



# Hawai'i Tourism Authority

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LINDA LINGLE  
Governor

LLOYD I. UNEBASAMI  
Interim President and  
Chief Executive Officer

Testimony of  
**Lloyd Unebasami**  
Interim President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
on  
**H.B. 755**  
**Relating to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority**

House Committee on Tourism, Culture & International Affairs  
Monday, February 2, 2009  
8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 312

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) strongly supports H.B. 755 which repeals the provision in Act 58, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004, as amended by Act 306, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, repealing Part I of the Act on June 30, 2010.

These provisions include the following:

- HTA's exemption from the supervision of accounts facilitates the HTA's deposit of special funds in interest-bearing accounts and its ability to make payments from those accounts;
- The increase in the amount of the Tourism Special Fund that can be used by the HTA for administrative expenses from 3.5 percent to 5 percent.
- The provision that the interest and revenues derived by the HTA from any project be deposited into the Tourism Special Fund.
- The HTA's authority to retain attorneys independent of the Attorney General in those cases of contract negotiations where the AG lacks sufficient expertise, and to appoint a sports coordinator.

These provisions have allowed HTA to execute its financial transactions more effectively, to execute its contracts on a timely basis, improve its operational efficiency and overall, be more responsive to its stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.