

**LATE**

**Testimony of Raymond J Hutaff  
President of Valley Isle Excursions, Inc  
Before the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce**

**RE: Support for SB2607 Relating to Activity Desks**

**Dear Chairman Herkes, Vice Chair Wakai & members of the committee;**

**My name is Raymond J Hutaff and I own Valley Isle Excursions, Inc on the island of Maui. Our company has been in business for 15 years providing visitors with Culturally Based Hana Tours. We currently have 27 employees and about 60 people depend on our business for things like breakfast, lunch, entrée fees, vehicle parts and educating us on the proper Hawaiian Cultural History and protocols all of us SUPPORT SB2607. We feel that this bill will positively protect Consumer's & Activity Provider's funds collected by Activity Desks. This law will also improve the DCCA's ability to proactively enforce HRS468M.**

**Over the past 10 years, lack of enforcement and the ability for DCCA to be proactive has represented a \$40,000 loss to our company and to our state in tax revenue.**

**We have recently seen a trend for Activity Desks and resellers not use the funds they collect from the consumer, properly, as set forth with HRS468M. They are either not depositing the money in trust accounts or removing the money for other reasons than what HRS468M requires of them.**

**There are a few Activity resellers who are not licensed now who are using the Hotel as a means to sell activities, even though they have activity desks at other locations, they don't believe that HRS468M is valid. It is these Activity Desks and large bookers that we don't have a tie to our Island people, economy, and our wonderful visitors.**

**We need SB2607 to protect, not only the Activity Providers, but all our valuable visitors. Our visitor needs to know that there is protection for their vacation plans. We cannot repeat what has happened in the past, having visitors arrive with plans in hand only to find their vacation gone along with their hard earned money. Should this happen, we could lose our price less reputation and our visitors.**

**Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,**

**Raymond J Hutaff**