

From: [Madeleine Loewen](#)
To: [Planning LPC Testimony](#)
Subject: Bill 147
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One cannot deny that today's travelers are seeking new and exciting experiences in both their activities and their stays. As many move away from the sterile environment of a resort or a hotel, they instead find pleasure in spending their stay in less traditional locations. With legislation that is proposed to dramatically reduce original and unique properties available to tourists we are guaranteed to lose a large number of visitors to the island.

Having lived in Hawaii for over 20yrs, it is always a delight to see new tourists become delighted with the magic and beauty this place has to offer. Living on the Hilo side means that while traditional accommodations are limited, unique airbnbs abound. These enable the tourists to feel like they have experienced "real Hawaii" by staying on farms, ranches and in treehouses and yurts. Many of them recognize that by staying on a resort they tend to stay at the resort and seldom leave the place to invest their vacation dollars in the many local experiences available. Additionally many resort stays are significantly cheaper in other parts of the world, resulting again in a downturn in the number of visitors we get, and a loss of their dollars.

The current price increases we're all experiencing across the nation are hurting the local people of Hawaii all the more. While we are content to pay above mainland prices for the privilege of living somewhere so special, we also frequently have to find additional ways to make ends meet. For many farmers the cost of fertilizers and pesticides has increased dramatically over recent years, while the price of fruit has remained constant. Additionally the number of pests that have infiltrated the island in the years I've been living here make it increasingly harder for farmers to make a living. Why would the state further penalize their local food providers by taking away their ability to bring in some extra money operating a STVR on their farm.

By allowing local people to rent out their ohanas or ag structures we are increasing the amount of money that comes into the island. And this money stays in the islands! This is the money that is returned to sports clubs, kids' extra curricular activities, aunty's medical bills, local restaurants, neighbor island staycations and many many other things. Our economy has been buoyed by the increased incomes of all the people offering up their spaces as an airbnb.

I vehemently oppose any and all restrictions hampering Hawaii's residents the opportunity to rent out their spaces. These spaces attract more tourists, provide more financial stability to local people, and helps keep more tourist dollars in our own local economy. They help local farmers continue to operate their farms. And they allow us to maybe take a day off and enjoy the beach with our 'Ohana without worrying about having to get back to work to

be able to pay the month's bills.

I implore you to cancel this bill and allow us to use our land to benefit our state

Many thanks, Madeleine Loewen