

LATE TESTIMONY

February 12, 2015

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
450 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96837

RE: SB490

Dear Chair Espero,

While I serve as the President of the Chinatown Improvement District, a 501(c)3 organization, I am writing as an individual business and property owner in Chinatown.

I commend Senator Chun Oakland for recognizing the negative impacts of off-premises alcohol sales and consumption with the introduction of this Bill. I believe this legislation was introduced as a solution for issues in the Chinatown area.

This legislation in and of itself recognizes the negative and harmful effects that off-premises alcohol sales and consumption has on communities. I truly believe, though, that a safer, more immediate and cost-effective solution for the taxpayers of Honolulu would be to re-evaluate existing government policy on the issue (which SB1368 aims to do) rather than to create new designations, districts and bureaucratic layers.

Off-premises alcohol sales and consumption have not been allowed in the Waikiki District for some time. Similar to Waikiki, Chinatown needs a re-evaluation of the government policies which have allowed such sales (with their known associated illegal activities and negative impacts) in Chinatown. Please defer SB490.

Sincerely,

Lee Stack
3 N. Pauahi Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

SB ~~409~~ 490

LATE TESTIMONY

2/12/15

My name is Allen Stack Jr.

I am a businessman / landowner active in the Chinatown area for 20 years.

Off premises alcohol sales are a huge problem in Chinatown.

Please defer this bill, SB 490 which by default continues off ~~premeses~~ premises alcohol sales in Chinatown

Thankyou

Allen Stack Jr



Chinatown
Improvement District

Board of Directors

E. Lee Stack, President
Joseph Leoni, V.P.
Wing Tek Lum, Treasurer
Meimei Engel, Secretary

Robert Au
Christy Vicari-Coito
Ken Hayashida
Duc Nguyen
Allen M. Stack, Jr.
Elizabeth M. Stack

February 11, 2015

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental Affairs and Military Affairs
State Capitol, Rm 016
450 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Opposition to SB490

Dear Chair Espero,

The Chinatown Improvement District is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed, in part, to combat community deterioration, enhance and improve neighborhood conditions and the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors in the area. Our members and supporters are comprised of Chinatown land and business owners – several with generational ties to the area – as well as residents and members of the general public.

We appreciate Senator Chun Oakland's recognition of the negative effects on communities of off-premises alcohol sales and consumption. To our knowledge, the Chinatown District and recently Kaka'ako are the only two sites in Honolulu county where off-premises alcohol is allowed to be sold and consumed (it was previously allowed in Waikiki but then apparently disallowed over 16 years ago). Discussions about the introduction of SB490 indicate it is aimed to address issues in Chinatown.

Unfortunately, we fear that adding a designation by ordinance and more layers of bureaucratic oversight, monitoring and reporting will be costly yet not adequately reduce negative impacts and promote public safety. Instead, such a designation could brand the Chinatown area as an "alcoholic impact area" – a negative label and assessment which could adversely affect the neighborhood and property values in the area for years to come. We would prefer that any funds and efforts which would be directed towards SB490 be used instead to strengthen the tools which are already in place to monitor and contain illegal activities. For instance, more liquor and police investigators could be hired to enforce the laws and ordinances which are currently in effect.

We ask that SB490 be deferred.

Sincerely,

E. Lee Stack, President
Chinatown Improvement District

February 12, 2015

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol
450 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96837

RE: SB490

Dear Chair Espero,

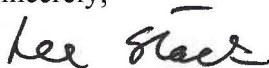
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