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David Y. Ige
Governor

George D. Szigeti
President and Chief Executive Officer

LATE

Statement of
George D. Szigeti
Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
on
HB2458
Relating to Tourism
House Committee on Tourism
Tuesday, February 6, 2018
8:30am
Conference Room 429

Chair Onishi, Vice-Chair Fukumoto, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) offers the following **testimony in support of HB2458**, which proposes to allocate additional funds to allow HTA to work closely with the counties in preparing and updating County Visitor Industry Strategic Plans.

As the bill notes, HTA worked with the counties to prepare county-specific strategic plans. HTA agrees that these plans should be updated and that effective and collaborative planning is necessary at the State and county levels to address the concerns of residents and the visitor industry in each county, capitalize on opportunities and maintain a healthy and sustainable visitor industry. The efforts proposed in this bill will help the counties identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and impacts of the visitor industry on a local level and assist HTA in ensuring that the visitor industry's impacts on our communities are being addressed by the appropriate State or county agencies. The appropriation of funds in the bill will enable our team to conduct research and coordinate with our stakeholders throughout the State.

HTA suggests the correction of two minor matters. First, HTA believes that the sub-account under the Tourism Special Fund (TSF) in Section 4 of HB2458 conflicts with the earmark of TSF funds in Section 5. Additional funds allocated to the TSF for updating and implementing each County Visitor Industry Strategic Plan should be either earmarked from the overall TSF, such as in Section 5, or transferred to a sub-account, but not both. Second, paragraph 1 on Page 2 of the bill provides: "Requiring [HTA] to annually update the state tourism strategic plan every five years;" The word "annually" should be deleted.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

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Date & Time
Feb 05, 2018, 10:12 am

HB-2458

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 4:32:49 PM

Testimony for TOU on 2/6/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments: