



December 2, 2012

Mr. Anthony Carl  
Rakuen Lounge  
1153 Bethel Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Carl:

“It [Nyotaimori] still takes place and it was definitely something that the yakuza liked to do at parties...”  
~ Jake Adelstein, author of *Tokyo Vice* a memoir documenting his 12 years of reporting on crime for the *Yomiuri Shimbun*

I hope this letter finds you well. I am the executive director of the Safe Zone Foundation dba Girl Fest Hawaii, an organization whose mission is to prevent violence against women and girls through education and art.

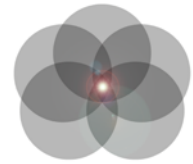
This letter represents the strong support of several community leaders, business owners and professionals united against the idea of using women as serving platters for food. Girl Fest also has a combined support base of over 7000 members locally.

We firmly support small businesses as they are the backbone of the local economy, however, we ask that you cancel your Nyotaimori Naked Sushi Event set to commence on December 16, 2011 from 6:30pm to 9:30pm and then every third Friday thereafter. As a new restaurant, we feel that this event would only hurt your business' image, especially with prospective female patrons.

The act of Nyotaimori has been banned by China and other establishments in American cities as it publically demeans women, reducing females to mere objects. As an activist against men's violence against women and an abolitionist of sex-trafficking, I know that events such as these make it more difficult for us to progressively change oppressive cultures that allow for the subjugation of women.

Despite the fact that this event is staffed by willing female participants, we feel strongly that such events send detrimental messages to society saying that the objectification of women is allowable. Nyotaimori creates an atmosphere within which women are invisible and inanimate—an “object,” with the value of a dinner plate upon which customers may put their food—in short, a “thing” to be consumed or used.

We respectfully ask that you do the right thing and cancel all of your future Naked Sushi events rather than risk public outcry, bad publicity, and a boycott of your new restaurant.



We would rather promote your business, should you take the noble position and cancel these Nyotaimori Naked Sushi events, and help you find other truly artistic ways to draw customers to your establishment without degrading the wholeness of the female being.

We ask you to stand *with* us in opposing detrimental messages to our shared community that degrade the liberty and wholeness of women as anything other than intelligent, sentient, and beautiful human beings.

We look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Xian  
Executive Director

CC: Cherry Blossom Cabaret  
Encl: Letter from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations – Office of Community Services

***Signed:***

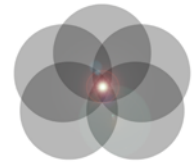
**Organizations (Partial List)**

Bluewater Mission  
Domestic Violence Action Center  
Feed the Hunger Foundation  
Girl Fest Hawaii  
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women  
Honua Consulting  
Imua Alliance  
Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery  
Pacific Gateway Center  
Tahirih Association

**Individuals (Partial List)**

*(Alphabetical by first name)*

Alicia Yang, Community Leader Against Domestic Violence  
Amy Monk, State Commissioner, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women  
Annie Kamiya, Founder, A+B Collaborations



Carmille Lim, State Commissioner, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women  
Cathy Betts, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women  
Cynthia Franklin, Professor, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Cynthia Iannce Spencer, Vice President of Survivor and Community Programs, Domestic  
Violence Action Center  
Grace Toki, President, Whispers of Love, Inc.  
Jack Reynolds  
Jo-Ann Adams, Esq.  
Joe Bloom, Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
Jordan Seng, Senior Pastor, Bluewater Mission; Chairman, Square One Ministry  
Dr. Kathy E. Ferguson, Professor of Political Science and Women Studies, University of  
Hawaii at Manoa  
Kris Coffield, Legislative Director, Imua Alliance  
Maria Tan, Director, Paradisevows, Peptea LLC  
Rev. Thomas Olcott  
Patti Chang, CEO, Feed the Hunger Foundation  
Paul Tran, Professor, Hawaii Pacific University School of Social Work  
Hon. Ret. Judge Sandra A. Simms  
Shaaroni Wong, High School Teacher  
Sharon Ferguson-Quick, Former Executive Director of the Hawaii State Commission on  
the Status of Women  
Shonna Hammon Glenn, Owner, Mico Mechanical Corporation  
Stephanie Fitzpatrick  
Tadia Rice  
Tin Myaing Thein, Executive Director, Pacific Gateway Center  
Trisha Kehaulani Watson, Founder, Honua Consulting  
Vivian Best, Founder, Give It Fresh Today



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December 2, 2011

Mr. Anthony Carll  
Rakuen Lounge  
1153 Bethel Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Your Nyotaimori "Naked Sushi" Events Beginning on December 16, 2011

Dear Mr. Carll:

The Hawaii State Office of Community Services has been tasked by the Hawaii State Legislature to be the focus State agency for services to disadvantaged persons, including but hardly limited to victims of human trafficking, including sexual trafficking and exploitative labor practices.

We understand that Rakuen Lounge plans to hold a Nyotaimori ("Naked Sushi") Event on December 16, 2011, and then to hold subsequent Naked Sushi events every third Friday afterward. This is the Twenty-First Century, and – as you must know – exploitation of women has been severely criticized by civilized governments and international organizations for decades. Regrettably, those efforts have not all been successful and victories over exploitation have often come at great cost and serious delay.

While you might state that Nyotaimori is "relatively harmless," because it does not involve physical injury and because – presumably – the women who are scheduled to participate in your events are "willing," the event is not harmless. Just one element of its harmful effects is that it lets people persist in viewing women as objects who may be freely exploited by men and businesses that cater to men. Nyotaimori conveys the inescapable message that such exploitation is not only allowable, but that it is actually praiseworthy.

In the book Japan for the Uninvited, author Jack Herbert describes Nyotaimori as follows:

Before becoming a living sushi platter, the person (usually a woman) is trained to lie down for hours without moving. She or he must also be able to withstand the

prolonged exposure to the cold food. Before service, the individual is supposed to have taken a bath using a special fragrance-free soap and then finished off with a splash of cold water to cool the body down somewhat for the sushi.


Thus, this practice is uncomfortable, if not actually painful, for the naked person, and indeed part of the process requires the person (usually a woman) to hide her pain.

For public health reasons, if for no other reasons, Nyotaimori has been banned in China and in some American cities.

We understand that a number of organizations and individuals plan to take various actions to protest your plans. While a State agency cannot engage in such actions, we do urge you to seriously reconsider your plan to hold this Naked Sushi event and future such events.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Very truly yours,

  
Mila Kaahanui, MSW  
Executive Director

# RAKUEN

1153 Bethel Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
(808) 524-0920  
[www.RaKuenLounge.com](http://www.RaKuenLounge.com)  
[www.Facebook.com/RaKuenLounge](http://www.Facebook.com/RaKuenLounge)

## NAKED SUSHI HAPPY HOUR EVERY 3rd FRIDAY

630-930pm starting December 16, 2011

\$10 Cover

Featuring:



Body Painting by  
Daniel Morris

Naked Sushi/Nyotaimori  
“Adorned body of woman”  
“Female body presentation”

nyo (女) – woman

tai (体) – body

mori (盛り) – serving, arrangement

Here at Rakuen, we have combined the art of sushi making, body painting and modeling into one seamless dining experience, creating a sensual experience to tantalize all of the senses.



### TY·KU

\$10 Cover = Chopsticks for eating sushi off of Naked Sushi models during Happy Hour (630-930pm)  
Ty-Ku Drink Specials all night long. Patrons may order other food during Happy Hour.