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From: Cory <333cory@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 9:52 PM
To: Climate Change Commission
Subject: comments for Dec 16
Attachments: ISSUE tourism 2022 12-16 Hnl Climate.docx

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please acknowledge receipt--attachment is identical--mahalo!

comments on agenda item #10
discussion on scoping and assigning a climate change impacts of tourism guidance document
for Honolulu Climate Change Commission, 9 AM Friday, December 16, 2022
from Cory Harden, Sierra Club, Hawai'i Island Group 333cory@gmail.com

*Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89606455601?pwd=QU94c2hkV3Q4YkFhUDkyclp5dmltZz09>
Passcode 121622 Join by phone: +1 669 900 6833 Meeting ID: 896 0645 5601
ccc@honolulu.gov*

Thank you for taking up this critical and thorny issue.

Greenhouse gas emissions, and other impacts from tourism, have never been evaluated in an Environmental Assessment, though state resources are used to support tourism. Sierra Club sued for an EA twenty years ago, but the court said Sierra Club did not have standing. So the legal need for an EA, and the impacts of tourism, have never been analyzed in court or in an EA.

News media constantly update us on visitor spending, but rarely look into costs and impacts.

Please consider the following in your guidance document:

1 - Climate change impacts from all factors related to tourism, not only long-haul air travel—which alone may cause 6 to 24 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Factors related to tourism include:

- Loss of trees and other vegetation, so they no longer capture carbon
- Pollution caused by building and maintaining extra infrastructure: electric, water, airports, harbors, roads, parks
- Pollution caused by providing extra services: police, fire, emergency medical, solid waste, sewage
- Loss of opportunities for growing food when resorts and infrastructure are built for tourists
- Pollution from long commutes by tourism industry workers who cannot afford to live near their job site
- Pollution from rental cars, tour buses, air tours, cruise ships, tour boats, etc.
- Misinterpretation and crowding out of native Hawaiian culture and its support for environmentally friendly practices

2 - Number of tourists and number of residents. In 2019, the state hosted 10 million tourists. Our resident population is only one and a half million.

3 - Expected changes to greenhouse gas emissions if Hawai'i transitions from an economy based heavily on tourism to an economy that allows us to grow most of our own food

Please consider making these recommendations:

- An Environmental Assessment for all impacts of tourism
- A ban or at least a cap on new resorts
- A cap on vacation rentals
- A ban on building visitor accommodations in sea level rise areas
- A cap on the number of rental cars
- A higher Transient Accommodations Tax, or a new visitor fee, to fund mitigation of climate impacts
- A ban on tour buses and vans at beach parks on weekends and holidays
- No use of state resources to advertise Hawai'i--Hawai'i advertises itself, and many who benefit from tourism can well afford to do their own advertising

Thank you for considering these comments.

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