

For BILL019(23)
Meeting Date Mar 15, 2023 @ 10:00 AM
Committee(s) COUNCIL (CCL)
Status Submitted
Name Bill Hicks
Email Address billhicksknb@gmail.com
Hide Email No
Phone 8084522761
Zip Code 96734
Representing Kailua Neighborhood Board
Submitted Mar 15, 2023 @ 07:18 AM

Testimony

I oppose the portion of Bill 19 (2023) that would eliminate the current protections of ROH 10-1.2(h) which prohibit commercial activities at Kailua and Kalama Beach Parks in Kailua. On April 5, 2012 the Kailua Neighborhood Board passed a Resolution that "The Kailua Neighborhood Board No. 31 supports a version of City Council Bill 11 (2012) that includes prohibitions of commercial vendors and commercial buses in Kailua and Kalama Beach Parks". City Council Bill 11 (2012) was subsequently passed in 2012 which added the following language to ROH 10-1.2(h): "(h) Commercial activities prohibited at parks. (1) Commercial activities, including recreational stops by commercial tour companies, but excluding commercial filming activities that take place from 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays through 6:30 a.m. on Mondays, are not allowed at any time at the following parks: (A) Kailua Beach Park; and (B) Kalama Beach Park." Prior to the implementation of Bill 11 (2012) Kailua Beach Park was being overrun with commercial kayak and tour bus activity. The wisdom of Bill 11 (2012) banning commercial activity at Kailua Beach Park was borne out by the Windward Oahu Tourism Assessment conducted by the University of Hawaii's Center for Sustainable Coastal Tourism under a Sea Grant program initiated by former Councilman Ikaika Anderson. This assessment found that Kailua Beach Park was about 50% more crowded in 2019 than it was in 2007. Their large sample surveys in 2019 found that Kailua Beach Park is at the cusp of reaching >50% dissatisfaction with the amount of overcrowding. Complete information on this project can be found at <https://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/sustainable-coastal-tourism/windward-tourism-assessment/> Our infrastructure at Kailua Beach Park is that of a small residential town which is not geared for commercial activity. The University of Hawaii study puts crowding at Kailua Beach Park at a

tipping point. The doubling of the number of people on the beach from 2007 to 2019 puts us at an effective maximum ceiling – as more people or activity would measurably degrade the experience for residents and visitors alike. Clearly a resumption of commercial activity that would take up parking and beach space and compete with family recreational activity would put us past the tipping point. Unfortunately, City Council Bill 19 (2023) threatens to do just that. Bill 19 (2023) would eliminate the current protections of ROH 10-1.2(h) and replace it with provisions that would allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to issue permits to authorize commercial activity at Kailua and Kalama Beach Parks in Kailua. Bill 19 (2023) must be amended to retain the existing ROH 10-1.2(h) prohibition of commercial activity at Kailua and Kalama Beach Parks.