

MAR 06 2012

---

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO TRANSFER THE FUNCTIONS OF THE HAWAII  
TOURISM AUTHORITY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM, ELIMINATE DISTRIBUTION OF  
TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX REVENUE TO THE COUNTIES, AND  
AUTHORIZE EACH COUNTY TO ASSESS A COUNTY TOURISM TAX  
SURCHARGE.

1           WHEREAS, Act 156, Session Laws of Hawaii 1998, established  
2 the Hawaii Tourism Authority as a public instrumentality of the  
3 State and placed the agency within the Department of Business,  
4 Economic Development, and Tourism for administrative purposes  
5 only; and  
6

7           WHEREAS, as the Hawaii economy struggles to regain losses  
8 sustained during the global economic downturn, greater  
9 efficiencies and focused expenditures would be achieved if the  
10 functions of the Hawaii Tourism Authority were once again  
11 provided by the Department of Business, Economic Development,  
12 and Tourism, as they were prior to Act 156 (1998); and  
13

14           WHEREAS, prior to the establishment of the Hawaii Tourism  
15 Authority, the Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
16 Tourism was successful in emphasizing "tourism" in the agency's  
17 name to reflect the priority the State placed on the industry;  
18 and  
19

20           WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,  
21 and Tourism was effective in meeting the challenges during  
22 previous difficult international economic periods and economic  
23 recessions, and demonstrated the ability to respond quickly to  
24 problems, the flexibility to create programs that addressed the  
25 needs of the industry and market, and the support of the  
26 administration and Legislature; and  
27

28           WHEREAS, the counties have also demonstrated the ability to  
29 respond to challenging times, direct tourism-related marketing



1 campaigns, and initiate projects and activities specific to  
2 their respective needs and goals; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, although Act 195, Session Laws of Hawaii 1990,  
5 established provisions to distribute a share of the transient  
6 accommodations tax to the counties, this body finds that in lieu  
7 of the distribution, counties should be authorized to assess a  
8 tourism tax surcharge to become more fiscally self-sufficient to  
9 meet their needs; now, therefore,

10  
11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the  
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Governor is urged  
14 to transfer the functions of the Hawaii Tourism Authority to the  
15 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and

16  
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is also urged to  
18 eliminate distribution of transient accommodations tax revenue  
19 to the counties and authorize each county to assess a county  
20 tourism tax surcharge; and

21  
22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to  
23 report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
24 convening of the Regular Session of 2013, on:

- 25  
26 (1) The status of the transfer of the Hawaii Tourism  
27 Authority to the Department of Business, Economic  
28 Development, and Tourism;  
29  
30 (2) The status of the elimination of the distribution of  
31 transient accommodations tax revenue to the counties  
32 and the authorization for each county to assess a  
33 county tourism tax surcharge; and  
34  
35 (3) Any recommendations for legislation necessary to  
36 accomplish paragraphs (1) and (2); and  
37  
38



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director  
3 of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Executive  
4 Director of Hawaii Tourism Authority, and the Mayors of the  
5 Counties of Hawaii, Honolulu, Kauai, and Maui.  
6  
7  
8

OFFERED BY: *Makana*  
*Daniel DeLoz*

