



Hawai'i Convention Center  
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**David Y. Ige**  
*Governor*

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*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Statement of  
**JOHN DE FRIES**

Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Tues., March 23, 2021  
10:15 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312  
via videoconference

In consideration of  
**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44**  
**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 35**

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Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the Committee on Economic Development: the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) supports HCR 44/HR35, which urges United States President Joe Biden and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to hold the 2023 APEC summit in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

This conference, which brings together the heads of state from 21 countries in the Asia-Pacific region thousands of foreign diplomats, and support staff and media members from around the world, would give Hawai'i's visitor industry a much-needed boost as our state recovers from the devastating economic impacts of COVID-19.

Having successfully hosted APEC in 2011 and the World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2016, Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Convention Center established their ability to host large international meetings and conventions. Each of which brought the positive economic impacts and the lasting brand awareness that events of this magnitude bring. Hosting summits of this size and importance helped to spread the message that Hawai'i is not only a vacation spot, but it is also a world-class meeting and convention destination capable of hosting events of this caliber.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HCR44 / HR35.