



TOURISM LIAISON

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LATE TESTIMONY

Statement of
MARSHA WIENERT
Tourism Liaison

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Monday, February 2, 2009
8:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
HB 755
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY.

Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the House Committee on Tourism, Culture and International Affairs.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism understands the intent of HB 755, however, must continue to express the concerns of the administration conveyed to the Legislature in 2006 regarding Act 306.

HB 755 repeals the sunset of provisions that allow the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) to continue to: 1) hire its own attorneys; 2) exempt its accounts from comptroller's supervision; 3) use its own business and accounting forms; 4) use 5% of the tourism special fund for administration and appoint a sports coordinator; and 5) require the HTA to provide income and expenditure data to the comptroller.

This bill allows the HTA to continue to operate outside the safeguards of State law and the exemption from the accounting and auditing provisions of Section 40, Hawaii Revised Statutes, allows the HTA to spend money without regard to transparency, controls, and

000010

accountability for funds managed by the State Comptroller. The concerns raised previously regarding this Act continue to be valid and should be taken into consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 755.

LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
25th LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION of 2009

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Representative Joey Manahan, Chair

2/02/09
8:30 AM – Room 312

HB 755
Relating to Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA)

Chair Manahan and members of this Committee, my name is Max Sword, here on behalf of Outrigger Hotels, to support this bill.

This bill proposes to remove the sunset provisions for some of the administrative powers of the HTA.

We urge that you pass out this bill and mahalo for allowing me to testify.

000021