

STARWOOD

VACATION OWNERSHIP

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March 18, 2008

To: Hon. Russell Kokubun, Chair
Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection & Affordable Housing Committee

Hon. Brian Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee

Fr: Thorp Thomas, Senior Vice President for Starwood Vacation Ownership

Re: **HB 2302 HD2 - Relating to Real Property (SUPPORT)**
Senate Committees on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Affordable Housing
and Judiciary & Labor
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 229, 9:30 a.m.

Aloha Chairs Kokubun and Taniguchi and members of the Committees:

My name is Thorp Thomas, Senior Vice President for Starwood Vacation Ownership ("SVO"). I am testifying on behalf of SVO in support of HB 2302 HD2, Relating to Real Property.

This bill proposes to allow the registrars of the Bureau of Conveyances to accept electronically filed documents with electronic signatures for recording. It also requires the Judiciary to study what effect electronic recording may have on the adjudication of Land Court applications, determine permissible uses for electronic recording, and report its findings to the Legislature prior to 2009 regular session.

SVO supports efforts to automate the conveyance system in Hawaii to accommodate timeshare and to make more user-friendly for all customers in general. There are a large number of timeshare transactions that occur each year, which bring significant economic benefits to Hawaii.

Timeshare projects with their high and consistent rates of occupancy and customer satisfaction should not be discouraged, but seen as a vital part of Hawai'i's tourism industry. In addition to providing traditional resort operations jobs similar to hotel projects, timeshare projects add high skilled and high compensated sales and marketing jobs. As such, timeshare projects represent a valuable and diverse component of Hawai'i's important tourism market.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your favorable support of HB 2302 HD2 in its present form.

As always, I thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this matter.