



**HAWAII HOTEL & LODGING
ASSOCIATION**

2270 Kalakaua Ave., Suite 1506
Honolulu, HI 96815
Phone: (808) 923-0407
Fax: (808) 924-3843
E-Mail: hha@hawaiihotels.org
Website: www.hawaiihotels.org



31st Anniversary
Are You Walking???
May 16, 2009
(Always the 3rd Saturday in May)
www.charitywalkhawaii.org

**TESTIMONY OF MURRAY TOWILL
PRESIDENT
HAWAII HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION
February 2, 2009
RE: HB 960 Relating to the Hawaii Tourism Authority**

Good morning Chair Manahan and members of the House Committee on Tourism, Culture & International Affairs. I am Murray Towill, President of the Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association.

The Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association is a statewide association of hotels, condominiums, timeshare companies, management firms, suppliers, and other related firms and individuals. Our membership includes over 170 hotels representing over 47,300 rooms. Our hotel members range from the 2,523 rooms of the Hilton Hawaiian Village to the 4 rooms of the Bougainvillea Bed & Breakfast on the Big Island.

The Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association strongly supports HB 960 Relating to the Hawaii Tourism Authority. This bill would clarify that the Tourism Emergency Trust Fund could be utilized for an economic disaster as well as a natural or terrorist created disaster as indicated in the current statute. Our experiences over the last year clearly indicate the value of this step.

The US and Hawaii are currently facing the most severe economic times since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Unfortunately, the current law does not appear to allow the HTA to access the \$5 million in this Fund. Some of the funds could greatly aid Hawaii's effort to attract visitors and keep our people working.

We urge you to support this bill. Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

000018

UNITE HERE!

LOCAL 5 HAWAII

Eric Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Hernando Ramos Tan, President

Godfrey Maeshiro, Senior Vice-President

Saturday, January 31, 2009

Representative Joey Manahan, Chair
Representative James K. Tokioka, Vice Chair
House Committee on Tourism, Culture, and International Affairs

Testimony regarding HB 960; *relating to Hawaii Tourism Authority; Tourism Emergency*

Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka, members of the House Committee on Tourism, Culture, and International Affairs, I submit this testimony on behalf of UNITE HERE! Local 5 – a local labor organization representing more than 11,000 hotel and health care workers throughout our State.

House Bill 960 seeks to broaden the definition of “tourism emergency” and would provide for plans and programs to address them. While we recognize the intent of this legislation, UNITE HERE! Local 5 can not in good faith support HB 960 in its current state and stands in opposition to the Bill.

As it stands, HB 960 would eliminate sections originally included in the Statute protecting our State’s workforce employed in tourism-related industries.

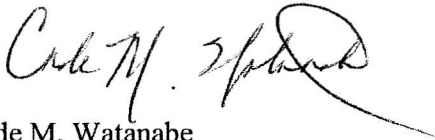
We humbly suggest and ask that lines 8 through 11 on Page 3 of HB 960 be re-inserted, so as to read:

Subsection (b):

“The authority shall develop plans and programs to respond to tourism emergencies; provided that any tourism emergency response measure implemented pursuant to this subsection shall not include any plans or programs that would adversely affect the organized labor force in tourism-related industries.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,



Cade M. Watanabe
Community/Political Organizer