

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ilene Callaway
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ilenecallaway@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/18/2012

Comments:

This is the third testimony I have given in regards to Zip Line Regulations. I understand it has been decided that a bill can not be crafted that will not trigger a Sunrise Study. I am also aware that there are many structurally sound zip lines in operation in the state of Hawaii. I realize also that there is a great possibility that there could be other Zip Lines, like the Hamakua Coast zip line course, that are not structurally sound. That said, it appears to me that the state of Hawaii is playing Russian Roulette with those who ride zip lines. In an article written in the Tribune-Herald an engineer Paul R. Weber was quoted as saying that he believed that the original plans for the zip line in which the tower collapsed, causing my son to fall to his death, "did not take the geology of the Hamakua Coast into consideration, and that is likely why the anchors failed. He is also concerned that other zip line courses on the Big Isle may suffer from the same weakness." I don't believe that anyone seems to be in doubt that more adequate regulations and more stringent inspections are needed. The concern I have is while the logistics of implementing these regulations are being scrutinized the public is left unprotected. If what I understand is correct it will take a year for a sunrise study. I don't profess to totally understand how one drafts a bill into legislation but what I do understand is when there is an immediate risk.

I do want to encourage you to do what ever it takes to put into legislation something that will keep the citizens of Hawaii and all the thousands of tourist that participate on Zip Lines in the state of Hawaii safe.

Until this is accomplished I will continue to spread the word to all that will listen that the Zip Line Industry in the State of Hawaii is not safe.