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Testimony of
Mike McCartney
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
on
H.R. 25/H.C.R 46
**Requesting the Congress of the United States to Support and Include
the Philippines in the Visa Improvements to Stimulate International
Tourism to the United States of America Act**

House Committee on International Affairs
House Committee on Tourism
Monday, March 19, 2012
9:45 a.m.
Conference Room 312

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) supports H.R. 98 and H.C.R. 46, expresses legislative support for including the Philippines in the Visa Improvements to Stimulate International Tourism to the United States of America Act (VISIT USA).

Since the passage of the Travel Promotion Act of 2007, the federal government has established the goal of increasing international travel to the United States. Including the Philippines in the VISIT USA Act will make it easier for Filipino travelers to travel to Hawaii, where Filipino-Americans are a significant part of our population.

International visitors make up about 30 per cent of visitor arrivals and contribute revenues to Hawaii's economy. The changes proposed by HCR 130 and HR 98 will add significant visitors from the Phillipines.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.