

Dear BLNR Chair Chang and Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to offering Secure Parking LLC's a 5-year Direct Issuance contract to manage the parking at the Ma'alaea State Small Boat Harbor. My concern stems from what I perceive as predatory and potentially criminal practices employed by Secure Parking LLC and its sub-contracted tow truck company on Maui.

I firmly believe that Secure Parking LLC's approach of towing vehicles without issuing citations or warnings is unjust and disproportionately affects both residents and tourists who are recreationally using Ma'alaea Harbor. There is no denying that towing constitutes a more burdensome consequence compared to receiving a parking ticket, both in terms of inconvenience and cost. I firmly believe that the decision to tow a vehicle should only be made in situations where it poses a genuine threat to public safety (e.g., obstructing a fire hydrant), significantly disrupts heavy traffic, or when a vehicle has been abandoned for an extended period of time. The Honolulu Police Department's 24-hour guideline for vehicle abandonment, would be an appropriate 'pause' before towing and this is done statewide for all public roads. In light of these concerns, I urge the Board not to grant Secure Parking LLC's a 5-year Direct Issuance contract.

Please investigate the issues the public is telling you about in their written testimony, and ask the DLNR Chair, Dawn Chang, to solve the issue of who can issue parking citations in the State Small Boat Harbors.

Declaring to the Legislature that only DOCARE officers can issue parking citations, and then not providing DOCARE officers to staff the parking areas is unethical. Permitting the contracted parking management company (Secure Parking) to call the towing company to initiate a tow, without a state enforcement officer approving the tow, is enormously wrong.

The public deserves to have equal parking fines and enforcement at the State Boat Harbors, as other the government owned public parking stalls managed by City and County and the State Department of Accounting and General Services.

Keep in mind that DOCARE officers have the exact same printed ticket books to issue parking citations as do all enforcement officers in the State (HPD, DAGS, DOCARE) and the fines are \$35.00, and \$40.00, only for meter overstays. A tow is never used for minor parking violations. Only after a 24-hour delay, is a vehicle towed.

Please take a stand against the unethical 'instant towing' practices taking place on Maui, at the Ma'alaea State Boat Harbor.

Furthermore, I propose that Board Members require monthly records on towing. Plus, please consider advocating for the refund of tow bills for individuals who may have been towed due to Secure Parking LLC's predatory towing behavior. I believe such actions would serve as a fair and just response to rectify the negative impact on affected individuals.

In terms of parking enforcement, I suggest a shift towards issuing citations for minor violations, such as overstays, instead of resorting to immediate towing. This approach would help to maintain a more equitable and reasonable system for addressing parking issues.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope the Board earnestly considers these concerns when making decisions regarding the renewal of contracts with Secure Parking LLC.

