

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
TOURISM

Wednesday, March 25, 2015
10:45 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 162/HOUSE RESOLUTION 99
REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO EXAMINE IF AND
HOW OTHER STATES REGULATE TOUR OPERATORS WITHIN THEIR
JURISDICTION

House Concurrent Resolution 162/House Resolution 99 requests the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) to examine if and how other states regulate tour operators within their jurisdictions. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these measures and offers comments.**

The LRB examination of how other states regulate commercial tour operators comes at an opportune time for the Department. There continues to be an increase of unauthorized activity on both managed and closed areas. The recent legal issues associated with “lava tours” on Hawaii Island are a good example. The proliferation of kayak rentals and tours creating local community impact is another good example. Across the Hawaii chain, there is a proliferation of both land and water related tours due to our reliance on tourism and the visitor trends relating to continued interest in a unique outdoor experience. This appetite has been stimulated by the proliferation of social media where visitors are continually posting images of new and oftentimes remote locations. The tour industry has recognized that there is a growing niche market servicing this interest.

The Department would be very interested to learn of how other states have responded to both managing and regulating this type of tourism to see if there are applicable, successful and affordable models in place to apply to land and water under the jurisdiction of the Department.

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi
Acting Director

Research (808) 587-0666
Revisor (808) 587-0670
Fax (808) 587-0681



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
State of Hawaii
State Capitol, Room 446
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Testimony

HCR162

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO EXAMINE IF AND HOW OTHER STATES REGULATE TOUR OPERATORS WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION

Testimony by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director

Presented to the House Committee on Tourism

Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 10:45 a.m.
Conference Room 312

Chair Brower and Members of the Committee:

Good morning Chair Brower and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on H.C.R. No. 162, Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to Examine If and How Other States Regulate Tour Operators Within Their Jurisdiction.

The purpose of this measure is to request that the Bureau:

- (1) Examine if and how other states regulate tour operators within their jurisdiction;
- (2) Include in the examination, a review of the laws, policies, and procedures adopted by other states to regulate tour operators, if any; and
- (3) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016.

The Bureau takes no position on this measure, but believes that the services requested of the Bureau under this measure, as currently drafted, are manageable and that the Bureau will be able to provide the services in the time allotted; provided that the Bureau's interim workload is not adversely impacted by too many other studies or additional responsibilities, such as conducting, writing, or finalizing other reports, drafting legislation, or

Honorable Tom Brower
House Committee on Tourism
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both, for other state agencies, task forces, or working groups that may be requested or required under other legislative measures.

Thank you again for your consideration.

brower1-Luke

From: Eliza Logan <elizaklogan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 9:07 AM
To: TOUtestimony
Subject: Reducing Emissions for Tourism Activities



Aloha Hawaii Tourism Board,

Mahalo for all the service you do for our beloved islands and mahalo again for contributing your expertise to making Hawaii a world class travel destination.

I am in support of Bill HCR 162 and I further support the act to fine those that are in violation. It is very important to protect Hawaii ecosystems healthy in order to keep the visitors coming. In that regard I wish to comment on the further need to help Hawaii reach a point of sustainability not only for residents, but for the visitors as well. I am so happy that Hawaii is pushing to use 100% sustainable energy sources but I also feel that Hawaii could also pass more regulations on the types of vehicles that residents and visitors drive. I feel that it is important to minimize vehicle emissions in Hawaii through tougher emission standards and continued incentives to drive zero emission cars in Honolulu. I also feel that there should be policy or incentives put in place for rental car companies to offer only hybridized vehicles to visitors in order to favor less emissions and less crude oil consumption. By doing this we will show both visitors residents that we love and respect the limited resources that we have in Hawaii and in turn they will feel how special this place is. I also feel that this will contribute to human health because it will help improve the air quality for visitors besides the occasional vog.

I again affirm my support for Bill HCR 162 and keeping Hawaii green and say mahalo for your service.

Aloha pumehana,

Eliza Logan
Concerned citizen