



Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii
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Testimony to the Senate Ways & Means Committee

Friday, February 24, 2012 at 9:00am
Conference Room 211

RE: Senate Bill 2433 SD1 RELATING TO CHALLENGE COURSE TECHNOLOGY

Chair Ige and Vice Chair Kadani & Members of the committee;

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify, my name is Toni Marie Davis. For the last 14 years it has been my honor to serve the activity & attraction industry of Hawaii through my position as the Executive Director of the Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii (A3H). **A3H supports SB2433 SD1 provided current standard levels are not degraded.**

The purpose of this Bill is to ensure operators are insured, following a recognized standard and inspected annually. Through previous hearings the DLIR has claimed lack of expertise and man power to take on this additional responsibility and has opposed this Bill. The industry continues to work with the DLIR to come up with a solution which will not reduce the level of current self regulated quality & safety, but rather require all current and new operators follow and maintain this level.

Please allow this Bill to move forward while DLIR and the industry work on language which is acceptable to all involved.

Hawaii's zip line tours are the fastest growing segment of the state's activities & attractions. The industry is growing at a fast rate. Hawaii's lines are spectacular; they're long and run over rain forests, gulches and streams while providing phenomenal views. Visitors which experience these tours are making & sharing vacation memories. If you enter "Hawaii Zip line Photos" into Google there are 6.5 Million results.

Currently to obtain insurance a zip line company must be inspected by a qualified specialist. The Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) and the Professional Ropes Course Association (PRCA) are two U.S. trade groups that have established regulations for courses. 100% of operators in our organization are inspected & have insurance; it is a membership requirement. All state activity desks & hotels require proof of being additionally insured prior to booking or even referring an activity to a guest. Other than the obvious exposure, operating without insurance would be difficult, if not impossible. If this Bill did not move forward there is a sort of self regulation in place at least for the lack of insurance issue, which required annual inspections by a qualified standards association.

Sincerely,



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