

Testimony of FORD N. FUCHIGAMI DIRECTOR

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## STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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April 16, 2015 2:45 p.m. State Capitol, Room 229

## H.C.R. 78

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INCLUDE IN THE 2017-2018 SUPPLEMENTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REQUEST IMPROVEMENTS TO CRUISE SHIP PASSENGER TERMINALS AT NAWILIWILI HARBOR IN KAUAI, HONOLULU HARBOR IN OAHU, KAHULUI HARBOR IN MAUI, AND HILO HARBOR IN HAWAII.

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** this resolution.

The DOT supports funding improvements to cruise ship passenger terminals at Nawiliwili Harbor in Kauai, Honolulu Harbor in Oahu, Kahului Harbor in Maui, and Hilo Harbor in Hawaii for inclusion into the 2017-2018 Supplemental Capital Improvement Program. DOT has experience with improving Honolulu Harbor's Pier 2 Passenger Terminal, with award winning designs that promote heritage tourism and original Hawaii artwork in collaboration with the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

H.C.R. 78 is consistent with the DOT's effort to support the Hawaii Tourism Authority with its funding of an existing position to create a uniform ship visitor experience at each port of call. The DOT is working in partnership the Hawaii Tourism Authority to enhance the passenger experience and tourism brand.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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April 16, 2015 2:45 PM

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Transportation in SUPPORT of HCR78** 

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on <u>HCR78</u>, "REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INCLUDE IN THE 2017-2018 SUPPLEMENTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REQUEST IMPROVEMENTS TO CRUISE SHIP PASSENGER TERMINALS AT NAWILIWILI HARBOR IN KAUAI, HONOLULU HARBOR IN OAHU, KAHUUI HARBOR IN MAUI, AND HILO HARBOR IN HAWAII."

I am Charles Toguchi, Hawaii Representative of CLIA-NW&C, a trade association of eleven major cruise lines operating in Hawaii, the Pacific Northwest, Canada and Alaska. Our member lines include the following companies: Carnival Cruise Line, Celebrity Cruise Line, Crystal Cruises, Disney Cruise Line, Holland America Line, Norwegian Cruise Line (incl. NCL-America), Oceania Cruises, Princess Cruises, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, and Silversea Cruises.

Our member lines bring approximately 250,000 cruise visitors to Hawaii every year, support thousands of local jobs, and contribute an estimated \$430,000,000 annually to the state's economy. Although Hawaii is a choice cruise destination, we are always in competition with other similar locations that offer tours that are highly competitive, both in price and visitor accommodations.

We are here today to support HCR78, which recognizes how the remodeling of the interior of the Pier 2 terminal and the related design of an efficient traffic flow for tour buses and taxi operations, improved and enhanced the cruise passenger experience in Honolulu Harbor. The commission of permanent exhibits and large scale original artwork by Hawaii artists further added a positive light to the visitor's embark and disembark experience. We commend our elected officials and the State DOT Harbors Division for creating an award winning environment at Pier 2.

We support the request of HCR78 that the type of improvements implemented at Pier 2 in Honolulu Harbor be considered at cruise ship passenger terminals at Nawiliwili Harbor in Kauai, Kahului Harbor in Maui, and Hilo Harbor in Hawaii. We also support and encourage the installation of art and award winning designs that promote heritage tourism and original artwork of our host culture, as proposed in HCR85. Our local artists could be commissioned to work with our school age children to create works of art in and around our cruise terminals statewide.

As the trade association of all the major cruise lines serving Hawaii, we stand ready to work with the Governor, DOT, and other related State agencies to make Hawaii a premier cruise destination.

Finally, we would like to suggest the following amendments to HCR78:

One, the number of <u>cruise passengers should be approximately 250,000 per year</u> for all the fiscal years mentioned in the resolutions. The passenger numbers used in the resolution refer to passenger-port calls, and <u>Two</u>, please also send certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution to the <u>President of Cruise Lines International Association – North West & Canada (CLIA-</u>

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony before your committee.

Regards,

Charlie Toguchi Hawaii Representative CLIA-NW&C

NWC), and to NCL America.