



# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

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Testimony of Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Opposition to **HB 1850, Relating to Taxation**  
Senate Committees on Ways and Means  
Scheduled for Hearing Tuesday, March 29, 2016, 9:15 AM, Room 211

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*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice is a nonprofit law firm created to advocate on behalf of low income individuals and families in Hawaii. Our core mission is to help our clients gain access to the resources, services, and fair treatment that they need to realize their opportunities for self-achievement and economic security.*

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Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong opposition** to HB 1850, which would allow vacation rental brokers to serve as tax collection agents for the purposes of collecting General Excise and Transient Accommodation taxes on vacation rentals. While we appreciate that the Hawai'i Department of Taxation is overworked and underfunded, and that this would relieve some of their collection burden, any additional tax collection potential has to be weighed against the hidden costs of this measure.

The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice has long been involved in attempting to address the crippling lack of affordable housing in our state. Hawai'i has the highest rate of homelessness in the nation. This is due in no small part to the extraordinary cost of living in the state.

To be able to afford a 2-bedroom apartment in Hawai'i a worker needs to make \$31.61/hour (the average renter wage is \$14.49/hour)—the highest required renter-wage in the nation. In 2013, 79% of households making below 30% of the Area Median Income were paying more than half of their incomes just to keep a roof over their heads. When families pay too much in rent, making ends meet becomes a constant struggle. High housing-related expenses are combined with depressed wages, heavy taxes, and high costs for food and other necessities which create nearly insurmountable barriers for many Hawai'i residents. With so little income left after paying high housing costs, families are forced to cut corners. These rent-overburdened families are more likely to face challenges paying for nutritious and sufficient food and make difficult tradeoffs, particularly in health care and transportation expenditures. Both children and adults who lack affordable housing have poorer health indicators.

Families are often forced to move into sub-standard or crowded housing. In 2011, 13 percent of Hawai'i's households were doubling up with friends or family due to economic necessity, and a full 30 percent were either doubled-up or crowded.

The number of affordable and available housing units in Hawai'i does not come close to meeting the need for these units, especially for low-income households. The 2011 Hawai'i Housing Planning Study found that between 2012 and 2016, the state would need at least 28,000 units to meet the total housing demand. Two-thirds of overall demand—approximately 19,000 units—is from households who are considered low-income or below. Yet on Oahu, there aren't even enough units being developed to accommodate overall population growth, creating a shortfall of 2,000 units



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annually. Exacerbating the problem, many new units are for the high end of the market and appeal to non-resident buyers as vacation or investment properties.

HB 1850 will only increase these problems by encouraging residents to convert rental space that could be going to provide affordable housing for local residents into vacation rentals for trendy tourists. Nearly 70% of vacation rentals in Hawai'i listed with industry leader AirBnB—some 3000 units—are categorized as “whole place” rentals (meaning a renter gets the entire home). Every one of these rentals represents a space that could have housed a local family that might otherwise be consigned to our growing homeless population.

While we acknowledge the need for more tax revenues, we question whether a measure that will likely exacerbate our already dire housing situation is the smartest way forward. We thank you again for the opportunity to testify and reiterate our **strong opposition** to HB 1850.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [prentissc001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:prentissc001@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1850 on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:35:29 PM

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**HB1850**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Charles Prentiss	Kailua Neighborhood Board	Oppose	No

Comments: Oppose, Oppose, Oppose. It really looks bad when the legislature passes a bill to have all transient vacation rentals publish their TAT ID, and the next year pass a bill to hide them. This bill will implicate the State in hiding advertisements for illegal activities, and waste all the State money used for housing by allowing a proliferation of illegal transient rentals pirate our housing stock. It would be WAYS & MEANS I reverse!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Hawai'i State Senate  
HB1850 HD1 SD1

Save O'ahu's Neighborhoods (SONHawaii'i) **OPPOSES**

The recently-added language:

(j) All registered transient accommodations brokers shall:

(1) Prior to placing an advertisement, including an online advertisement, on the availability of a property for lease or rent on behalf of an operator or plan manager, notify the operator or plan manager that the subject property is required to be in compliance with applicable land use laws prior to retaining the services of the transient accommodations broker; and

(2) Require the operator or plan manager to attest that the subject property is in compliance with applicable land use laws.

*Has no effect whatsoever – it is already in practice and does not work.*

Airbnb, one of the likely mainland brokers that will apply to become a registered tax collection agent of the State of Hawai'i, has already put this language into practice in its Terms of Service Agreement:

“You acknowledge and agree that you alone are responsible for any and all Listings and Member Content you post. Accordingly, you represent and warrant that any Listing you post and the booking of, or a Guest's stay at, an Accommodation in a Listing you post (i) will not breach any agreements you have entered into with any third parties, such as homeowners association, condominium, lease or rental agreements, and (ii) will (a) be in compliance with all applicable laws (such as zoning laws and laws governing rentals of residential and other properties), Tax requirements, and rules and regulations that may apply to any Accommodation included in a Listing you post (including having all required permits, licenses and registrations), and (b) not conflict with the rights of third parties.”

This is exactly the language required by the bill, yet hundreds of its listings are for illegal vacation rentals. The applicants simply lie and no one cares – nor will they care any more after you pass this bill. It's a cute little wink and nod between the parties and passing this bill will make our State of Hawai'i government and our Senate one of the winking partners.

Much stronger language is required in this bill to make sure that our state does not become a willing partner in illegal activity and the devastating result this bill will have on our residential neighborhoods, rent prices, and homelessness. This bill will cost the state far more than it can possibly make.



*Eric Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

*Hernando Ramos Tan, President*

*Godfrey Maeshiro, Senior Vice-President*

March 28, 2016

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawaii State Senate

*TESTIMONY submitted on behalf of UNITE HERE! Local 5*

**Re: HB1850 HD1 SD1: Taxation; Transient Accommodations Brokers; Tax Collection Agents; General Excise Tax; Transient Accommodations Tax**

**RELATING TO TAXATION.**

Allows transient accommodations brokers to register as tax collection agents to collect and remit general excise and transient accommodations taxes on behalf of operators and plan managers using their services.

Chair Jill Tokuda and Committee Members:

UNITE HERE Local 5 is a local labor organization representing 11,000 hotel, health care and food service workers employed throughout our State. We would like to express strong **opposition** to HB1850 HD1 SD1, which allows hosting platforms such as airbnb and VRBO to collect and remit taxes on behalf of operators without provisions requiring relevant information be forwarded to the tax department.

In addition to concerns we have raised in previous testimony, which we reiterate below, it is absolutely vital that the State avoid preempting (accidentally or otherwise) local regulations for vacation rentals. To that end, we recommend that the following language be included in the bill:

“The Legislature declares its intent not to occupy the field of regulation of short-term rentals, vacation rentals or bed and breakfast lodging. This chapter establishes only minimum standards and is in addition to and supplementary to any other federal, state, or local law or ordinance, or any rule or regulation issued thereunder. Counties, cities and towns within this State shall have the power to adopt laws or ordinances, and rules and regulations thereunder, regulating short-term rentals, vacation rentals or bed and breakfast lodging within their jurisdictions. Any local regulation which is more favorable to neighbors of such rentals and lodging than the minimum standards applicable under this chapter, or any rule or regulation issued hereunder, shall not be affected by this chapter and such other laws, or rules or regulations, shall be in full force and effect and may be enforced as provided by law.”

Transient accommodations brokers would have no motivation to correctly report or collect taxes from vacation rental owners or operators, since the tax department would have no way to verify the information they provide. The brokers would in fact have motivation not to remit the correct amount of taxes:

1. in order to maintain a competitive advantage against hotels and other rental platforms;
2. to protect illegal operators (on whose business the brokers often earn fees) from scrutiny and potential injunction; and
3. to avoid negative attention from lawmakers that could lead to further meaningful regulations.

As it is, we can only guess at the amount of TAT and GET lost to the State and the counties from illegal vacation rentals, and this measure will make the problem worse by shielding vacation rentals from proper oversight by the tax department. A study commissioned by the Hawaii Tourism Authority identified 4,411 individually advertised units on Oahu as of September 2014, and over 22,000 across the state, making up over 25% of the total lodging supply. It is not clear how many of these are legal vacation rentals, individual self-managed rooms in condotels, etc., making it difficult to quantify illegal non-traditional hotel accommodations and their impact on the State. Moreover, the State and the counties need mechanisms for enforcing vacation rental laws so that we do not lose the housing inventory our state desperately needs to illegal vacation rentals.

Supporters of these types of limited lodging services argue that they cater to visitors looking for vacation experiences not offered at a hotel, and that such visitors will not come if vacation rentals are not allowed. Some may argue that limited lodging services provide them with necessary supplemental income – though on Oahu 79.6% of airbnb listings – over 5,000 units – are categorized as “entire place” meaning an entire housing unit is being rented out to visitors. Many of these units are being rented out by people with multiple listings.

Some vacation rental owners/operators have testified that they already pay required taxes but their information should remain private for personal safety – even though they advertise via internet to strangers. On the other hand, **nobody else** running a legitimate business in this state is allowed that kind of anonymity. The only kind of safety that kind of anonymity provides is the safety for illegal operators to continue operating illegally. In fact, if the public and regulators lack of access to information about the locations and operators of vacation rentals, this could create safety issues for visitors and residents. There is no justification for allowing transient accommodations owners and operators to skip out on regulations that every other legitimate business in the state follows, especially when a significant fraction of advertised vacation rentals are illegal – a minimum of 42% of all vacation rentals on Oahu alone.

Institutionalizing the collection of tax money from illegal vacation rentals is a step toward blindly accepting all of them, regardless of location, safety concerns, community impacts and impacts on affordable housing. While there may be a legitimate need for some vacation rentals in order to cater to visitors who might not otherwise travel to Hawaii, there needs to be a broader discussion with a lot of community input. On top of being fundamentally flawed, this bill is therefore premature.

Illegal short-term rentals impact housing, the tourist industry and our sense of neighborhood. Our Union has done extensive studies on this issue and has progressive ideas on how to assist the counties on the enforcement of the current laws relating to transient vacation accommodations. We are willing to provide the information to this committee. We believe that any workable solution must include language that puts reporting requirements on hosting platforms in order to be successful.

Any initiative passed by the Legislature should not work against measures already adopted by the Counties that work to better enforce existing laws related to illegal vacation rental operations or initiatives that help to alleviate the housing crisis. As just one example, HB 1850 HD1 SD1 would work against the City and County of Honolulu’s Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) initiative passed and signed into law last year that works to address these two issues.

At the very least, we must require hosting platforms to provide the information the public needs to prevent proliferation of illegal rentals. This bill does the exact opposite.

HB1850 HD1 SD1 is fundamentally flawed, specifically:

1. HB1850 HD1 SD1 would allow brokers to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the owner/operators owe:

2. HB1850 HD1 SD1 provides no means to identify the owners/operators;
3. HB1850 HD1 SD1 provides no responsibility on the broker to ensure that all of its listings are legal; and
4. HB1850 HD1 SD1 is counterproductive. It serves a purpose that is contrary to initiatives recently passed on the County level and works against the State's commitment towards addressing out housing crisis.

At a minimum, HB1850 HD1 SD1 must be amended to include:

1. A publicly verifiable means for tracking which vacation rentals are being advertised, which ones have paid taxes, and how much each has paid. This is necessary for answering the two crucial questions about each vacation rental being advertised online:
  - a) Is it paying taxes? And
  - b) Is it operating legally?
2. Anti-preemption language to ensure that the regulation of short-term rentals, vacation rentals or bed and breakfast lodging that the counties currently enforce or wish to adopt in the future.

To accomplish this:

1. All ads should include both a Tax ID number and the address of the property being advertised;
2. Brokers should be required to report Tax ID and address information for all listings along with the amount of tax money collected from each listing; and
3. The report needs to be public.
  - a) This allows the Department of Taxation (DoTax), the counties and individuals the data they need to keep the rise of illegal units in check. Even if DoTax doesn't have the resources to act on anything right now, this will preserve their ability to do so later on. Otherwise, the State would have no verifiable way to know who's paying what (if any) taxes, thus putting into question the actual net gain in tax revenue from the measure.
4. Language should be included that states, "The Legislature declares its intent not to occupy the field of regulation of short-term rentals, vacation rentals or bed and breakfast lodging. This chapter establishes only minimum standards and is in addition to and supplementary to any other federal, state, or local law or ordinance, or any rule or regulation issued thereunder. Counties, cities and towns within this State shall have the power to adopt laws or ordinances, and rules and regulations thereunder, regulating short-term rentals, vacation rentals or bed and breakfast lodging within their jurisdictions. Any local regulation which is more favorable to neighbors of such rentals and lodging than the minimum standards applicable under this chapter, or any rule or regulation issued hereunder, shall not be affected by this chapter and such other laws, or rules or regulations, shall be in full force and effect and may be enforced as provided by law."

Thank you for your consideration. We recognize the State's need to generate revenue, but we should carefully ensure that any measure passed actually accomplish what it is intended to do.



**HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM**  
**A S S O C I A T I O N**

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann  
President and CEO  
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Committee on  
Ways and Means

House Bill 1850 HD1 SD1: Relating to Taxation

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee on Ways and Means:

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association supports the intent of House Bill 1850, which proposes to allow transient accommodations brokers to register as tax collection agents to collect and remit general excise and transient accommodations taxes.

It is HLTA's goal to establish a level playing field for all visitor accommodations, from the traditional hospitality businesses to the alternative accommodations offered online.

There are more than 25,000 alternative accommodations in the Hawaiian Islands competing with hotels, resorts, timeshares, and bed-and-breakfasts, except that the majority of them are most likely avoiding our 9.25 percent transient accommodations and general excise taxes. Rather than outlaw these transient vacation units, we believe the state and county governments should collaborate on bringing them into compliance and collecting the millions of dollars in taxes now being avoided.

We have always supported the Department of Taxation's modernization project because it will help to identify non-compliant TVUs and collect taxes owed to the state.

We support the intent of HB1850 HD1 SD1 because it will encourage and help the State collect such taxes. We appreciate the amendments added into this measure in the bill's SD1 in ensuring that local land use laws are not preempted and we would like to see a continued effort to improve this bill through stronger language and greater clarity to ensure transparency and enforcement.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**From:** [Aina Iglesias](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 5:40:26 PM

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From: Aina Iglesias <[aina.iglesias@gmail.com](mailto:aina.iglesias@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

I personally oppose this bill because my family and I are directly affected by the shortage of housing available for local people. Since we moved to Hawaii in 2005 from the Philippines, we already moved four times because rent cost keeps increasing due to high demand of housing. My mother works two jobs, and my father sometimes works under the table as a carpenter in order to afford rent. Allowing companies like Airbnb to take away more housing for us, will lead families like mine to become homeless. PLEASE oppose this bill! Thank you!

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

I strongly oppose H.B 1850, or any initiative that would allow transient accommodations brokers to register as tax collection agents to collect and remit general excise and transient accommodations taxes on behalf of operators and plan managers using their services.

By allowing private brokers to fulfill the mandate of the IRS to collect taxes, undermines not only the transparency and legitimacy of the federal government to procure assets and revenue, but threatens to frustrate compliance and auditing disputes arising from any number of regulatory rules or complications to the tax system.

Private tax collection agencies are no more tax experts than bounty hunters are law enforcement, and by allowing exceptions to transient accommodation brokers like AirBNB or other peer-to-peer sites, will set further precedence to permanently disfigure an already over-complicated tax regime, that this bill will only add to.

Legislators need to at least acknowledge that online companies-- from Yahoo to Google to Apple-- including peer-to-peer accommodation brokers-- are opposing global initiatives to streamline and regulate tax policies, and these private tax collection brokers are opening the door to multinational tax avoidance schemes.

Currently, the EU is seeking alternative ways to clamp down on tax avoidance schemes that H.B. 1850 opens the door to. In a July 25, 2015 article by the Financial Times, for example, Revenues and Customs initiatives are being explored, [<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/07e878a6-3205-11e5-91ac-a5e17d9b4cff.html>].

Governments are seeking to use new sources of online data to track down small businesses that are under-declaring their sales and revenues, and this would allow government tax collection agencies to properly regulate and tax rogue peer-to-peer tax evaders, rather than

undermining the system as H.B. 1850 seeks to do. In other words, governments are exploring ways to make data from online transactions more transparent, and the creation of some kind of regulatory coherence around peer-to-peer services will protect the mandate of the IRS and other government tax collection agencies.

Thank you,

Arnie Saiki

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [nimboy44@aol.com](mailto:nimboy44@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1850 on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 8:49:13 PM

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**HB1850**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bill Quinlan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: It is encouraging that the legislature is looking for a way to get revenue from the illegal rentals. We need to find a better way. The proposed bill legitimizes illegal rentals and allows the owners to hide. Many States tax residences that are not occupied by owners as much as 3, YES THREE times the rate that owner occupied properties pay. If Hawaii did the same we would cool down real estate prices to help local purchasers and at the same time get needed revenue. This will NOT stop new construction. Developers make money by developing. They will find a way and we will keep our construction jobs. We own a rental property and will happily accept the higher property taxes. Of course, we, like other rental property owners, will raise our monthly rent prices to offset the increased taxes. In the short term our property will drop in value. So be it. Long term it will be fine.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [earbrass@mac.com](mailto:earbrass@mac.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1850 on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 8:51:46 PM

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**HB1850**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Forrest Furman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill will: Escalate the destruction of residential neighborhoods Encourage more illegal vacation rentals Will give an aura of legitimacy to brokers' illegal vacation rentals by making each of them a "registered agent of the State of Hawai'i". This will lend legitimacy to the illegal rentals they advertise and inspire even more waiting-in-the-wings potential illegals to convert residential homes and apartments into illegal vacation rentals. Will hide the identity of illegal operators and defeat the purpose of Act 204 that went into effect January 1, 2016, which requires all vacation rental advertisements to post the vacation rental operator's TAT account number on the ad. Now all properties listed by the broker will use the broker's TAT account number, thereby shielding the identity of illegal operators from county enforcement officers. This anonymity will inspire even more waiting-in-the-wings potential illegals to convert residential homes and apartments into illegal vacation rentals.

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We are opposed to HB1850 and SB2693 regarding online rental agencies collecting taxes on vacation rental properties for the following reasons:

- This essentially legitimizes the illegal vacation rentals;
- The identity of the owners of the illegal vacation rentals is not revealed; and
- It does nothing to stop this activity in our neighborhood as well as others on Oahu.

We have many vacation rentals on our street, Crozier Drive. Very few are legal. There are two houses on one property being rented next to our house. We have been subjected to loud parties, profanity and verbal abuse, and nudity in their yard and swimming pool. Furthermore, vacation rentals destroy the neighborhood "feeling".

I believe rather than legitimizing these illegal rentals, there should be more funding of personnel enforcing the current laws against these rentals.

Thank you.

Hugh and Barbara Hazenfield  
68-361 Crozier Drive  
Waialua, HI 96791

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jeannine@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:jeannine@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1850 on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 9:13:03 PM

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**HB1850**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lisa Grandinetti. I am a registered voter, a student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, and a part of the AiKea Movement. I would like to express my concern about HB 1850.

Illegal vacation rentals present a growing and urgent problem in Hawaii, and this bill does nothing to actually address it. The problem is not only that these vocational rentals are not fairly taxed, but also that they are exacerbating our housing crisis by taking away affordable housing for local people. In addition, they directly affect our number one industry by threatening jobs in hotels, which working people in Hawaii depend on.

There are several fundamental flaws with this bill. It would allow brokers to collect and remit taxes without any way for the state to verify if they remit what they actually owe; it does not provide means to identify owners and operators; and it does not hold the broker accountable to ensure all its listings are legal.

As a college student who is graduating soon, I must begin thinking about my future in Hawaii. It is not looking too good in terms of finding affordable housing and a good paying job. This bill does nothing to solve the problem of illegal vacation rentals, which is wreaking havoc on both housing and jobs. For these reasons, I urge you to vote no on HB 1850.

Thank you,  
Lisa



March 28, 2016

Dear Chair Tokuda and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Please oppose HB1850 and SB2693 in their current forms. These companion Bills provide a mechanism for illegal vacation rentals to hide their identity. It undermines Act 204.

Housing shortage is one of the most pressing problems in Hawai'i today and this Bill will divert additional residential housing towards resort use, as well as undermine efforts by the DPP to bring current illegal businesses back into residential use.

Mahalo, Lisa Marten

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [hokuokekai50@msn.com](mailto:hokuokekai50@msn.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1850 on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:25:00 PM

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**HB1850**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Lacques	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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I am adamantly against bills HB 1850 and SB 2693, they have the potential to destroy the fabric of our neighborhoods and they support scofflaws, criminal and crooks & facilitate and encourage them to engaged in illegal activity. These bills will help reduce the availability of affordable housing for our residents. Delete jobs in the hospitality industry and promote a shadow economy. Please stop their progression now!

Per a poll conducted by Sen. Laura Thielen, the majority of people on Oahu appose these bills, please hear your constituents.

Sincerely,  
Michael Morelli  
33 Kalaka Pl  
Kailua. HI 96734

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [farwest@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:farwest@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1850 on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 6:45:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [HB 1850 & SB2693.docx](#)

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## **HB1850**

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Morelli	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am adamantly against bills HB 1850 and SB 2693, they have the potential to destroy the fabric of our neighborhoods and they support scofflaws, criminal and crooks & facilitate and encourage them to engaged in illegal activity.

These bills will help reduce the availability of affordable housing for our residents.

Delete jobs in the hospitality industry and promote a shadow economy. Please stop their progression now!

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I strongly oppose HB 1850 because it will lead to a further decrease of affordable housing and encourage more illegal vacation rentals. The recently added language to the bill **does NOT define how the identification and enforcement of illegal vacation rentals will be carried out.**

Our housing shortage for the poor and working class folks is at an all-time crisis level. It's likely that this bill will encourage more illegal vacation rentals, decreasing the number of residential units. Our legislators should address affordable housing solutions instead of looking to increase the tax collection of illegal activity. Shall the State start collecting taxes from sex workers in Chinatown? How about pot dealers and copper thieves? That is essentially what this bill is promoting.

This bill is also promoting greed among property owners, landlords, and brokers, such as Airbnb. San Francisco is a good example of how greedy landlords are taking advantage of or kicking out long-term working class tenants so that they can increase their revenue. An attorney representing such long-term tenants was recently quoted in the SF Examiner, noting, "Money motivates people to not follow regulations."

An important feature not included in this bill is the transparency of a transient accommodations broker's status as a registered and legal entity. Unlike Act 204 (which requires all vacation rental advertisements to post the vacation rental operator's TAT account number on their ads), this bill will essentially hide the identity of illegal operators.

It's also unclear who is responsible to ensure that the operator or plan manager (like Airbnb) is ensuring that the transient accommodations brokers are in compliance with applicable land use laws. If the State doesn't receive the identity of the brokers from the plan managers, how can the State know that a broker is in compliance with applicable land use laws? Airbnb is not in the business of enforcement of compliance with applicable land use laws. All they do is have their hosts sign a Terms of Service Agreement saying that they are abiding by the law. This practice feels a lot like "Don't ask, Don't tell" – just sign the Terms of Service Agreement. Don't worry if you aren't truly a "registered agent of the State of Hawai'i" because chances are good that the State is not going to find out AND even if they do, they are not going to enforce it because of all the taxes they are collecting from your illegal activities.

This bill should be deferred. If brokers like Airbnb want to partner with the city and county, then let them collaboratively draft a detailed plan of action and accountability with the State before we blindly agree for a for-profit business to become our State's tax collectors of illegal activities.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [neilfrazer@icloud.com](mailto:neilfrazer@icloud.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1850 on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 7:26:18 AM

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**HB1850**

Submitted on: 3/29/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Neil Frazer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: By escalating homelessness and the destruction of residential neighborhoods, this bill will cost the state far more than it will make in taxes. I strongly recommend that it be killed.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [pspriggs@hotmail.com](mailto:pspriggs@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1850 on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 9:06:17 PM

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**HB1850**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul Spriggs	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The city if going to accept the short term financial savings at the expense of allowing the illegal TVU's to hide behind the likes of AirBnB. What was the point of having Act 204 requiring the TAT licence on website to then let the same illegal renters hide behind the Broker's TAT? I truly cant comprehend how the Government does not see they are enabling illegal rentals and once again making it hard for residents to afford housing. Ridiculous!!!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tifflawyer@gmail.com](mailto:tifflawyer@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1850 on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 8:25:38 PM

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**HB1850**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tiffany lawyer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to HB1850 because: Escalate the destruction of residential neighborhoods Encourage more illegal vacation rentals Will give an aura of legitimacy to their illegal vacation rentals by making them a "registered agent of the State of Hawaii". This will lend legitimacy to the illegal rentals they advertise and inspire even more waiting-in-the-wings potential illegals to convert residential homes and apartments into illegal vacation rentals. Will hide the identity of illegal operators and defeat the purpose of Act 204 that went into effect January 1, 2016, which requires all vacation rental advertisements to post the vacation rental operator's TAT account number on the ad. Now all properties listed by the broker will use the broker's TAT account number, thereby shielding the identity of illegal operators from county enforcement officers. This anonymity will inspire even more waiting-in-the-wings potential illegals to convert residential homes and apartments into illegal vacation rentals.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [Alan Cota](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 5:52:11 PM

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From: Alan Cota <alancota@hawaii.edu>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Amanda Shaw](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 6:35:13 AM

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From: Amanda Shaw <amanda.shaw@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:  
Aloha mai kakou,

I oppose HB1850 as a resident of Waimanalo beachlots increasing impacted by vacation rentals. I believe that, if done and managed responsibly, the tax revenues from small-scale, culturally responsible, eco-tourism could represent an important in-between balance of tourism and development. However, I am not assured that the state is able to facilitate this at the current time, and that currently larger hotels provide better labor protections and best concentrate and confine development. In my view, these rentals are a reality but we need effective oversight and regulation of these units, which we do not have. This bill does not actually address these concerns; further, I have no idea what kind of precedent it sets to enable "a transient accommodations broker to register to act as a tax collection agent."

I believe that tax funds should be collected and redistributed to the communities most affected by vacation rentals, and go especially to Native Hawaiians. From my own perspective, as a haole young woman raised in the beachlots, I feel personally impacted on a daily basis not only by waking up to a neighborhood full of people that I will never get the chance to get to know and who will never get to the chance to know me. I try not to fall into the NIMBYism that I think characterizes a lot of the opposition to vacation rentals because, as a settler, I understand that I was once welcomed here and that my family had a chance to start a life in a place that made room for us even when we were and are complicit in a long history of dispossession and cultural violence against Native Hawaiians. I also believe in the true exchange that can occur through visiting. Welcoming visitors is part of kanaka cultural practice but this is too often exploited, especially by corporate actors.

I see how the ability to make money renting entire houses has meant that most of the homes that surround me have gone to vacation rentals. I see how this economy affects the price of housing, and now more than ever, know that the dream of purchasing the home my family has rented since the 1980's is evermore an impossibility - as are the opportunity to earn a living and access housing for so many residents.

I believe in Hawaiian self-determination and in creative and collective regulatory responses to the challenges of the "sharing" (taking?) economies a la Airbnb and Uber. We need to support decent livelihoods and work in the pae'aina by responsibly and equitably managing our existing housing stock. This bill does nothing to advance these goals.

How is it that I live in a neighborhood that has both semi-empty vacation rental houses and also one of the islands largest houseless communities? You have to ask yourself what allowing individuals to collect taxes on vacation rentals does to fix that insanity.

Mahalo nui for your consideration,

Amanda Shaw  
Waimanalo  
PhD Candidate, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Andrew Grandinetti](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:46:49 PM

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From: Andrew Grandinetti <[andygrand001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:andygrand001@hawaii.rr.com)>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Anne Towey-Joyer](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 10:07:08 PM

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From: Anne Towey-Joyer <annetoweyjoyer@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [April Bautista](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 7:33:36 PM

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From: April Bautista <[april@alohadreamteam.org](mailto:april@alohadreamteam.org)>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Arianna Karsk](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 9:35:01 PM

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From: Arianna Karsk <Arisagan101@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Arthur R. Lepage](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:43:42 PM

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From: Arthur R. Lepage <lepage96822@aol.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Asami Kobayashi](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 10:54:00 PM

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From: Asami Kobayashi <asamik@hawaii.edu>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)



**From:** [Athena Souza](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 5:26:59 PM

---

From: Athena Souza <[absouza88@gmail.com](mailto:absouza88@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Audrey Jordan-Gecain](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 11:38:59 PM

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From: Audrey Jordan-Gecain <[gogovegan@ymail.com](mailto:gogovegan@ymail.com)>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Bianca Isaki](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:30:51 PM

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From: Bianca Isaki <[bianca@kahea.org](mailto:bianca@kahea.org)>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

- Bianca Kai Isaki, Ph.D., Esq.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Bryant de Venecia](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 11:49:15 PM

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From: Bryant de Venecia <kingbryev@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Cade Watanabe](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:39:57 PM

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From: Cade Watanabe <cadewatanabe@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Cheryl](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:58:03 PM

---

From: Cheryl <burgharc@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Christian](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 7:06:35 PM

---

From: Christian <christian9101@icloud.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Cindy Aban](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 9:36:18 PM

---

From: Cindy Aban <caban54@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)



**From:** [Daniel Kerwin](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 6:19:26 AM

---

From: Daniel Kerwin <Dkerwin73@aol.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

--

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [hariom@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:hariom@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1850 on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 11:52:33 PM

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**HB1850**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diane Anderson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please respect our residential neighborhoods. We already have resort areas for visitors.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [Ed Schack](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 6:47:11 PM

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From: Ed Schack <edwinschack@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Graceanne Warburton](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 8:53:43 PM

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From: Graceanne Warburton <graceannevw@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Iliia Patlidzanov](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 5:28:49 PM

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From: Iliia Patlidzanov <mrraloha@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Jennifer Grant](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 6:28:04 PM

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From: Jennifer Grant <jenn3737@hotmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Jordan Metoyer](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 11:36:11 PM

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From: Jordan Metoyer <jmetoyer@hawaii.edu>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Joshua Noga](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 11:49:14 PM

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From: Joshua Noga <joshua.noga@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)



**From:** [Justin Pequeno](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 7:58:39 PM

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From: Justin Pequeno <justin.pequeno@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Katie Hoppe](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:25:39 PM

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From: Katie Hoppe <khoppe4@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Kawehi Kina](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 6:15:36 PM

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From: Kawehi Kina <kawehikina93@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Keiko Sugihara](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 11:30:17 PM

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From: Keiko Sugihara <keiko4@hawaii.edu>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Larry Araga](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:57:00 PM

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From: Larry Araga <larrymigaraga3@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Leslie Lopez](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 9:00:45 PM

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From: Leslie Lopez <lesliealopez@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Leslie Nakayama](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 5:02:42 PM

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From: Leslie Nakayama <nakayamal001@hawaii.rr.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Lourdes Maquera](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 10:33:42 PM

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From: Lourdes Maquera <maqueralourdes@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)



**From:** [Luanna Peterson](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 9:01:08 PM

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From: Luanna Peterson <nourishdesoul@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Mark kamahele](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 9:08:45 PM

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From: Mark kamahele <matkkamahele@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Max Towey](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 10:10:09 PM

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From: Max Towey <maxtowey@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Mika Okamura](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 5:41:48 PM

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From: Mika Okamura <mikaokamura@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Nenita Cabanilla](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 9:37:09 PM

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From: Nenita Cabanilla <caban54@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Nerry L Natings](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 6:26:06 AM

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From: Nerry L Natings <nerrynatinga@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Nicholas Chagnon](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 8:43:14 PM

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From: Nicholas Chagnon <[chagnon@hawaii.edu](mailto:chagnon@hawaii.edu)>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Nicholas Groves](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 6:28:23 PM

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From: Nicholas Groves <ndwgroves@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)



**From:** [Nicolas Gecain](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 11:39:40 PM

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From: Nicolas Gecain <[ajgecain@gmail.com](mailto:ajgecain@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Nicole Antos](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 6:45:19 PM

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From: Nicole Antos <[nicole.antos@yahoo.com](mailto:nicole.antos@yahoo.com)>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Paola Rodelas](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 4:28:52 PM

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From: Paola Rodelas <paolarodelas@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals.

Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

I strongly urge you to kill this bill. Mahalo!

--Paola Rodelas  
Kapahulu Resident

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Ramsey Kane](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 6:38:03 PM

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From: Ramsey Kane <ramsey33@hawaii.edu>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Sofpenia Gatewood](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 7:30:32 PM

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From: Sofpenia Gatewood <tutusophie@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Stanley Lum](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 11:39:56 PM

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From: Stanley Lum <sfq1lum@hotmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Stuart Coleman](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 8:51:03 PM

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From: Stuart Coleman <scoleman34@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Summer Gatewood](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 7:30:04 PM

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From: Summer Gatewood <summergatewood@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)



**From:** [Timothy Zhu](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 6:17:37 PM

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From: Timothy Zhu <iamtimzhu@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Tina Grandinetti](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 6:19:21 PM

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From: Tina Grandinetti <tinagrandi1@gmail.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Todd Hayashi](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 9:53:41 PM

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From: Todd Hayashi <bushidobronx@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

**From:** [Tyler Greenhill](#)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 29, 2016 12:19:51 AM

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From: Tyler Greenhill <[tyler.greenhill@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.greenhill@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Testimony: OPPOSE HB1850

Message Body:

Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee: I strongly OPPOSE HB1850 because: a) it would allow companies like Airbnb to collect and remit taxes without any way of verifying that the amount they remit is anywhere near what the vacation rental owners owe; b) it doesn't hold companies like Airbnb responsible for making sure these vacation rental listings are legal or illegal. In fact, it hurts the Counties' ability to enforce existing laws on illegal vacation rentals. Illegal vacation rentals are a growing problem in our state, and this bill does nothing to fix it. They're a problem not just because they aren't paying their fair share of taxes, but also because they take away affordable housing for local people; they hurt our economy by directly competing with full-service hotels that provide good, local jobs; and they impact safety, parking, and the overall character of our neighborhoods.

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on AiKea Hawaii (<http://www.aikeahawaii.org>)

## Testimony against HB1850 HD1

Passing this bill will destroy our neighborhoods even more than they currently do. Illegal vacation rentals bring in more traffic to our neighborhoods, increase our property taxes, eliminate potential rentals for local people, and raise rental costs for properties which creates even more homelessness. We need stronger enforcement and State help in stopping this illegal activity. HB 1850 HD1 does just the opposite

HB1850 HD1 would NOT require private companies like Airbnb to disclose information on their hosts. Why does Airbnb get special treatment, especially when it is clear that many of their hosts are operating illegally?

By allowing private companies, like Airbnb, to act as tax collectors for illegal vacation rentals, HB 1850 will give an aura of legitimacy to these companies' illegal vacation rentals by making each of them a "registered agent of the State of Hawaii." This will lend legitimacy to the illegal rentals they advertise and inspire even more waiting-in-the-wings potential illegals to convert residential homes and apartments into illegal vacation rentals.

HB 1850 will hide the identity of illegal operators and defeat the purpose of Act 204 that went into effect January 1, 2016, which requires all vacation rental advertisements to post the vacation rental operator's TAT account number on the ad. Now all properties listed by the broker will use the broker's TAT account number, thereby shielding the identity of illegal operators from county enforcement officers. This anonymity will inspire more property owners to convert residential homes and apartments into illegal vacation rentals.

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [paular@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:paular@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1850 on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM  
**Date:** Monday, March 28, 2016 10:06:15 PM

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**HB1850**

Submitted on: 3/28/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 29, 2016 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paula Ress	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: This bill invalidates measures to retain residential neighborhoods. Those who run hotels in our residential neighborhoods will use it to hide their illegal businesses and add to the homeless population by renting to transients instead of hard-working citizens who need a home to rent.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)