

Antya Miller
59-661 Alapio Road
Hale'iwa, HI 96712
808-342-8557

August 22, 2024

BLNR Board Members
1151 Punchbowl Street,
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Agenda Item J1 Testifying on Behalf of Surf N Sea

Aloha Board Members:

I am the President of the Hale'iwa Waialua Historical Society and the former Executive Director of the Hale'iwa Main Street Program for 17 years, speaking in my personal capacity.

There are only three buildings in the Historic Town of Hale'iwa that are on the State Register: Waialua Courthouse, Hale'iwa Beach Park and the Surf N Sea Building, now 103 years old, added recently. Joe Green has been the owner of the Surf N Sea business for over 40 years gradually stabilizing and fixing up the treasured building all those years on his own with no funds from the State and no long-term lease!

If the Board raises his rent, there will be less money to put into repairing and restoring the building. It is my understanding that he does all the maintenance, repairs, and restoration on his own dime. There is no comparable to the Surf N Sea building in Hale'iwa Town that I am aware of, therefore, comparing his rent to others in Hale'iwa is erroneous. Most of the buildings, including all three shopping centers, were built within the last 40 years.

We are slowly losing the inventory of historic buildings in Haleiwa: Hale'iwa Theater, Hale'iwa Flower Shop, Abe's Gas Station, Aoki's Shave Ice, and others. We do not want to lose the Surf N Sea too due to economic hardship.

In working with Kamehameha Schools over the years, it became very evident that tenants on month-to-month leases did not maintain their buildings and that is why many ended up being demolished. If a tenant must pay for repairs out of their current cash flow and they can't get a loan because they don't have a long-term lease, the building is neglected. Joe Green is an exceptional tenant in this regard because he pays for repairs out of his current income with no long-term lease.

Another consideration is that Mr. Green and his family own and manage the business. They are a "Mom and Pop" business that's become pretty big, but is fully rooted in the North Shore community. Hale'iwa was built by the more independent Japanese laborers from the Waialua Sugar Plantation who left and started Mom and Pop businesses.

They lived, worked, and played in the community and built it together so that today the North Shore is the second most popular destination after Waikīkī with 51% of all O'ahu visitors coming to the North Shore. Mom and pops are the lifeblood of Hale'iwa and our North Shore community and are what gives Hale'iwa its unique charm. Try asking 7-11 for a donation! Large corporations don't care.

Surf N Sea is also a huge supporter of youth sports teams, the Menehune Surf Competition, the Hale'iwa Main Street Program/North Shore Chamber of Commerce and many others. Increase their rent, and they won't be able to support the community non-profits as much as they do now.

Please reconsider raising Surf N Sea's rent and give them a long-term lease!

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antya Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a white background.

Antya Miller

Lifelong North Shore Resident

August 23, 2024

Board of Land & Natural Resources

Attn: Ms. Dawn Chang, Chairperson

1151 Punchbowl Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Community Concern RE: Surf N Sea Rent Increase for Revocable Permit 28

Aloha Chair Chang & Associated Board Members:

I am writing this letter to address the issue of the rent increase proposed for our iconic Hale'iwa community's establishment in Surf-N-Sea surf shop. It has come to my attention that such an increase presents a clear and present hardship on the said establishment staying "afloat" in these hard economic times.

While I don't reside in Hale'iwa anymore since my early childhood to adulthood spanning 40+ years, the storied history of Joe Green's (Surf-N-Sea's acting President and founder) impact on me and the surrounding North Shore community is quite astounding: they have sponsored in cash and prize donations to the North Shore Menehune & the Hale'iwa International Open surf events for the past 30+ years; they have supported the Jr. Lifeguard volunteer program at the Hale'iwa surf Center with gifts and merchandise for the same three-decade period; and, Joe has provided Christmas cheer for the community each year with gift coupons left on vehicle windshields parked within the North Shore community and its beach parks.

These heartfelt gestures by Joe and Surf-N-Sea indeed perpetuates the motto of "Keep the Country, Country" by exuding pure ALOHA! 😊 That said, it appears the rent increase jeopardizes the very existence of Surf-N-Sea to continue its storied business practice.

I implore that the State BLNR understand and appreciate Surf-N-Sea and its contribution to the very fabric of the North Shore surf culture. That said, I humbly request reducing the proposed rent increase in order to safeguard and retain the tenant status of Joe Green and Surf-N-Sea.

Aloha & Mahalo,

Kerry K. Terukina, Former President Friends of Ali'i Beach & Former Ocean Rec Specialist: Hale'iwa Surf Center, Dept. of Parks & Recreation & Current Ocean Recreation Specialist, Recreation Support Services: Dept. of Parks & Recreation

kerry.terukina@gmail.com/PH: (808) 388-5462