

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1012

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 27 2009

RE: H.B. No. 1763
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Tourism, to which was referred H.B.
No. 1763, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to replace the Hawaii Tourism
Authority with a new Department of Tourism.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Mayor of Honolulu. Testimony in opposition was received
from the Department of Budget and Finance; Hawai'i Tourism
Authority; State Tourism Liaison; Hawai'i Hotel & Lodging
Association; Outrigger Hotels; The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii;
Grand Hyatt Kaua'i Resort & Spa; Maui Hotel & Lodging Association;
Destination Resorts Hawaii; and Hilton Hawaii. Written testimony
presented to the Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's
website.

Under this measure, the Department of Tourism would have
general charge, oversight, and care of tourism and related
activities in the State. The objective of the Department is to
promote activities that support, maintain, and expand the State's
domestic and international travel market, endeavoring to generate
increased visitor expenditures, tax revenue, and employment.

Your Committee finds that the Hawaii tourism industry merits
the status of an executive department, to reflect the priority the

2009-1923 SSCR SMA.doc



State places on tourism as an economic engine. A Department of Tourism would be able to maneuver through difficult times such as the current recession and past economic downturns by its ability to react quickly to problems and its flexibility to create programs that address the needs of the industry and the market.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to continue the discussions on this matter; and
- (2) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purpose of clarity.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Tourism that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1763, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1763, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Tourism,

Clarence K. Nishihara

CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair



The Senate
Twenty-Fifth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Tourism
TSM

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
HB 1763, HD2	TSM, WAM	3/27/09

The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
NISHIHARA, Clarence K. (C)	✓			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood (VC)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N.				✓
TSUTSUI, Shan S.	✓			
SLOM, Sam			✓	
TOTAL	3		1	1

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: 

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*Only one measure per Record of Votes