local harbors. This section has been proven not to be in the best interest of the state or the commercial operation.

Commercial operators do not receive any subsidies when island tourism is impacted by storms, wars or recessions. We are subject to an over abundance of regulation along with escalating fees. We are a vital part of the state's primary industry, tourism.

Seabreeze has been in business for over 22 years. We are and will remain a reputable, safe ocean sports company featuring parasailing and jet skiing. Over the last 22 years, we have operated our water sports in Mauanalua Bay- Hawaii Kai and contributed Financially to the state with our permit fees.

In 1996 the legislature passed Act 313 which placed restrictions on Mauanalua Bay found in HRS§200-37 (g)(h). This statute restricts our ability to operate Jet Ski (thrill craft) in Mauanalua Bay on weekends and holidays and parasailing on Sunday. Waikiki is located within the same shoreline and does not have a similar restriction for their commercial permit holders.

We ask that HRS§200-37 be amended by repealing (g) and (h) and instructing the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation to amend their administrative rules accordingly.

Tourism is in a very difficult financial position and we all face uncertain economic times. Tourism contributes significantly to our state budgets and we need to support the companies that serve the visitor industry. We must have the ability to operate as many days as possible and have fair completive business practices such as our Waikiki operators.

I am pleading for your professional, ethical, and legal support for the restructuring of this restrictive costly and unfair law. I look forward to your support in correcting this statute to reflect Fairness to all.

amend HRS§200-37 (m) (n). Currently, these sections of the statute read:

### CURRENT STATUTE

Each commercial use and operator permit issued by the department for commercial thrill craft, and parasailing activities shall be valid five years from the date of issuance and shall be renewed by the department for additional five-year periods, not to exceed a maximum of twenty years; provided that the permit holder shall have met the following conditions:

(1) The permit holder shall be in compliance with all applicable rules of the department;

(2) The permit holder shall have timely filed and paid all applicable state taxes during the year; and

(3) The permit holder shall have a good safety record regarding the operation of a commercial thrill craft, or parasailing activity.

Upon expiration of the twenty-year period, the permit may be offered for public auction as provided in this chapter; provided that the previous permit holder shall be offered the right of first refusal in accordance with department rules; and provided further that the permit holder shall agree to match the highest bid offered at the public auction.

These statutes should be revised to remove the 20-year expiration of the permit.

This statute effectively tells a thrill craft or parasailing permit holder that after 20 years of capitalizing a business and investing time, the State of Hawaii will rescind your permit and auction it to the highest bidder. This only applies if you have a thrill craft or parasailing permit.

#### SUGGESTED REVISION TO STATUTE

Each commercial use and operator permit issued by the department for commercial thrill craft, and parasailing activities shall be valid five years from the date of issuance and shall be renewed by the department for additional five-year periods. -<del>not to exceed a maximum of twenty years</del>; provided that the permit holder shall have met the following conditions:

(4) The permit holder shall be in compliance with all applicable rules of the department;

(5) The permit holder shall have timely filed and paid all applicable state taxes during the year; and

(6) The permit holder shall have a good safety record regarding the operation of a commercial thrill craft, or parasailing activity.

Upon expiration of the twenty year period, the permit may be offered for public-

auction as provided in this chapter; provided that the previous permit holder shall be offered the right of first refusal in accordance with department rules; and provided further that the permit holder shall agree to match the highest bid offered at the publicauction.

This rule does not apply to 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. It exclusively 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. These operations take enormous capital infusion to start and maintain. We find ourselves subject to short term lending and unfair lease negotiations.

The State of Hawaii should endorse long term safe operators of these activities and not penalize them. The state has built in safeguards to ensure operator safety. If you have too many accidents, the State can suspend or revoke your permit. This is agreeable as all tourism operations hare this sentiment.

It does not make any sense to want an inexperienced operator who has financial resources to start fresh operations and exposure 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.

Please join me to encourage a revision of this legislation.

Dear: SZNATUR FUKUNAGA

I am writing to urge you to support  $\underline{SE}$   $\underline{367}$  This bill is vital to our watersports industry, tourism and our economy.

This bill will remove the expiration of a permit after 20 years from parasailing and jet skiing permit holders. These are the only businesses that are subject to this permit rule. This rule does not apply to or affect other activity providers in our state such as sail boat charters, submarines, deep sea fishing, snorkel tours, surfing schools, catamarans or many other like companies.

Please keep our tourist operations safe by encouraging experienced operators. Please help small business by voicing your support of  $\underline{38.367}$ .

Minako Jesson minako Jesem

Dear: Senator Fukunaga

I am writing to urge you to support  $\underline{SB367}$ . This bill is vital to our watersports industry, tourism and our economy.

This bill will remove the expiration of a permit after 20 years from parasailing and jet skiing permit holders. These are the only businesses that are subject to this permit rule. This rule does not apply to or affect other activity providers in our state such as sail boat charters, submarines, deep sea fishing, snorkel tours, surfing schools, catamarans or many other like companies.

Please keep our tourist operations safe by encouraging experienced operators. Please help small business by voicing your support of  $\underline{SB361}$ .

Howowood OCEON DROMOTIONIS PROMOTIONIS

Dear:

SERVICE FUERNAGE

I am writing to urge you to support  $\underline{SR367}$  This bill is vital to our watersports industry, tourism and our economy.

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Please keep our tourist operations safe by encouraging experienced operators. Please help small business by voicing your support of  $\underline{SS}$ .

Robert K. Longo

Dear: SENAZOX FINEWNOR

I am writing to urge you to support  $\underline{SSC}$ . This bill is vital to our watersports industry, tourism and our economy.

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Please keep our tourist operations safe by encouraging experienced operators. Please help small business by voicing your support of 367.

Mitchell Akamine