

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA PĀKA A ME NĀ HANA HO'ONANEA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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March 30, 2026

The Honorable Andria Tupola, Chair
and Members
Committee on Housing, Homelessness & Parks
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Suite 202
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

Dear Chair Tupola and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Resolution 26-64, Urging the Department of Parks and Recreation to Review and Update, as Necessary, the Security and Safety Requirements and Related Documentation for Events Held at City and County of Honolulu Parks and Park Facilities

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) supports the intent of Resolution 26-64 and offers the following comments for clarification.

Pursuant to the "DPR Rules and Regulations Governing Recreational Activities", DPR already has rules requiring the hiring of off-duty police officers or security personnel, in particular, events which require crowd control, parking restrictions, or traffic control inside the park or at the park entrances and exits. These rules are intentionally flexible and are applied based on the nature and circumstances of an event, rather than a fixed threshold number of participants. Relevant sections are:

In Section 4 – General Rules. Item (E) states: "The permit may contain such restrictions which are consistent with protection and use of particular recreation facilities or park areas for the purpose for which it is established. It may also contain limitations on the equipment used and the time and area at which the event is allowed."

In Section 5 – Specific Provisions. Item (A) (5) (b) states: "Sponsors or activities which require crowd control, parking restrictions or traffic control inside the park or at the park entrance/exit shall hire off-duty Honolulu Police Department officers to perform these duties."

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In practice, DPR imposes such conditions for large-scale events, including marathons, surf competitions, and other activities anticipated to draw significant numbers of participants or spectators.

The current rule framework provides DPR with the necessary discretion to evaluate events on a case-by-case basis and impose security requirements when appropriate. This approach ensures public safety while maintaining accessibility for community-driven activities.

DPR believe our rules and regulations governing park events, including safety and security requirements, are sufficient, and will continue to work closely with the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) on events where security is warranted. We value HPD as a trusted partner and appreciate the ongoing collaboration that helps ensure the safety and well-being of our community, particularly during large-scale events.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Resolution 26-64.

Sincerely,


Laura H. Thielen
Director

APPROVED:


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