

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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DIRECTOR DESIGNATE

MICHELE K. NEKOTA
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February 3, 2021

The Honorable Augie Tulba, Chair
and Members
Committee on Parks and Community Services
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tulba and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Bill 93 (2020), Proposed CD 1 – Gender Equity

The Administration supports the concept of gender equity in professional surfing contests held at City beach parks.

We appreciate the intent of Bill 93 (2020), proposed CD1, however it may be prudent to mention that the language should be broadened. Permits that are issued for professional activities should also include athletic contests, tournaments or demonstration events, including but not limited to, surf contests. In addition, the term "gender equity" should be reviewed to ensure that it includes other emerging equity issues.

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) understands the desire to promptly promulgate rules. However, given the community sensitivities, DPR respectfully ask for more time than the 120 days stated in the bill to allow for meaningful input and opportunity for community review. Based on previous experience and the uncertainty of the pandemic's current impact on public participation, DPR recommends a year to finalize the rules.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Thielen".
Laura H. Thielen
Director Designate

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Formby".
Michael D. Formby
Managing Director Designate

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