

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1245

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 09 2009

RE: H.B. No. 1763
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which was referred H.B. No. 1763, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to replace the Hawaii Tourism Authority with a newly established Department of Tourism.

Specifically, this measure:

- (1) Establishes the new Department of Tourism;
- (2) Transfers all of the functions of the Hawaii Tourism Authority to the Department of Tourism;
- (3) Transfers the tourism functions of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to the Department of Tourism and renames the former agency the "Department of Business and Economic Development";
- (4) Transfers the moneys in the convention center enterprise fund, tourism emergency trust fund, and tourism special fund into corresponding funds administered by the Department of Tourism; and
- (5) Repeals the Hawaii Tourism Authority.



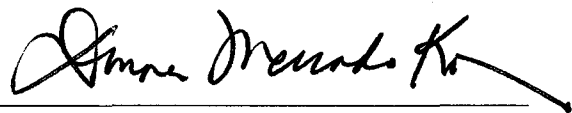
Your Committee received five written comments on this measure. Written comments may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee finds that tourism is the primary economic engine that drives the State's economy. The influx of tourism related moneys that flow into the State not only sustains the industry, but also supports a significant percentage of all employment in Hawaii. However, the role of tourism in state government has been less than focused and, on occasion -- neglected, by the two state agencies charged with its administration. The inability of this bifurcated relationship to provide the necessary leadership to manage the State's greatest fiscal asset has resulted in lamentable outcomes that have threatened the very core of the tourism industry.

To rectify this problem, this measure proposes to establish tourism as a separate administrative department that is equal to all other state departments. A state cabinet level designation will provide tourism the recognition it requires to command the authority needed to effectively sustain and maintain a healthy tourism industry.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Ways and Means that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1763, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Ways and Means,

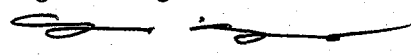


DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fifth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Ways and Means
WAM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 1763 HD2 SD1	TSM WAM	APRIL 3 2009		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	/			
TSUTSUI, Shan S. (VC)	/			
CHUN OAKLAND, Suzanne	/			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani				/
FUKUNAGA, Carol	/			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood	/			
HEE, Clayton	/			
HOOSER, Gary L.	/			
KIDANI, Michelle N.	/			
KOKUBUN, Russell S.	/			
TOKUDA, Jill N.	/			
HEMMINGS, Fred				/
TOTAL	10			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes