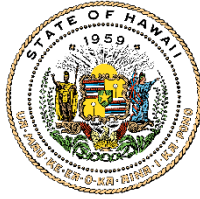


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Thursday, February 1, 2024
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2093
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill 2093 proposes to prohibit the operation of a rental watercraft in State Parks on a Saturday, Sunday, or State holiday. Beginning 1/1/2025, this bill requires rental watercrafts to be registered with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department). **The Department supports the intent of this measure and offers comments.**

There is a proliferation of rental kayaks and stand-up paddleboards (SUP) servicing the visitor industry statewide, and there are State Parks that have natural resources and water features that provide stunning backdrops and experience for kayaking and SUP use.

Wailua River State Park (SP) on Kauai and Kealakekua Bay State Historic Park (SHP) on Hawaii Island are major attractions for kayak and SUP use, and it would be beneficial to the resources and for residents to exclude commercial rentals where the park itself is the location of the watercraft activity. Napali Coast State Wilderness Park is also a premier kayak destination; however, use of the watercraft is on the ocean and not within the State Park boundary. To a lesser degree, Ahupua'a O Kahana SP on Oahu has a river that is used for rental kayak and SUP use.

Due to over-tourism, there is widespread public support for the reduction of commercial activities in targeted State Park areas that are the subject to visitor recreational congestion. At Wailua River SP, commercial kayak tours have been restricted to weekdays only, but is still subject to a large magnitude of kayak and SUP rentals on the weekends. The Kealakekua Bay SHP master plan also calls for a reduction in kayak and other vessel use and rentals.

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

The Department recommends that should this measure pass, amendments should be added to continue the dialogue. Amending Chapter 200, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), is impractical and that adding the proposed amendments to Chapter 184, HRS, may be a preferred and more appropriate vehicle to achieve the purpose of this bill:

We therefore recommend Chapter 184, HRS, be amended by adding a new section to part I of the chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§184 - Registration required for rental watercraft; registration number; fees. (a) Beginning January 1, 2025, no person shall provide or offer to provide a rental watercraft to the public, unless the rental watercraft is registered and numbered with the Division of State Parks on an annual basis in accordance with administrative rules before the use or operation of a rental watercraft on or in the waters of a State Park.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2025, every rental watercraft provided or offered for rent to the public in a state Park shall have a registration number affixed to the rental watercraft.

(c) The department may establish reasonable fees pursuant to administrative rules for the initial registration and annual renewal registration and the ancillary decals.

(d) For purposes of this section, "rental watercraft" means a kayak or paddleboard that is rented or leased or offered for rent or lease in the State for a period of one month or less."

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony offer comments in support of the intent of this measure.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Bill DeCosta
Ross Kagawa



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

January 30, 2024

TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALII
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 2093, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
House Committee on Water & Land
Thursday, February 1, 2024
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 430
Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong SUPPORT of HB 2093, Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Council Vice Chair of the Kauai County Council.

Specifically for Kauai, HB 2093 would provide DLNR the authority to regulate rental kayaks in Wailua River and would prohibit them on the weekends (Saturday or Sunday) and on State holidays. State Parks currently prohibits rental kayaks on Wailua River on the weekends, but the rules currently only apply to on-site rentals (which is essentially tour companies and the handful of companies with a permit to operate within the Park). Those who are renting kayaks off-site are unregulated and are leading to over-congestion of Wailua River during the week and the weekends. HB 2093 would ensure that State Parks has the authority to regulate all of them. For the reasons stated above, I wholeheartedly support the intent of HB 2093.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB 2093. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

KIPUKAI KUALII
Council Vice Chair, Kauai County Council

AAO:ss

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:08:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zachary LaPrade	Boss Frog's Dive and Surf	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committees.

We are a family-owned and operated rental business on the Island of Maui.

There is no background for this bill provided, and it's unclear if it's only intended for paddleboards used in State Parks.

Either way, I am writing to express my strong opposition to H.B. No. HB2093, which introduces unnecessary and burdensome regulations on the rental of paddleboards in state parks. As the owner of a paddleboard rental business, I believe that the proposed restrictions outlined in the bill are impractical, excessive, and could have detrimental effects on our industry.

While safety is paramount, the practicality of prohibiting the operation of rental paddleboards in state parks on weekends and holidays raises significant concerns. Additionally, the requirement for annual registration adds another layer of complexity and administrative burden on businesses that are already operating responsibly.

Furthermore, it's essential to consider the sheer number of paddleboards in circulation and the potential economic impact on both businesses and consumers. The overregulation proposed in this bill may hinder our ability to provide affordable and accessible recreational opportunities to the community and visitors alike.

This requirement is impractical as the numbers would inevitably wear out due to exposure to the elements, rendering them ineffective as a means of identification. Additionally, the absence of special identifying numbers on paddleboards makes the proposed registration system unfeasible.

I request the committee to reconsider the implications of this bill on small businesses and work towards a more balanced approach that addresses safety concerns without unduly restricting responsible paddleboard rental operations.

Thank you.

Zachary LaPrade

Boss Frog's Dive and Surf

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 4:13:16 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blake Moore	Teralani Sailing Adventures	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition to HB2093 - Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 2093, titled "Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources," which proposes to prohibit the operation of rental watercraft in state parks on Saturdays, Sundays, or state holidays. Additionally, the bill requires rental watercraft to be registered with the Department of Land and Natural Resources starting from January 1, 2025.

While I understand the importance of responsible regulation to ensure the safety and enjoyment of our state parks, I believe the proposed restrictions outlined in HB2093 may have unintended consequences for both the rental watercraft industry and the public's access to recreational opportunities.

The prohibition of operating rental watercraft in state parks on weekends and holidays could disproportionately impact businesses reliant on these peak periods for revenue generation. This measure may hinder the local economy, limit job opportunities, and diminish the availability of recreational activities for residents and visitors during key leisure periods.

Additionally, the requirement for rental watercraft registration, while well-intentioned, may pose challenges for smaller operators, introducing additional administrative burdens and potentially hindering their ability to continue providing these services.

I urge the committee to carefully reconsider the provisions of HB2093 and explore alternative solutions that balance the need for regulation with the preservation of economic opportunities and public access to recreational amenities. Engaging with stakeholders, including local businesses and community members, can contribute to the development of policies that address safety concerns without unduly restricting the industry.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss my concerns further during any upcoming hearings or meetings related to HB2093.

Sincerely,

Blake Moore

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:24:54 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inca Robbin	Hula Girl Sailing Charters	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Inca Robbin

President

Hula Girl Sailing Charters

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:37:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Armstrong	Splashers Ocean Adventures DBA Kona Snorkel Trips	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Limiting the number of days (by more than 112) that a rental operation can use their fleet seems counterintuitive to allowing residents and tourists to enjoy our waterways, and has an impact to taxable revenue and an operators ability to generate income.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:47:24 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George F. Garnes III	Gemini Charters	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition Testimony for HB2093

George F Garnes III, 142 Kupuohi St Unit F5, Lahaina, HI 96761 808-283-8043

To whom it may concern,

RE: HB 2093

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB2093, which proposes significant restrictions on commercial ocean activities in state waters, particularly on weekends and holidays. As a sailing catamaran company, these proposed regulations would have a severe impact on our operations and completely jeopardize our ability to remain viable.

I understand the importance of effective ocean recreation management, and I appreciate efforts to strike a balance between conservation and commercial activities. However, the current language of the bill fails to consider the practical implications on businesses like mine, which are unfairly targeted and constantly blamed for various issues.

The boating industry on Maui is often unfairly singled out for environmental concerns, safety issues, or other challenges that are not solely within our control. While we are committed to responsible practices, this bill unfairly places the burden on our industry without considering the broader context and the shared responsibility of all stakeholders.

I urge the committee to reconsider the proposed restrictions and work towards a solution that accommodates the interests of both conservation and the local business community. Collaborative discussions with stakeholders could lead to a more balanced approach that achieves the intended goals without unfairly scapegoating our industry.

I would appreciate the opportunity to further discuss my concerns during any upcoming hearings or meetings regarding this bill. Thank you for considering my testimony, and I hope that we can find a mutually beneficial resolution.

Sincerely,

George F Garnes III, Vice President Gemini Charters



January 30, 2024

Committee Chair
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI. 96813

RE: Opposition Testimony for HB 2093

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill Number 2093, which proposes a requirement for paddleboards for rent to be registered. This proposal will create unnecessary burdens and inefficiencies that will hinder our local businesses.

Requiring paddleboard rentals to be registered will add to the already extensive processes within our state systems, exacerbating existing delays. Adding another layer of bureaucracy for something as straightforward as paddleboard rentals is an impractical overreach that could strain both governmental & private systems.

Moreover, this bill represents an alarming trend towards overregulation of minor aspects of capital enterprise. Imposing such meticulous requirements on a small-scale rental activity is disproportionate and could set a precedent for increasingly restrictive and unnecessary regulations. This approach not only stifles the entrepreneurial spirit but also signals a worrying shift towards a more draconian regulatory environment.

In essence, HB2093 is a solution in search of a problem. It offers no clear benefit to the public or the state, while imposing significant costs in terms of time, money, and administrative burden on small business owners. I urge the committee to reject this bill and instead focus on measures that genuinely support and nurture our local businesses.

Sail Maui, originally Paragon Sailing Charters Maui, has been in business since 1985 and I've worked for the company for 5 years, but I've worked within the Maui boating industry for 25 years. This bill would severely limit other companies' ability to operate, provide jobs for employees, Maui residents, pay a livable wage, positively impact our local economy, and provide our residents, friends, family and visitors with wonderful lifelong memories while visiting Hawaii.

I understand the importance of effective ocean recreation management, and I appreciate the efforts to strike a balance between conservation and commercial activities. However, the current language of the bill fails to consider the practical implications on businesses like the one I work for, which are unfairly targeted and constantly blamed for various issues.

P.O. Box 10399
Lahaina, HI 96761
www.SailMaui.com



The commercial boating industry is often unfairly singled out for environmental concerns, safety issues, or other challenges that are not solely within our control. While we are committed to responsible practices, this bill unfairly places the burden on our industry without considering the broader context and the shared responsibility of all stakeholders.

I urge the committee to reconsider the proposed restrictions and work towards a solution that accommodates the interests of both conservation and the local business community. Collaborative discussions with stakeholders could lead to a more balanced approach that achieves the intended goals without unfairly scapegoating our industry.

I would appreciate the opportunity to further discuss my concerns during any upcoming hearings or meetings regarding this bill. Thank you for considering my testimony, and I hope that we can find a mutually beneficial resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carrie Kinkade".

Carrie Kinkade
Director of Administration & Human Resources
Sail Maui
Carrie@SailMaui.com
c: 808-866-6210

P.O. Box 10399
Lahaina, HI 96761
www.SailMaui.com

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:01:04 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Colombo	Hawaii Ocean Rafting	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY (HB2093):

Subject: Opposition Testimony for HB2093

**Peter Colombo, 5095 Napilihau Street, 109B #242, Lahaina, HI, 96761.
peter@hawaiiocanrafting.com. (808) 446-2492. January 30th, 2024.**

RE: 2093 HB RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

I am writing to express my strong opposition to 2093 HB RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, requiring Paddleboards for Rent to be Registered . As a small native Hawaiian business owner with a tour boat operation, these proposed regulations are just unnecessary.

After losing our home, shop, place of business and small boats in the Lahaina Fire, our hope of rebuilding remains in the use of DLNR resources being managed appropriately. As a small native Hawaiian owned business I believe there are so many other areas where DLNR officers and funding that businesses like mine generate are needed to enforce laws and regulations already in place. For example, regulating and citing all the unpermitted shore line operators that DLNR does not currently have the resources to do. The reason many areas are overcrowded is because of these operations not being regulated. Seeing certain locations overcrowded by unpermitted operators make all of us permitted operators appear like we are overcrowding areas that we are not. This leads to misconceptions about commercial operations and ultimately more restrictions on small native owned commercial businesses like mine. The fishery is another area that needs to be better monitored. As a fisherman who is very conscious of how I harvest, I see many instances where our fisheries are being overfished or the wrong fish being harvested due to lack of enforcement of regulations already in place. Please put our moneys in areas that will protect our environment and already have regulations in place.

Please do not add another bill to divert resources that should be used for laws already in place. Please ask the people that work within this industry what we need instead of guessing it for us. Find a way for these DLNR positions to be elected and with a term instead so they have accountability to make decisions best for the community as a whole.

I understand the importance of effective ocean recreation management, and I appreciate efforts to strike a balance between conservation and commercial activities. However, the current language of the bill fails to consider the practical implications on businesses like mine, which are unfairly targeted and constantly blamed for various issues.

The ocean recreation industry is often unfairly singled out for environmental concerns, safety issues, or other challenges that are not solely within our control. While we are a small, eco-minded native owned business committed to responsible practices, this bill unfairly places the burden on our industry without considering the broader context and the shared responsibility of all stakeholders.

I urge the committee to reconsider the proposed restrictions and work towards a solution that accommodates the interests of both conservation and the local business community. Collaborative discussions with stakeholders could lead to a more balanced approach that achieves the intended goals without unfairly scapegoating our industry.

I would appreciate the opportunity to further discuss my concerns during any upcoming hearings or meetings regarding this bill. Thank you for considering my testimony, and I hope that we can find a mutually beneficial resolution.

Sincerely,

Peter Colombo, President, Lahaina Charter Boats Inc. DBA, Hawaii Ocean Rafting.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:02:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Kasper	Malolo Charters	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly oppose this bill. It will put undue financial stress on impacted businesses and their employees. It will not solve any commercial recreation issues.

Mahalo

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:07:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Kasper	Malolo Charters	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly oppose this bill. It will put undue financial stress on impacted businesses and their employees. It will not solve any commercial recreation issues.

Mahalo

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:38:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nichlas holm	Hawaiian Rafting Adventures Inc	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

The DLNR does not have the nessecary staff to patrol and enforce the current rules and make sure illigal operations dont use our state facilities. I believe it would be detrimental to give them more responsibilities to patrol when they dont have the staffing to enforce current rules.



Testimony Before the House Committee on Water & Land

Tuesday, February 1st, 9:00 a.m. HST
Conference Room 430 & Via Video Conference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Opposition to Bill HB2093

To the Honorable Chair Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Kauai Chamber to express our profound concern and opposition to HB2093. This bill, alongside HB2476, HB2477, HB2474, and HB2475, forms part of a suite of proposed legislation that, in our view, unduly targets the commercial boating and broader tourism sectors in Hawaii, potentially leading to detrimental effects on the industry and the state's economy.

HB2093, which mandates the registration of paddleboards for rent, imposes an unnecessary regulatory and financial burden on operators within the tourism and recreation sector. Paddleboarding is an activity that significantly enhances the tourist experience, offering unique opportunities for engagement with Hawaii's natural beauty. The requirement for registration, however, could discourage small business owners from offering this activity, thereby limiting the diversity of recreational options available to visitors and residents alike.

The additional administrative burden and associated costs of compliance with this bill could be particularly onerous for small operators, who are already navigating a challenging economic landscape. For many, the resources required to meet the new registration requirements could detract from investments in quality and customer service, ultimately impacting the competitiveness and viability of their businesses.

Moreover, the introduction of such regulations contributes to the perception of Hawaii as a challenging environment for business. At a time when we should be encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation in the tourism sector, HB2093 instead signals a move towards greater restriction and control, potentially stifling growth and deterring new entrants to the market.

Furthermore, the measure does not seem to address a pressing public safety or environmental concern that would justify its implementation. Without clear evidence of the necessity for such regulation, it appears to be an undue intervention into the operations of businesses that contribute positively to Hawaii's economy and the richness of the visitor experience.

In light of these considerations, we urge you to oppose HB2093 and to consider the broader implications of legislation that imposes additional burdens on the tourism sector. We advocate for a regulatory approach that supports the sustainable growth of the industry, encourages innovation, and maintains Hawaii's position as a premier global destination.

We are committed to engaging in constructive dialogue with lawmakers, industry stakeholders, and the community to ensure that Hawaii remains a place where tourism and recreation can thrive in harmony with our values and economic goals.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mark Perriello
President & CEO

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:27:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Don Prestage	Sail Maui	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

This proposal will create unnecessary burdens and inefficiencies that will hinder our local businesses.

Requiring paddleboard rentals to be registered will add to the already extensive processes within our state systems, exacerbating existing delays. Adding another layer of bureaucracy for something as straightforward as paddleboard rentals is an impractical overreach that could strain both governmental & private systems.

Moreover, this bill represents an alarming trend towards overregulation of minor aspects of capital enterprise. Imposing such meticulous requirements on a small-scale rental activity is disproportionate and could set a precedent for increasingly restrictive and unnecessary regulations. This approach not only stifles the entrepreneurial spirit but also signals a worrying shift towards a more draconian regulatory environment.

In essence, HB2093 is a solution in search of a problem. It offers no clear benefit to the public or the state, while imposing significant costs in terms of time, money, and administrative burden on small business owners. I urge the committee to reject this bill and instead focus on measures that genuinely support and nurture our local businesses.



COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

DATE: Thursday, February 1, 2024

TIME: 9:00 AM

RE: HB2093 Comment

Aloha Chair Ichiyama and Vice Chair Poepoe and committee members,

My name is Antoinette Davis, and it has been my honor to represent the Activities and Attractions Association of Hawaii (A3H), a not-for-profit 501c6 trade organization, since 1997 (27 years) as their Executive Director. A3H appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding HB2093.

Our membership consists of guided controlled tours, which, in contrast to a rental equipment company, provide the following benefits to our Community:

- Employ many more Residents.
- Owned and Operated by Local Residents
- Profits reinvested into the Community.
- Guided Controlled tours protect and provide oversight of our natural resources.
- Practice stewardship and sustainability with the natural environments utilized.
- Legal, Tax-paying, permitted, licensed, and insured for the in-destination experiences provided.
- Historical and Cultural Educators of their captive audiences whom they keep safe from harm.
- Visitors are less likely to cause friction with residents sharing the same resource if within a controlled tour.

This restriction may ease conflict since most residents are off on weekends and holidays. ***It's a small benefit.*** A more impactful action would be to eliminate scofflaw (illegal) commercial activities from operating.

Closing these businesses on weekends and holidays reduces their operation by over 32%. ***A third is not a minor financial hit.*** Fixed costs will remain the same, causing the company to increase prices to absorb the losses. Our island's tourism is decreasing for many reasons. From DBEDT, one of the main reasons for not returning to Hawaii for vacation, for all major markets, is that Hawaii is "**too expensive.**"

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Antoinette "Toni" Davis

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:28:57 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bill Murtagh	Li'i Makau Inc.	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wasnt aware of this until now, not enough time time prepare testimony. Strongly oppose.



1/31/2024

In OPPOSITION HB2093

Aloha Committee Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed HB2093, particularly the provision stating, "No person shall operate a rented watercraft in a state park on Saturdays, Sundays, or Holidays." This restriction directly impacts several family recreational areas, including Wailua State Park as well as He'eia State Park.

He'eia State Park, through Kama'aina Care, provides local families and visitors with safe and informative access to the bay through kayak rentals. The revenue generated from these rentals plays a crucial role in underwriting keiki education programs and enables Kama'aina Care to upkeep park maintenance and landscaping and keep costs low for local residents using the rental hall for various events such as weddings, graduation parties, baby luaus, and other gatherings.

Kayaking is not only a recreational activity but also an integral part of our community support. It allows families who may not own their own equipment- and who would normally only have weekends and holidays to enjoy kayaking- to connect with the natural beauty of the area while supporting educational initiatives for Keiki. The proposed restriction threatens the sustainability of our programs and severely limits family access to these invaluable experiences.

Kayaks and stand-up paddleboards are non-intrusive watercraft that align with our commitment to the conservation of our natural resources.

We kindly urge the committee to reconsider and not pass this restrictive provision. Instead, we encourage exploring alternative solutions that balance the need for recreation with the preservation of our natural resources. This will ensure that He'eia State Park can continue to provide enriching experiences to our community while maintaining essential educational programs.

Mahalo for your consideration and dedication to the well-being of our local communities.

Dana Vela

President and CEO

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 4:23:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeline Bragiao	Kayak Adventures Inc SP0030	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HB2093, which aims to regulate rental watercraft, including kayaks and paddle boards, within Hawaii State Parks during weekends, State Holidays, and according to Department of Natural Land and Resources guidelines.

The situation along the Wailua River, especially within Wailua State Park, has worsened due to the uncontrolled growth of rental companies. These operators lack permits and oversight, leading to an extreme influx of unguided and often inexperienced tourists, posing risks to both safety and the environment.

Currently, these rental operators operate seven days a week without limits, sending an unchecked number of visitors to protected archaeological sites along the river. This has led to extensive littering and disruption of ancient sites. With the increase in rental companies, weekends and weekdays have become congested, hindering local access and activities like canoe races on the weekends. It has significantly disrupted the visitor enjoyment once experienced with permitted companies.

Unguided tourists lack the necessary expertise to navigate safely, often requiring help from licensed guides, who are equipped with essential safety gear and State mandated safety certifications. On weekends, our guides are not available due to our adherence to DLNR's "no commercial activity weekends" mandates. The absence of rental regulation exposes tourists to dangers, especially during flash floods, with unlicensed companies ignoring weather advisories, non guided visitors unsure of evacuation routes and without cell phone services. Additionally, infants are frequently seen being taken on rental kayaks without age restrictions, raising safety concerns.

HB2093 represents a crucial step towards restoring order and safety along the Wailua River. By enforcing regulations outlined in the bill, we can mitigate hazards, preserve the environment, and protect the region's cultural heritage.

I urge the Committee to recognize the urgency of HB2093 in safeguarding both tourists and Hawaii's natural treasures. Your favorable consideration of this bill is essential to ensuring our community's well-being and preserving the sanctity of our state parks.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Madeline Braggio
President, Kayak Adventures Inc SP0030



Kayaks

Ziplines

Making vacation dreams come true since 1988

DT: 1/31/24

RE: **SUPPORT FOR HB2093**

FR: Richard Haviland, President, Outfitters Kauai LTD
rick@outfitterskauai.com mobile 808-651-7427

TO: REP. LINDA ICHIYAMA, CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Dear Rep. Ichiyama and Committee Members,

We are permittees for kayak tours and rentals in Wailua River State Park. We support this bill as a way to provide some administrative rules that put some teeth into the system of regulating commercial kayak rentals for the river.

We understand that this bill is only applicable to waters under State Parks authority- that is only Wailua River State Park and Kealahou State Park, and we support that.

About 20 years ago DOBOR was the managing agency of Wailua River and we had a lengthy public process of public meetings that were well attended by the public and had much thoughtful input from all river users. The result was a ruleset that worked well and was supported by residents and commercial operators. The consensus was that guided tours would provide better safety and supervision in a multi-user environment with both large and small boat traffic, frequent flash flooding, and very challenging foot trail conditions. Rentals were strictly limited.

Some years later jurisdiction changed from DOBOR to State Parks. Now, although it's the managing agency, State Parks and DOCARE are of the opinion that they don't have power to enforce the rules that non-guided kayak permittees operate under, on non-permittees. The result is regulated permitted operators following rules that were a result of a public process and seemed to work well, alongside unregulated and unrestricted rental operations who follow no rules in a free for all. Guided tour operators who pay fees, have safety-trained guides, and have passenger limits find themselves taking care of unprepared rental customers frequently, providing first aid and even assisting with evacuations by KFD.

This bill was introduced by Representatives Nakamura and Evslin with input from State Parks, residents, and permittees to put some tools in the toolbox for State Parks and DOCARE. State Parks has done some really great things in Wailua, let's help them do their job.

Sincerely,

Richard Haviland

President, Outfitters Kauai Ltd

Outfitters Kauai, Ltd
POB 1149, Koloa HI 96756
230 Kipu Rd, Lihue, HI 96756
808-742-9667

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MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 430
Thursday, February 1, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M.**

To The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Water & Land

OPPOSE HB2093 RELATING TO OCEAN RECREATION MANAGEMENT

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **OPPOSES HB2093** which prohibits the operation of a rental watercraft in state parks on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday and beginning 1/1/2025, requires rental watercrafts to be registered with the Department of Land and Natural Resources

The Chamber notes that there are Kama'aina customers of Ocean Recreation Activity operators, who, like most residents, have weekends and holidays off and can rent watercraft so they can enjoy paddleboarding or kayaking as well as jet skiing now. If this Bill passes, they must take time off of work. No playcation for residents.

Closing these businesses on weekends and holidays reduces their operation by over 32%. A third is not a minor financial hit. Fixed costs will remain the same, causing the company to increase prices to absorb the losses. Our island's tourism is decreasing for many reasons. From DBEDT, one of the main reasons for not returning to Hawaii for vacation, for all major markets, is that Hawaii is "too expensive."

For these reasons we **OPPOSE HB2093** and respectfully ask that it be deferred.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:35:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Andricci	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition Testimony for HB2474, HB2476, HB2477, HB2475, AND HB2093

Nikki Andricci 557 Kaikoo Pl Wailuku, HI 96793 1/30/24

[Committee Chair's Full Name] [Committee Name] [State Capitol] [City, State, ZIP Code]

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill Number's HB2474, HB2476, HB2477, HB2475, and HB2093, which proposes significant restrictions on commercial ocean activities in state waters, particularly on weekends and holidays. As someone who works for a small local business, these proposed regulations would have a severe impact on our operations and potentially jeopardize our ability to remain viable.

Sincerely,

Nikki Andricci

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:51:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristy Ford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill specifically the section that eliminates the right to work on the weekends for these small local businesses. We work off of the land and what the resources are. Removing over 104 days in a year that a person can run their small ocean related business is detrimental to locals.

I do support there being a bill that requires registration for boards, kayaks, etc. But not removing weekends as an option for people.

Kristy Ford

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 2:02:35 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Pierce	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:01:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Townsend	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:34:42 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theo King	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You have got to be joking. What is next snorkel gear?

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:47:07 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jack	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:52:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Scardaci	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 5:58:52 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We oppose this bill.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OPPOSITION OF HB2093

Proposing to eliminate all use of “rental” watercraft (kayaks and SUP boards) in state park areas on weekends and holidays is unmanageable and unreasonable. If a visitor or resident rents a SUP board or kayak from a surf shop or elsewhere for a week period the state is taking the position of saying that that customer can enjoy themselves all they want just not on weekends. This doesn't seem reasonable. I can only imagine DOBOR officers paddling out or approaching a visitors cars while in a state park area and stating that they can't take that item in the water. Management of existing rules and regulations are difficult enough and at times unachievable with manpower and resources yet we now are looking to add this? It's just not practical, reasonable or fair.

I understand the importance of responsible regulation to ensure the safety and enjoyment of our state parks however I believe the proposed restrictions outlined in HB2093 may have unintended consequences for both the rental watercraft industry and the public's access to recreational opportunities.

If I am not mistaken commercially rented kayaks and SUP boards are already required to be registered with an appropriate sticker. Unless this is incorrect this bill seems partially redundant and cumbersome to manage at best.

I am not in favor of this bill HB2093 and don't see that it delivers on intention.

Sincerely,

Mike Kelley

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:09:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Roussel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This proposal will create unnecessary burdens and inefficiencies that will hinder our local businesses.

Requiring paddleboard rentals to be registered will add to the already extensive processes within our state systems, exacerbating existing delays. Adding another layer of bureaucracy for something as straightforward as paddleboard rentals is an impractical overreach that could strain both governmental & private systems.

Moreover, this bill represents an alarming trend towards overregulation of minor aspects of capital enterprise. Imposing such meticulous requirements on a small-scale rental activity is disproportionate and could set a precedent for increasingly restrictive and unnecessary regulations. This approach not only stifles the entrepreneurial spirit but also signals a worrying shift towards a more draconian regulatory environment.

In essence, HB2093 is a solution in search of a problem. It offers no clear benefit to the public or the state, while imposing significant costs in terms of time, money, and administrative burden on small business owners. I urge the committee to reject this bill and instead focus on measures that genuinely support and nurture our local businesses.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:27:13 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bailey Morris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:33:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Quintanilla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This proposal will create unnecessary burdens and inefficiencies that will hinder our local businesses.

Requiring paddleboard rentals to be registered will add to the already extensive processes within our state systems, exacerbating existing delays. Adding another layer of bureaucracy for something as straightforward as paddleboard rentals is an impractical overreach that could strain both governmental & private systems.

Moreover, this bill represents an alarming trend towards overregulation of minor aspects of capital enterprise. Imposing such meticulous requirements on a small-scale rental activity is disproportionate and could set a precedent for increasingly restrictive and unnecessary regulations. This approach not only stifles the entrepreneurial spirit but also signals a worrying shift towards a more draconian regulatory environment.

In essence, HB2093 is a solution in search of a problem. It offers no clear benefit to the public or the state, while imposing significant costs in terms of time, money, and administrative burden on small business owners. I urge the committee to reject this bill and instead focus on measures that genuinely support and nurture our local businesses.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 6:51:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phil Snyder	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:26:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ckessler00@gmail.com	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:39:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aspen Morrow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:47:17 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Silas Carpenter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill number 2093, which proposes significant restrictions on commercial ocean activities in state waters, particularly on weekends and holidays. As a naturalist for marine mammals and fish as well as coral, these proposed regulations would have a severe impact on our operations and potentially jeopardize our ability to remain viable.

I have worked for years out of lahaina harbor on Reef Dancer and Hawaiian Ocean Rafting teaching families and individuals of all ages from around the world and locals born and raised on Maui about the importance of conservation, pollution and protection laws implimented in hawaiian water and how best preserve as a local and a tourist living or visting the ialands. This Bill would negativly affect and make more challenging the now small opportunities we have to do that with our ever so increasing rourist population. Further more weekend and holiday restrictions have already made it too challenging to even be able to operate a business and doesn't allow to utilize the only opportunity we have on west Maui where tourism controls the economy.

I understand the importance of effective ocean recreation management, and I appreciate efforts to strike a balance between conservation and commercial activities. However, the current language of the bill fails to consider the practical implications on businesses like mine, which are unfairly targeted and constantly blamed for various issues.

The Hump back Whale tours is often unfairly singled out for environmental concerns, safety issues, or other challenges that are not solely within our control. While we are committed to responsible practices, this bill unfairly places the burden on our industry without considering the broader context and the shared responsibility of all stakeholders.

I urge the committee to reconsider the proposed restrictions and work towards a solution that accommodates the interests of both conservation and the local business community. Collaborative discussions with stakeholders could lead to a more balanced approach that achieves the intended goals without unfairly scapegoating our industry.

I would appreciate the opportunity to further discuss my concerns during any upcoming hearings or meetings regarding this bill. Thank you for considering my testimony, and I hope that we can find a mutually beneficial resolution.

Sincerely,

Silas Carpenter

I oppose of this Bill.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:59:02 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Kessler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the bill.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:04:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Munning	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the bill.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:19:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Novello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it limits companies' ability to operate on weekends and holidays, which will decrease the opportunities for Maui's residents to earn income from the jobs they have, by more than 28% of the days of each year. It will also cause tourists (upon which Maui's economy is so reliant) to choose other locations to visit. This will have a cascading effect on residents' income and the County's taxes and budgets.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:04:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KATRINA ZAVALNEY	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2093 – Oppose - Limiting the number of days (by more than 112) that a rental operation can use their fleet seems counterintuitive to allowing residents and tourists to enjoy our waterways, and has an impact to taxable revenue and an operators ability to generate income.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:10:30 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kodi Toulon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Requiring paddleboards to be registered is just ridiculous. Just another democrat state making more rules to not be enforced. Whats next, surfboards and boogie boards registered. Pathetic

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 6:26:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
chelsea toia-vaas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB2093 - OPPOSE - Requires Paddleboards for Rent to be Registered

Testimony:

This proposal will create unnecessary burdens and inefficiencies that will hinder our local businesses.

Requiring paddleboard rentals to be registered will add to the already extensive processes within our state systems, exacerbating existing delays. Adding another layer of bureaucracy for something as straightforward as paddleboard rentals is an impractical overreach that could strain both governmental & private systems.

Moreover, this bill represents an alarming trend towards overregulation of minor aspects of capital enterprise. Imposing such meticulous requirements on a small-scale rental activity is disproportionate and could set a precedent for increasingly restrictive and unnecessary regulations. This approach not only stifles the entrepreneurial spirit but also signals a worrying shift towards a more draconian regulatory environment.

In essence, HB2093 is a solution in search of a problem. It offers no clear benefit to the public or the state, while imposing significant costs in terms of time, money, and administrative burden on small business owners. I urge the committee to reject this bill and instead focus on measures that genuinely support and nurture our local businesses.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:26:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Dailey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition Testimony for 2093 HB RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Rachel Dailey

Lahaina, HI

01/31/2024

Chair Linda Ichiyama

House Committee on Water and Land

Dear Chair Ichiyama,

RE: 2093 HB RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

I am writing to express opposition to 2093 HB RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

Sincerely,

Rachel Dailey

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 7:43:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valentin Neamtu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

So what if I rent a surfboard I have to register it? This one is petty and predatory and looking to get permit money from beach rental businesses.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:33:55 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Capt. J D DuShane	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 8:43:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonny Riggs	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 10:49:31 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezra wansor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed. Bill designed to kill jobs on an island that is already extremely expensive to live on.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 11:37:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shirena Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed HB2093, particularly the restriction stating, "No person shall operate a rented watercraft in a state park on Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays." As a local resident and a working parent, this provision directly impacts my family's ability to enjoy the natural beauty of our state parks.

Weekends and holidays are precious times for families to bond and engage in outdoor activities together. Unfortunately, this proposed restriction would prevent my family from partaking in one of our favorite pastimes – kayaking in the bay. As a working parent, these are the only days when I can take my children out to enjoy the serene waters and share the experiences my parents once shared with me on weekends.

It is crucial to note that kayaks and stand-up paddleboards are non-intrusive watercraft that do not cause ecosystem damage or contribute to noise pollution. These activities promote a healthy lifestyle, connect families with nature, and instill a sense of appreciation for our beautiful surroundings.

I kindly request the committee to reconsider and not pass this restrictive provision. Instead, I encourage you to explore alternative solutions that balance the need for recreation with preserving our natural resources. This will ensure that local families like mine can continue to create cherished memories in our state parks without unnecessary restrictions.

Mahalo for your consideration and commitment to preserving the well-being of our local communities.

Sincerely,

Shirena Leong

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:11:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Vela	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed HB2093, particularly the restriction stating, "No person shall operate a rented watercraft in a state park on Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays." As a local resident, this provision directly impacts my family's ability to enjoy the natural beauty of our state parks.

Weekends and holidays are precious times for families to bond and engage in outdoor activities together. Unfortunately, this proposed restriction would prevent my family from partaking in one of our favorite pastimes – kayaking in the bay. As a working parent, these are the only days when I can take my child out to enjoy the serene waters, and my step-daughters intense fear of water is finally starting to be positively impacted by our time out on the bay.

It is crucial to note that kayaks and stand-up paddleboards are non-intrusive watercraft that do not cause ecosystem damage or contribute to noise pollution. These activities promote a healthy lifestyle, connect families with nature, and instill a sense of appreciation for our beautiful surroundings.

I kindly request the committee to reconsider and not pass this restrictive provision. Instead, I encourage you to explore alternative solutions that balance the need for recreation with the preservation of our natural resources. This will ensure that local families like mine can continue to create cherished memories in our state parks without unnecessary restrictions.

Mahalo for your consideration and commitment to preserving the well-being of our local communities.

Sincerely,

Zoe Vela

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 12:27:05 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sook Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committe Chair and Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed HB2093, specifically, the restriction stating, "No person shall operate a rented watercraft in a state park on Saturdays, Sundays, or Holidays." As an active senior who values the weekends and holidays as opportunities to engage in outdoor activities, this provision directly affects my ability to enjoy the natural beauty of our state parks.

Weekends and holidays provide a chance for seniors like myself to stay active, connect with nature, and enjoy recreational pursuits. This proposed restriction, particularly on water activities like kayaking, hinders my ability to partake in the activities that contribute to my well-being and quality of life. These outdoor experiences are not only essential for physical health but also for mental and emotional well-being.

It's important to recognize that kayaks and stand-up paddleboards are low-impact watercraft that do not cause ecosystem damage or contribute to noise pollution. These activities are a lifeline for seniors like me, offering a peaceful and rejuvenating way to experience the natural wonders of our state.

I kindly request the committee to reconsider and not pass this restrictive provision. Instead, I encourage you to explore alternative solutions that balance the need for recreation with the preservation of our natural resources. This will ensure that active seniors in our community can continue to enjoy the benefits of outdoor activities on weekends and holidays without unnecessary restrictions.

Mahalo for your consideration and dedication to maintaining the well-being of our local communities.

Sincerely,

SK

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:10:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Cherry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose!

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:29:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christina shaffer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed HB2093, specifically, the provision stating, "No person shall operate a rented watercraft in a state park on Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays." This restriction directly impacts my community's ability to enjoy the outdoors and engage in activities that contribute to our overall well-being.

He'eia State Park is one of the few places that offers affordable kayak and paddleboard rentals on the windward side of Oahu. Kayaking and paddleboarding are huge parts of my community's daily lives, allowing us to bond, stay fit, and enjoy the natural beauty that Hawaii has to offer. These activities are not only about physical health but also about fostering strong friendships and supporting each other's mental well-being.

It's crucial to highlight that kayaks and stand-up paddleboards are non-disruptive watercraft that do not harm the environment or disturb the tranquility of our state parks. Moreover, those launching directly from He'eia are given clear instruction on boundaries and protected areas, further ensuring the preservation of the neighboring loko i'a. I strongly believe that recreational activities, when done responsibly, can coexist harmoniously with the preservation of our natural resources.

I kindly urge the committee to reconsider and not pass this restrictive provision. Instead, I encourage exploring alternative solutions that strike a balance between recreation and the conservation of our beautiful landscapes. This will ensure that all, native Hawaiians, kama'aina, and visitors alike, can continue to enjoy the benefits of outdoor activities on weekends and holidays without unnecessary limitations.

Mahalo for your consideration and commitment to the well-being of our local communities.

Sincerely,

Thank you guys so much for your help, this legislation was almost passed without any input from the few organizations being impacted.

Christina Shaffer

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:53:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Leighton	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha, I am Ann Leighton, a resident of Kauai. I was born and raised here and I am very frustrated about the situation in Wailua River. When DLNR's DOBOR transferred management of Wailua River to State Parks in 2016, evidently the rules governing commercial watercraft use did not go along. Subsequently, there are HUNDREDS of kayaks and standup boards on the river every day of the week. There is no room for residents to park in the Kaumuali'i Area boat ramp because rental cars fill up the entire lot.

The old rules worked well, with companies required to have a permit and each and every rental craft had to have a sticker.

This situation is intolerable for us residents and is symptomatic of how we're being overrun with visitors. Let's protect our resource and prioritize our people by regulating rental activities.

Mahalo,

Ann Leighton

Wailua, Kauai, Hawaii

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 2:58:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Kealakai	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

My name is Anela, and as an elopement and wedding photographer in Hawaii, I collaborate closely with various boat businesses to create unique and beautiful experiences for couples. I am here to voice my opposition to HB2093, which mandates the registration of kayaks and paddleboards and restricts their use in state parks on weekends and holidays.

- **Impact on Elopement and Wedding Experiences:** Many couples dream of having their special moments captured against the backdrop of Hawaii's stunning oceanic landscapes, often involving kayaks or paddleboards. This bill's restrictions on weekends and holidays significantly limit these opportunities, directly impacting my ability to deliver the dream experiences that couples seek.
- **Challenges for Small Boat Operators:** The boat businesses I work with are often small, locally-owned operations. The requirement for registration, coupled with restricted usage times, adds an administrative and financial burden to these operators. This could lead to reduced services and higher costs, indirectly affecting my business and client satisfaction.
- **Restrictive for Couples Planning Events:** Couples often choose weekends or holidays for their elopements or photo sessions due to work schedules and travel plans. HB2093's restrictions would unnecessarily limit their choices, potentially deterring them from choosing Hawaii as their destination.
- **Adverse Effect on the Local Economy:** By restricting recreational activities during peak times, this bill could have a broader negative impact on the local tourism economy. As a professional relying on the vibrancy of this sector, I am concerned about the ripple effects this could have on businesses like mine.
- **Need for Balanced and Inclusive Regulation:** While I appreciate the need for environmental conservation and managing public spaces, regulations should be balanced and consider the impact on all stakeholders, including small businesses and the tourism industry. A more nuanced approach, such as a quota or permit system for rental usage, could achieve the bill's objectives without unduly harming local businesses and tourism.

I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider the provisions of HB2093. The bill, in its current form, has the potential to negatively impact not only small boat operators but also the wider network of businesses that contribute to Hawaii's unique appeal as a premier wedding and elopement destination.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony on this important issue.

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 3:41:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Thibault	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed HB2093, particularly the restriction stating, "No person shall operate a rented watercraft in a state park on Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays." As a local resident, this provision directly impacts my family's ability to enjoy the natural beauty of our state parks.

Weekends and holidays are precious times for families to bond and engage in outdoor activities together. Unfortunately, this proposed restriction would prevent my family from partaking in one of our favorite pastimes – kayaking in the bay. As a working parent, these are the only days when I can take my child out to enjoy the serene waters, and my step-daughters intense fear of water is finally starting to be positively impacted by our time out on the bay.

It is crucial to note that kayaks and stand-up paddleboards are non-intrusive watercraft that do not cause ecosystem damage or contribute to noise pollution. These activities promote a healthy lifestyle, connect families with nature, and instill a sense of appreciation for our beautiful surroundings. Moreover, those launching directly from He'eia are given clear instruction on boundaries and protected areas, further ensuring the preservation of the neighboring loko i'a.

I kindly request the committee to reconsider and not pass this restrictive provision. Instead, I encourage you to explore alternative solutions that balance the need for recreation with the preservation of our natural resources. This will ensure that local families like mine can continue to create cherished memories in our state parks without unnecessary restrictions.

Mahalo for your consideration and commitment to preserving the well-being of our local communities.

Sincerely,

Brian Thibault

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 3:46:35 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randall Emry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 4:42:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nick Croft	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB2093 as a resident of Kauai. While the proposed idea may seem beneficial, the language of the bill is problematic. If I, as a local resident, happen to have a Saturday off, I would not be permitted to rent a kayak in a State park. State Parks are meant for the enjoyment of the people, particularly on their days off. I do not own a kayak and am not interested in making such an investment.

I am concerned about the trend of proposals this year seemingly aimed at shutting down various activities. Instead of simply closing everything down, why can't we aim at managing situations effectively. It is disheartening to see a lack of effort in proposed bills to improve circumstances for all. Rather than creating further division, we should be striving for solutions that benefit everyone.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Nick Croft

Kauai resident

HB-2093

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 10:15:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rhavia	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I don't understand why restricting small businesses or taking away from small businesses is going to be good for our islands? I'm certain that these commercial companies would completely be ok with these changes if they where openly offered many other options to stay away from the state parks. Unfortunately, the county and state have fallen extremely short in providing options and then following up with permits. I would vote to add a stronger budget to these county and state organizations to properly staff their offices with real professionals who know how to properly train and maintain a staff.