



Hawaii Women's Sports Agency  
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City and County of Honolulu  
Department Parks and Recreation  
City Council Members

Aloha,

We are writing this letter in response to Resolution 20-12 dated January 2020 and subsequent Bill 10 dated February 13, 2020 and Bill 93 dated November 4, 2020 by the City and County Council that "urges the City parks Department and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources to adopt new rules relating to City and State permits issued to surfing contest promoters to ensure "gender equality" for all competitive surfing events held on the North Shore of Oahu". These "requests" for gender equality have not been met by the new draft rules that are written as of August 14, 2023.

The system of ranking equality on a point scale does work. As written it seems to confuse equality with diversity. I don't believe a "point system" is working towards equality, especially for Women's surfing. There should just point blank be a statement that says, "no one shall have a permit for a surfing event that does not have equal men and women in numbers, heats, prizes, conditions, opportunity, media attention, judges, and money awards". Also to say that the promoter will be judged on such a scale before and after the fact referring that they not being able to procure a permit in the next application period (possibly three years later) does not insure any type of compliance with State and Federal equality laws.

The new “draft rules” also mentions some events as already having permission to run and at the discretion of said permit. This is highly unusual for any rules that govern State and City permits to “grandfather in” certain events. (Page 23J and 24K, Page 27/28 & 29)

In addition the wave height requirement at 40 foot faces has to change. This requirement is given at the first meeting to determine responsibilities of the producer. It is out of step with all organizations on the planet. I personally don't believe the amount of days events can run should be cut off. It may be in the sake of equality for Wahine surfers be extended to insure Women be able to surf in contests.

As we all should realize having opportunity builds the possibility of surfers to fulfill their hope of being professional and taking care of their families. Opportunity in sports builds community leaders. When started the Women's Big wave event, all the ladies had old, used, loaned and beat up boards. By just be recognized through the event that all changed for them.

The Hawaii Women's Sports Agency regrettably suggests you go back to the drawing board and make sure the rules protect equality as requested by the City Council. We all want to add quality to life!

Mahalo,

Betty Depolito  
Women's Pipeline Pro  
Queen of the Bay, Women's Waimea Bay Championship