



Hawai'i Tourism Authority

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor

MIKE MCCARTNEY
President and
Chief Executive Officer

Testimony of
Mike McCartney
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
on
H.B. 2183
Relating to the Convention Center

House Committee on Tourism
Monday, February 13, 2012
11:00 a.m.
Conference Room 312

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) opposes H.B. 2183, which establishes the Convention Center District, and designated the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) as the district's redevelopment authority to develop uses and activities that promote and encourage the use of the Convention Center.

In 2002, the Convention Center Authority was repealed, and the responsibility for the Hawai'i Convention Center assigned to the HTA, including, "[acquisition] by purchase, lease, or otherwise, and develop, construct, operate, own, manage, repair, reconstruct, enlarge, or otherwise effectuate, either directly or through developers, a convention center facility."

H.B. 2183 establishes a Convention Center District, and directs the HTA to develop uses and activities that promote and encourage the use of the convention center. HTA, however, was not established or empowered as a development authority, but rather the lead entity with a "permanent, strong focus on marketing and promotion" of Hawai'i as a visitor destination.

The provisions of H.B. 2182, could better be carried out more effectively by designating a community development district under the Hawai'i Community Development District (HCDA), with representation from the HTA and visitor industry on a district board to provide input in the development in the district of uses and activities that will promote and encourage the use of the Convention Center. The HCDA has the staffing with the development expertise and its law empowers them to acquire property, condemn property, development district-wide improvement programs, enter into construction contracts, and other powers necessary for the development within a district.

Further, the 17.3 per cent allocation of transient accommodations tax revenues to the Fund, capped at \$33,000,000, will not leave sufficient funds to carry-out the intent of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Testimony for TOU/WLO 2/13/2012 11:00:00 AM HB2183

Conference room: 312

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

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Submitted on: 2/8/2012

Comments: