

From: [Carla Kuo](#)
To: [Planning WPC Testimony](#)
Subject: Bill 154 Testimony - HICC
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2026 11:51:08 AM
Attachments: [Bill 154 HICC 06.22.2026.pdf](#)

Aloha Members of the Windward Planning Commission,

Please find attached, testimony on Bill 154 for your upcoming hearing scheduled for July 2nd.

Mahalo,
Carla

[Carla Kuo](#)
Executive Officer



[Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce](#)

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Testimony to the County of Hawai'i Windward Planning Commission

Thursday, July 2, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Re: Bill 154 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 25, Articles 1, 5, and 7, of the Hawai'i County Code 1983 (2016 Edition, As Amended), Relating to Commercial Parking Lots and Garages

Aloha Members of the County of Hawai'i Windward Planning Commission,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 340 businesses and individual members primarily on the east side of Hawai'i Island, I write in respectful opposition to Bill 154 as currently written. While we appreciate the bill's intent to support thoughtful land use planning and manage traffic impacts, we are concerned about the unintended consequences this bill may have on Downtown Hilo and other commercial areas.

Parking remains a significant challenge for small businesses, employees, residents, and visitors. While no one generally wants to pay for parking, paid parking provides an option when free parking is unavailable and creates additional parking opportunities that may not otherwise exist. For many, having the choice to pay for convenient parking is preferable to not finding parking at all.

By prohibiting new privately operated commercial parking lots and garages, Bill 154 would remove opportunities to increase parking supply and further constrain an already limited resource. This could discourage customers from visiting local businesses, hinder efforts to revitalize our town center, and create real barriers for families simply trying to attend their children's activities, appointments, and community events.

Rather than an outright prohibition, we respectfully encourage a more balanced approach by identifying where commercial parking may be appropriate and what types of parking facilities could be permitted to address land use concerns while preserving flexibility to meet our community's parking needs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Carla Kuo
Executive Officer
Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce