

**PRESENTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
AND RECREATION ON
Testimony**

MISC. COMM. 162

PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES AND CULTURE & THE ARTS (PESCA)

**PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES AND CULTURE &
THE ARTS (PESCA) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Apr 5, 2023 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 0

Oppose: 2

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Michael Waters	Email: mlwaters86@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 4, 2023 @ 12:28 PM

Testimony:

I worked for the Parks and Recreation Department from the ages of 12-18 as an Umpire, T-ball Coach, and lifeguard. There are not enough words to explain how disappointed in the appointment of the current Parks and Recreation Director, let alone the job execution. Of all the questions I asked and people who interacted with the current Director, and it was a lot, I have never heard an encouraging word.

They asked us to bring our own toilet paper to the parks, even though we already pay for the toilet paper at the parks. There seems to be endless red tape for community members to beautify their parks, or even use them. Pools are understaffed with lifeguards, as the Director decides to continue the war on small businesses, many of whom have employees that are lifeguard certified, and wed be happy to help keep pools open for the Community.

Not to mention using \$800,000 of recovery money for a fake Park Ranger program to "study illegal business" as legal businesses are banned, fined, and vilified. When instead an actual appropriate use of those funds wouldve been installing commercial parking meters. We wouldve been better off if it was just spent on toilet paper, so we dont have to see that same story on the news this year.

But the bottom line is, she doesnt have the ability to lead. Under no circumstances should she stay in this role and anyone in Government who has faith in her, definitely doesnt have my faith. If the current status quo continues, I would certainly hope Hawaiian Homesteads does not renew your lease along the coastlines. From Wailea to Waimnalo and all City Parks in between.

However, I have complete faith in Deputy Director Khaulani Pu'u, and if Parks were to make the adjustment that would go a long way in restoring trust. She cares, she listens, and I believe she would act swiftly, responsibly, and effectively.

Name: Michael Waters	Email: mlwaters86@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 4, 2023 @ 12:42 PM

Testimony:

If any business spent recovery funds this way we would be going to jail. All this is going to do is steal money and prove that the Government of Hawai'i prefers illegal businesses to legal ones. This makes sense, criminals tend to hang out with other criminals.

If this was actually real, it would come after a real plan and they wouldnt be "studying illegal activity" while actually harassing and enforcing poorly written regulations against legal ones.

The only way I would ever support this is 1. after we have a plan created by the Community and Industry and 2. if you hire the Community members that are already on the beach doing your job for free.