
HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE VISA IMPROVEMENTS TO STIMULATE INTERNATIONAL
TOURISM TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACT.

1 WHEREAS, tourism is a vital part of Hawaii's economy; and

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3 WHEREAS, the Pacific region is a vast market for new
4 visitors; and

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6 WHEREAS, in 2010 more than fifty-four million Chinese
7 citizens traveled abroad; and

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9 WHEREAS, in that same year, only eight hundred thousand
10 Chinese visitors traveled to the United States and of those,
11 only sixty-two thousand Chinese visitors traveled to Hawaii; and

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13 WHEREAS, reforming the travelers visa process is a cost-
14 effective way to make it easier for more international business
15 and tourists to visit Hawaii and the United States; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Visa Improvements to Stimulate International
18 Tourism to the United States of America Act (VISIT USA Act)
19 would establish a five year multiple entry visa for Chinese
20 visitors, extend the time Canadian retirees can stay in the
21 United States, and make other amendments in the visa process
22 that would increase tourism in the United States; and

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24 WHEREAS, the average visitor from China staying in Hawaii
25 spends approximately \$350 a day, the growth in visitors
26 stimulated by the VISIT USA Act could yield an estimated
27 \$573,000,000 for the State; and

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29 WHEREAS, the proposed improvements in the VISIT USA Act
30 would help make visiting Hawaii more convenient for many
31 international visitors, thus providing a significant boost to
32 Hawaii's economy through increased commerce and job growth; now,
33 therefore,

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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 3 of 2012, that this body supports the Visa Improvements to
 4 Stimulate International Tourism to the United States of America
 5 Act; and

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 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 8 Resolution be transmitted to the Majority Leader of the United
 9 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
 10 Representatives, the members of Hawaii's Congressional
 11 Delegation, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of
 12 the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the
 13 Governor.

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OFFERED BY:

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