

**LATE**

**HB 1744**

# HAWAII COUNCIL OF MAYORS

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Testimony of the

## Hawaii Council of Mayors

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., Mayor of Kauai

Mufi Hannemann, Mayor of Honolulu

Billy Kenoi, Mayor of Hawaii

Charmaine Tavares, Mayor of Maui

Decision-making of the  
**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

April 6, 2009

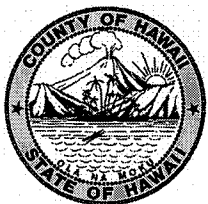
## House Bill 1744, H.D. 1, Relating to Transient Accommodations Tax

The Hawaii Council of Mayors strongly opposes House Bill 1744, H.D. 1, which proposes a six-year suspension of transient accommodations tax revenue-sharing with the county governments.

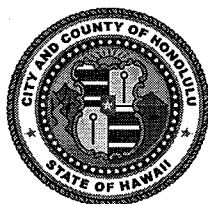
The hotel room tax is a significant source of revenue for all the county governments. The counties provide the critical security, transportation, water and sewer infrastructure, parks maintenance, and other services that support the visitor industry—and this revenue-sharing was established in recognition of the importance of the counties to the prosperity of Hawaii's leading industry, and to replace the grant-in-aid program that had preceded it for many years.

We recognize the Legislature's fiscal challenges, which mirror those faced by the counties. However, the suspension of this revenue source could have a deleterious effect on the counties' ability to provide those very services that sustain our travel industry and the quality of life of residents and visitors alike. For these reasons, among others, we oppose House Bill 1744, H.D. 1.

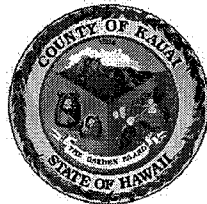
Mahalo.



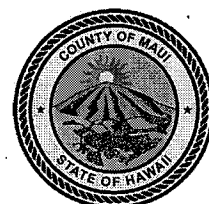
**Mayor Billy Kenoi**  
County of Hawaii  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720



**Mayor Mufi Hannemann**  
City and County of Honolulu  
530 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



**Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr.**  
County of Kauai  
444 Rice Street  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766



**Mayor Charmaine Tavares**  
County of Maui  
200 South High Street, 9th Floor  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

**LATE**

**kim4 - Elizabeth**

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**From:** Sherman Warner [shermw@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 06, 2009 5:38 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Subject:** HB1744 Testimony

**Importance:** High

**Dear Senate Ways and Means Committee**

**Re: HB1744**

**Hearing date 4/6/09 9:30 a.m.:**

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB1744 which suspends distributions to the County from the Transient Accommodations Tax for 6 years. When this tax was initiated, 95% of the revenue was promised to counties to deal with infrastructure and public facilities shortfalls in connection with tourism. Hawaii County currently receives 18% of this tax, but if Hawaii County loses these funds it will drastically compound the budget crisis on the Big Island. Critical needs in infrastructure spending, as well as programs necessary for community needs for safety, social and environmental well being, will be slashed. Fundamental services will be threatened leaving our County Council with few options other than slashing fundamental services and raising taxes. I understand that we are in a deep financial crisis, but passing HB1744 will unfairly worsen that situation in Hawaii County and the other outer islands. Please vote against HB1744.

Mahalo,  
Sherm Warner  
P.O. Box 1185  
Kamuela, HI 96743



**kim4 - Elizabeth**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 06, 2009 7:49 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** fredskonfianza@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1744 on 4/6/2009 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2009 9:30:00 AM HB1744

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: fred skonfianza  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone: 808-283-5303  
E-mail: [fredskonfianza@yahoo.com](mailto:fredskonfianza@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 4/6/2009

**Comments:**

Maui County brings in a significant amount of TAT money. A significant amount should stay on Maui for its contribution. Taking all of the TAT money away from the counties that bring in TAT \$ is just another form of Taxation without representation. Nothing good can come from taking and not giving back.

# LATE

kim2 - Arline

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 06, 2009 10:53 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** fhmlah@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1744 on 4/6/2009 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2009 9:30:00 AM HB1744

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Fran Mitsumura  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 910 Honoapiilani Hwy #2 Lahaina, HI  
Phone: 808-661-8886  
E-mail: [fhmlah@aol.com](mailto:fhmlah@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 4/6/2009

**Comments:**

Please don't cripple Maui by taking the TAT, we are struggling as it is and keep very little coming back compared to what we put in.

**LATE**

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 06, 2009 9:28 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** allan@crhmaui.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1744 on 4/6/2009 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2009 9:30:00 AM HB1744

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Allan Raikes  
Organization: Condominium Rentals Hawaii  
Address: 362 Huku Lii Pl #204 Kihei, HI  
Phone: 808-874-6332  
E-mail: [allan@crhmaui.com](mailto:allan@crhmaui.com)  
Submitted on: 4/6/2009

**Comments:**

I strongly oppose this bill. These funds are earned in the counties and need to stay with the counties!

**LATE**

**kim4 - Elizabeth**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 06, 2009 9:02 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** joseph.pontanilla@mauicounty.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1744 on 4/6/2009 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2009 9:30:00 AM HB1744

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: comments only  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Joseph Pontanilla  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 200 S. High Street Wailuku, HI 96793  
Phone: 8082705501  
E-mail: [joseph.pontanilla@mauicounty.us](mailto:joseph.pontanilla@mauicounty.us)  
Submitted on: 4/6/2009

**Comments:**

I remain in opposition of HB1744,HD1 which will result in a 6 year suspending of TAT Tax Revenues to the counties. The counties have relied upon the TAT revenues, since the 1990 Legislature first afforded the counties a portion to address tourism-related county expenditures, as a consistent and reliable source of revenue.

Each year the County of Maui anticipates TAT revenue to properly support services utilized by both residents and visitors. To eliminate the TAT altogether will leave the county in a dismal position. With such little notice to not receive this revenue source, the counties will be forced to compromise vital services to the community as well as contributing efforts to assist funding and partnering in programs that are primarily a responsibility of the State. Thank you for consideration to oppose forwarding of this legislation.

**kim4 - Elizabeth**

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 06, 2009 11:10 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** melissa@pacific-exposure.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1744 on 4/6/2009 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2009 9:30:00 AM HB1744

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Melissa Meeker  
Organization: Individual  
Address: PO Box 10382 Lahaina, HI  
Phone:  
E-mail: [melissa@pacific-exposure.com](mailto:melissa@pacific-exposure.com)  
Submitted on: 4/6/2009

Comments:



**LATE**

**kim2 - Arline**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 06, 2009 12:13 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** OlowaluVillageRealty@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1744 on 4/6/2009 9:30:00 AM  
**Attachments:** We need these funds to remain on Maui.doc

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2009 9:30:00 AM HB1744

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Juanita Charkas  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [OlowaluVillageRealty@yahoo.com](mailto:OlowaluVillageRealty@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 4/6/2009

Comments:

# LATE

kim2 - Arline

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 06, 2009 11:50 AM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** cbmaui@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1744 on 4/6/2009 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 4/6/2009 9:30:00 AM HB1744

Conference room: 211  
Testifier position: oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Courtney Brown  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [cbmaui@aol.com](mailto:cbmaui@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 4/6/2009

**Comments:**

As a Maui County resident, I oppose a bill that would not disburse the transient accomodations tax to our county.