

BILL048(22)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 345

PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES Meeting

Meeting Date: Aug 25, 2022 @ 02:30 PM

Support: 3

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Librado Cobian	Email: lbcobian@aol.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 24, 2022 @ 12:38 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support this measure, and would like to request putting Resolution 18-73 and 28-265 of 2018 on the next meeting agenda for Discussion. Li Cobian</p>		
Name: Desirree Madison-Biggs	Email: desirree@gmail.com	Zip: 96717
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 24, 2022 @ 04:22 PM
Name: Sylvia Craig-Kapu	Email: iroamic@gmail.com	Zip: 96717
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 25, 2022 @ 11:51 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support Bill 48 to stop Tour Buses and ask to amend this bill to include prohibit of commercial activity at Kokololio Beach. My reasons are:</p> <p>The enviromental and culttural impacts we observe daily: Ancient Hawaiian Iwi is documented to be found at Kokololio Beach Park, with more said to still remain there. Local families indigenous to the Koolauloa region know that they are buried along the sand berns at Kokololio Beach Park. The constant High traffic of tourists and people walking over the sand berns will cause further erosion to these ancient burial sites and devalue the sacredness of this area.</p> <p>Water wastes through the taking of showers (sometimes showers are left running after tourists depart.) Cesspool; The Park is under cesspool limitations and now requires more than 1 cesspool pumping service a week.</p> <p>Violation of park rules by Tour Bus companies. Nui Tours LLC have violated park rules: A. Chaining a container to public showers so that their tourists can wash their snorkeling gear. Leaving their container chained to the Public Showers for more than 1 day. B. Tour Buses often times stay in the park for more than 15 minutes. C. Tour Buses taking up more than 3 parking stalls. Parking buses diagonally in front of restrooms blocking accessibility to public restrooms. D. Tour companies do not take these into consideration and often cause Traffic build up especially during holidays when the community use the park LifeGuard: There are no lifeguards posted at Kokololio Beach Park Impact to the beach: Overcrowding, pushing locals and other visitors out of the area, increase of trash, water pollution due to non-reef safe sunscreen. Diminishment of sea life including fish and honu. We have witnessed the washing up of three seahorses fishes and numerous other fish as well. Impact to the community: Additional traffic congestion inside park especially on holidays. Beach overcrowding daily between 10:30am to 2pm. Noise from Tour buses when reversing in the Park can be heard by residents who live across Kokololio Beach Park.</p>		
Name: Zhizi Xiong	Email: alohadivinedesign@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Aloha Divine Design	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Aug 25, 2022 @ 01:25 PM

Testimony:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, members of the Committee,

I'm testifying on behalf of my grassroots start up Aloha Divine Design. I'm an entrepreneur and just a brief background about we do here at ADD that is relevant to the legislation, we do animal rescue, education and environmentally friendly initiatives.

I didn't want to speculate about the factors about why this bill was drafted so I did some research and found out that there were constituents complaining about illegal commercial activities and the residents want to protect natural resources.

To protect our natural resources by limiting commercial activities at beaches, there could also be other solutions to explore such as impact fees from visitors and/or tourists. Habitat conservation can subsidize the costs of maintaining the beaches. Implementing fees related to animal conservation, environmental protection & cultural preservation will ensure our Hawaii's natural resources are kept beautiful for the future generations.

Fees allocated to funding the preservation & conservation of ocean preserves, such as Hanuama bay is very reasonable. For example, a sanctuary to protect monk seals is educational for the public and an economic gain for the city. Also it does not cost a lot of money to build a sanctuary.

For the illegal commercial activities, entrepreneurial activities evolve all the time, how will balance be achieved by encouraging economic stimulus and at the same time managing those who exploit our pacific resources for corporate gain?

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

This written testimony was compiled by the Friends of Kokololio Beach Park (resident's names below) and submitted to Council Member Tsuneyoshi in early July of this year. It served as the catalyst for Bill 48.

Environmental and cultural impacts we observe daily:

- **Ancient Hawaiian Iwi** is documented to be found at Kokololio Beach Park, with more said to still remain there. Local families indigenous to the Koolauloa region know that they are buried along the sand berms at Kokololio Beach Park. The constant additional high traffic of tour bus tourists walking over the sand berms to the beach cause further erosion to these ancient burial sites and devalue the sacredness of this area.
- **Water wastes** through the taking of showers (sometimes showers are left running after tourists depart.)
- **Cesspool**; The Park is under cesspool limitations and now requires more than 1 cesspool pumping service a week.
- **No Park staff.** Since 2020 there has been no Park attendant posted full time at Kokololio Beach Park to ensure park rules are being followed. As a result there are no park personnel to oversee the higher volume usage of trash and restroom clean up. Equipment is left behind, along with trash.
- **Violation of park rules** by Tour Bus companies namely Nui Tours LLC violate park rules:
 - A. Chaining a container to public showers so that their tourists can wash their snorkeling gear. Leaving their container chained to the Public Showers for more than 1 day.
 - B. Tour buses frequently stay in the park for more than 15 minutes.
 - C. Tour buses taking up more than 3 parking stalls. Parking buses diagonally in front of restrooms blocking accessibility to public restrooms.
 - D. Tour buses also park in the Handicapped stalls.
 - E. Tour companies do not take these into consideration and often cause traffic build up especially during holidays when the community uses the park
- **LifeGuard**: There are no lifeguards posted at Kokololio Beach Park
- **Impact to the beach**: Overcrowding, pushing locals and other visitors out of the area.
- **Impact to Sea life**: Due to the increased use of non-safe sunscreen we have noticed a diminishment of sea life including fish and Honu. We have witnessed the washing up of three seahorses at Kokololio Beach over the several months along with numerous other fish. Kokololio Beach is also a resting place for Hawaiian monk seals.

· **Impact to the community:** Additional traffic congestion inside the park especially on holidays. Beach overcrowding daily between 10:30am to 2pm. Noise from tour buses when reversing in the Park can be heard by residents who live across Kokololio Beach Park. Disturbance of local residences (tourists wandering into local residence yard and noise).

Friends of Kokololio Beach Park

Residents of Hau'ula

Sylvia Craig-Kapu

Bessie Kamakeeaina

Ema Fonoti

Desirree Madison-Biggs

Dylan Madison