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LATE

TESTIMONY

3-23-2010

RE: HB2741 HD1 SD1
HB2582 SD1

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Hearing date: 3-24-2010, 9:30AM

Please vote NO on these Bills

Honorable Senator Donna Kim, Chair

This testimony is from a 78 year old, elder long time local resident and retiree living aboard my boat in the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor.

HB 2582 SD1 targets Senior Citizens and other Harbor residents on low fixed incomes for additional taxation.

HB 2741 HD1 SD1 has turned into a companion Bill that increases taxation upon Senior Citizen Retirees under the guise of a "fishing" bill. This was amended last minute without any public input duplicating the language in HB 2582.

If the State wishes to increase income, it would be more efficient to raise the live-aboard limitations from 15% of harbor occupants in all slips & moorage statewide to 100%, without raising rates and encouraging people to go off welfare and live in an affordable manor. The current wait list for live-aboard status is over 2 years to live in their own homes (their vessels) because of current Government restrictions. This doesn't seem to make any sense at all.

Why would you Honorable Senators, as our leaders, wish to burden seniors in their declining years?

The Ala Wai and Keehi Harbors are considered by the US boating community to be the worst in the nation. Crumbling piers, inadequate & unkempt toilet facilities, drug dealers abounding, monies collected from harbors being spent in other areas not related to the recreational boat harbors and needs of the recreational boaters, where it was intended.

It is noticeably absent in Legislative discussion that just last year regulations were passed that increased statewide slip fees 20% annually for the next five years, doubling the price during a economic depression. Parking which is usually included with slips all over America, have recently been raised here from \$20 annually to \$300.00 per vehicle.

In addition all State slip & mooring holders are now required to obtain costly liability insurance on their vessels and we are being unjustly overregulated.

If this is purely an attempt to rid the harbors of live-aboard tenants, some will move their boats out of state; others forced to sell at depression prices or just abandon their vessels and seek State welfare living in our parks and beaches. Adequate senior housing does not exist in our paradise State of Hawaii.

Our small boat harbors will be decimated because of overcharging, and empty slips means less revenue. The recent change from 25 cents an hour for parking to the new rate of \$1.00/hour has caused the Ala Wai parking lot which was full all the time to being empty all the time. This should demonstrate that the raising of rates does not necessary mean more revenues. The opposite just happened.

Live-aboards neither compete for subsidized senior housing which is not readily available, nor live on our beaches and parks at public expense and on State welfare.

1. Many are unable to live ashore on their retirement incomes here in Hawaii and are amongst the least able to afford the additionally proposed \$500.00 to \$800.00 monthly rental increases proposed in this legislation. Some have already been forced to give up their vehicles to pay their newly increased obligations.
2. Most boats in our Hawaiian harbors are very old vessels valued at \$20,000 to \$40,000 or less, and not owned by wealthy people. This typically represents mostly folks on social security and others that can't afford the high price of apartment rentals, or to even secure non existent affordable senior housing. They have no place else to go!

Principle habitation on boats is another effective solution for lower cost senior housing. It is poor public policy to enact irresponsible legislation.

I urge you to vote no on these two bills.

Respectfully,
Jerry Sinay



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