

Chair Suzanne Case and Board Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
Honolulu, HI 96819

August 12, 2022, Agenda Item J

SUBJECT: Issuance of a Revocable Permit

Dear Chair Case and BLNR Board Members,

My name is Scott Mercier and I have been a Maui resident for the last 41 years. I am the President and General Manager of West Maui Parasail. We operate out of Slip #15 in Lahaina Harbor and have since the 1990's. We have customers check in at our slip to go parasail every hour and shuttle them out to go parasailing from our Slip in Lahaina Harbor. Lahaina town is a very hot since we usually do not have trade winds blowing in Lahaina. With the hot sun in Lahaina we found it necessary for the last 15 years or so to provide our own shade via an awning for our customers. The awning is set up in the morning and taken down at the end of our day. It cannot be permanent since there needs to be access in case of emergency, for a fuel truck when the fuel dock is down, occasionally a crane to drop in a motor or even the need to replace pilings and or complete docks.

Now the State after at least 15 years of us working in harmony in the Harbor setting up and tearing down the awning daily for the only 7 months that our Parasail operation is allowed to operate wants to force us to pay a fee for a permit for a temporary awning that we use 7 months out of the year for 8 hours a day.

We do not want to lose the ability to provide shade for our customers but we also feel the need for the permit and fee is not well timed. We have days that boats can't be launched out of Mala Wharf due to the ramp needing to be dredged. Lahaina Harbor channel is also had vessels grounding over and over in the last few months. We hear nothing on when Mala Wharf and Lahaina Harbor will be dredged but now are requiring for us to acquire a revocable permit for our temporary awning that we have been using for the last 15 or more years.

Please reconsider your requirement on a revocable permit for a temporary awning for 7 months out of the year that we have been using for the last 15 years.

Sincerely,

N. Scott Mercier