## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM, THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY, AND THE HAWAII VISITORS AND CONVENTION BUREAU TO CONDUCT ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF VISITORS FROM TAIWAN.

WHEREAS, in 2006, 593,000 visitors from Taiwan arrived in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan travelers to the United States represented only 6.8 per cent of the total outbound travelers from Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, the United State's 6.8 per cent share of all outbound Taiwan travelers was less than the United State's 10.0 per cent share of outbound Taiwan travelers in previous years; and

WHEREAS, the number of Taiwanese visitors to Hawaii in 2006 was not a significant percentage of all visitors, approximately 15,450 visitors; and

WHEREAS, data indicates that the Taiwan market may be a potential source of new visitors to Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, diversification of the tourism markets from which Hawaii draws visitors is a logical and important public policy goal necessary to provide some protection for the State's economy; and

WHEREAS, activities should be undertaken by the State and tourism industry to promote Hawaii as a destination for visitors from Taiwan; activities to promote travel from Taiwan to Hawaii would be especially appropriate since the peoples of Taiwan and Hawaii have much in common; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, that the Department of Business, Economic

5

Development, and Tourism, the Hawaii Tourism Authority, and the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau are requested to undertake activities to increase the number of visitors from Taiwan who travel to the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to work with the appropriate United States government agencies to ease the travel requirements for visitors from Taiwan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the Hawaii Tourism Authority, and the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau are requested to coordinate their efforts to increase the number of visitors from Taiwan to the maximum extent possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the Chairperson of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, the President of the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau, and the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

OFFERED BY:

HR LRB 07-3388.doc