

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 22 2015

RE: H.C.R. No. 59
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Tourism and International Affairs, to which was referred H.C.R. No. 59, H.D. 1, entitled:

"HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY TO COORDINATE WITH THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY TO CREATE A MORE WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHINESE VISITORS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to urge the Hawaii Tourism Authority to coordinate with trade organizations, including the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association, Hawaii Restaurant Association, Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau, Hawaii Transportation Association, and others in the hospitality industry to create a more welcoming environment for Chinese visitors.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Tourism Authority and one individual.

Your Committee finds that it is important for the State to diversify its visitor markets to offset weakness in one market by strength in another. Your Committee further finds that China is not the only market with increased visitor rates and that Other Asia tourism markets include China as well as Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. The ability for these international visitors to communicate with hospitality industry employees during their visit to Hawaii is key in ensuring their initial visit is a welcoming experience. Your Committee therefore finds that it is



necessary to allow the hospitality industry to employ persons with cultural and communication skills that will enable the employees to interact with international visitors in order to promote and encourage tourism from Other Asia tourism markets and elsewhere.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Amending various findings to reflect a broader emphasis on international visitors, rather than only on visitors from China and other Asian countries;
- (2) Inserting provisions referencing the Corporation for Travel Promotion and H-1B visa law, including the need for an amendment to the definition of "specialized occupation";
- (3) Amending its title and purpose to urge the Hawaii Tourism Authority to coordinate with the hospitality industry, Corporation for Travel Promotion, and Hawaii's congressional delegation to amend the H-1B visa law to allow for employment of persons with cultural and language skills that will help create a more welcoming environment for international visitors;
- (4) Clarifying language to request Hawaii's congressional delegation to seek amendments to the H-1B non-immigrant visa law to amend the definition of "specialized occupation" to include foreign workers who have a high degree of specialized knowledge of reading, writing, and speaking at an honorific level to international visitors; and
- (5) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Tourism and International Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.C.R. No. 59, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, in the form attached hereto as H.C.R. No. 59, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Tourism and
International Affairs,



GILBERT KAHELE, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Tourism and International Affairs
TSI

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>HCR 59, HD1</i>	Committee Referral: <i>TSI, WAM</i>	Date: <i>4/20/15</i>		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KAHELE, Gilbert (C)	✓			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani (VC)				✓
TANIGUCHI, Brian T.	✓			
TOKUDA, Jill N.				✓
SLOM, Sam	✓			
TOTAL	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes