LIQUOR COMMISSION CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL MAYOR



February 21, 2018

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and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Thursday, February 22, 2018

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

2:00 PM: Room 325

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair

Position:

Hearing:

Comments on HB 2414 HD1, Relating to Liquor Licenses

Dear Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members:

The Liquor Commission, City and County of Honolulu (Commission), appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony providing comments on House Bill 2414 HD1, Relating to Liquor Licenses.

The Commission fully supports legislation that both legitimately reduces the application burden for certain types of licensees but also gives reasonable flexibility to regulators in addressing oversight and compliance requirements. That said, we submit comments on Sections 1 and 2 of House Bill 2414 HD1 for the purpose of clarifying the desired impact of the proposed measure.

1. Creating a New Type of Temporary License for Nonprofit Fundraising Events.

Prior to the 2008 repeal of Section 281-32.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as amended, it was the Commission's practice to administratively approve applications for nonprofit fundraising events (Nonprofit Special License), with the reduced submission requirements dictated by HRS Section 28-32.3. Following the inclusion of the Nonprofit Special License into the "standard" Class 10 Special license section, the Commission continued its practice of administrative approvals and reduced submission requirements for Nonprofit Special License applications, with the rare exception of applications with the potential for heightened public impact, which Commission administration would refer back to the Commission at a public hearing. Therefore, the proposed measure would not impact City and County of Honolulu applicants for Nonprofit Special Licenses, as the Commission does not subject the application process to increased requirements.

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2. Elimination of Commission Discretion for Certain Applications.

In this section, the proposed measure would eliminate the Commission's discretion in instances where an applicant is applying for a license for a premises or building location that had previously been denied, refused, or withdrawn. The Commission is given broad discretion at the initial application stage. Therefore, it is unclear why said discretion would be eliminated when reviewing a subsequent application for a premises or building location already unsuccessful in becoming a licensed premises. If the purpose of this proposed elimination is to efficiently evaluate a "second chance" application, Commission discretion in this area should be retained.

The Liquor Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2414 HD1, Relating to Liquor Licenses.

Respectfully submitted.

FRANKLIN DON PACAŘRO, JR

Administrator

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ke`ena O Ka Meia COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui

February 21, 2018

TESTIMONY OF ALAN M ARAKAWA MAYOR COUNTY OF MAUI

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Thursday, February 22, 2018 2:00 pm - Conference Room 325

HB1946 RELATING TO THE CAREER CRIMINAL PROSECUTION PROGRAM.

Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** OF HB2414 with proposed amendments.

The purpose of this bill is to require the liquor commission to streamline procedures to provide for the issuance of temporary licenses for the sale of liquor for a period not to exceed one day for fundraising events by nonprofit organizations.

Currently in Maui County, there is a very onerous process for non-profit organizations to get a one day special liquor license for their fundraising events. It has been so difficult that several large events were either cancelled or were unable to serve liquor which cost them 5 digits of income.

I would also like to suggest that there be language to allow the non-profits to offer at live or silent auction the ability to auction off liquor (closed bottles/cans) or services that provide liquor, i.e. whale watch cruises that provide liquor as part of the tour. Currently several non-profits were denied that option and, again, lost several dollars in income.

I strongly urge you to pass HB2414 and include the proposed amendments.

Sincerely,

Alan M. Arakawa Mayor, County of Maui