

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2012

THE SENATE  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211  
Friday, February 24, 2012; 9:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON  
S.B. 490, SD2, RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY  
AND  
S.B. 2642, MAKING AN APPROPRIATE FOR THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY**

The ILWU supports S.B. 490, SD2, which increases the allocation of the transient accommodations tax revenue for the Hawaii Tourism Authority from \$69 million to \$71 million until June 30, 2015 and requires \$2 million to be expended for development and implementation of initiatives to take advantage of expanded visa programs and increased travel opportunities for international visitors to Hawaii, and S.B. 2642, which appropriates \$2 million to HTA for the expanded visa program.

It appears that both bills are calling for \$ 2 million to be used to take advantage of the recently signed executive order to increase travel to the U.S. We fully support providing funds to HTA for this program, whichever bill becomes the vehicle.

The ILWU represents roughly 10,000 members working in the tourism industry in Hawaii. We are well aware of the impact that more visitors will have on the industry, our members, and Hawaii's economy overall. While most international visitors currently vacation on Oahu and in Waikiki, most of our members work on the neighbor islands. However, we believe that visitors will be encouraged to visit all of the islands, not just Oahu, to take advantage of the natural beauty and hospitality available throughout Hawaii.

The ILWU urges passage of either S.B. 490, SD2 or S.B. 2642. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these important measures.

starwood

Hotels and  
Resorts

2155 kalakaua avenue, suite 300  
honolulu, hi 96815

united states

Honorable David Ige, Chair  
Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: **SB490 SD2, Relating to the Hawaii Tourism Authority - SUPPORT**  
Conference Room 211, February 24, 2012, 9:00AM

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee

On behalf of Starwood Vacation Ownership (“Starwood”), mahalo for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB490 SD2, which allocates \$2 million for the Hawaii Tourism Authority for fiscal year 2012-2013 for initiatives to take advantage of expanded visa programs and increased travel opportunities for international visitors to Hawaii.

On January 19, 2012, President Obama signed Executive Order to Establish Visa and Foreign Visitor Processing Goals and the Task Force on Travel and Competitiveness. This policy recognizes that the travel and tourism industry is one of our nation’s leading service sectors and sources of exports.

Recognition of the need to set clear goals and standards that enhance visitor and business opportunities is a priority that Starwood has long supported. One only needs to take a look around to clearly see value of this industry to our state.

APEC 2011 attracted a more sophisticated group of visitors to our state, world leaders in government and business. Hawaii is well perched to take on more international business events especially from the Pacific Rim.

For these reasons, we support the committee’s leadership in moving this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Keith Vieira  
Senior Vice President of Operations  
Starwood Hotels and Resorts, Hawaii and French Polynesia

# Kohala Coast

RESORT ASSOCIATION

Senator David Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Friday, February 24, 2012; 9:00 a.m.  
Hawaii State Capitol; Conference Room 211

**RE: SB 490 SD2 Relating to the Hawaii Tourism Authority – In Support**

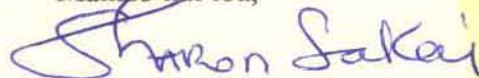
Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Kohala Coast Resort Association, a destination association representing the resorts and hotels located on the Kohala Coast of the Island of Hawai'i, supports SB 490 SD2 which increases the allocation of the transient accommodations tax revenue for the Hawaii Tourism Authority from \$69,000,000 to \$71,000,000 until June 30, 2015 and the requirement that the monies (\$2,000,000) be expended for development and implementation of initiatives that will take advantage of the recently expanded visa programs.

Tourism continues to be the largest generator of jobs in the state and on the Island of Hawai'i. This appropriation will allow the HTA to support new initiatives for increased travel and tourism to Hawai'i and further establish the Hawaiian Islands as a global destination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. The resort association members urge the committee's favorable consideration of this measure.

Mahalo nui loa,



Sharon Sakai  
Administrative Director