



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 101 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Ph. (808) 586-8121 (V/TDD) • Fax (808) 586-8129

April 19, 2013

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Resolution 70, HD1 – Requesting the Hawaii Tourism Authority with Cooperation from the Department of Health and the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau to Improve Marketing and Visitor Information Strategies to Attract Disabled Travelers to Hawaii

The Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB) supports House Resolution 70, HD1 – Requesting the Hawaii Tourism Authority with Cooperation from the Department of Health and the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau to Improve Marketing and Visitor Information Strategies to Attract Disabled Travelers to Hawaii. We commend the Hawaii Tourism Authority and the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau for understanding and acknowledging travelers with disabilities as a viable pool of people who will enhance business in Hawaii.

Since the mid-1980s, DCAB noted that the number of travelers with disabilities to Hawaii was increasing and published an “Aloha Guide for Travelers with Disabilities.” This publication provided information about various hotels and accessibility features of the hotel. Since that time, the document and information has evolved into a “Travelers Tips for Persons with Disabilities” and is posted online on the DCAB website at <http://hawaii.gov/health/dcab/travel/>.

DCAB is willing to share our resources toward improving information made available to travelers with disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

BARBARA FISCHLOWITZ-LEONG
Chairperson

FRANCINE WAI
Executive Director



477 Opihikao Pl. Ste. A Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

derek@cocpwdhawaii.com

www.cocpwdhawaii.com

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Resolution 70 - Requesting the Hawaii Tourism Authority with Cooperation from the Department of Health and the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau to Improve Marketing and Visitor Information Strategies to Attract Disabled Travelers to Hawaii.

The Chamber of Commerce For Persons with Disabilities – Hawaii (COCPWDH) supports House Resolution 70 and its intent to attract persons with disabilities to travel to Hawaii for business or leisure.

John F Kennedy used the aphorism that "a rising tide lifts all boats" to advance the idea that improvements in the general economy will benefit all participants in that economy. Everyone in Hawaii benefits with the increase of high value tourists to Hawaii. As high value consumers, persons with disabilities are willing to spend more for a worthwhile experience.

Businesses, to gain persons with disabilities traveling to Hawaii as high value customers, will use technical & social innovations to attract, satisfy and develop loyalty with this market group. Innovations already applied in accessible prized destinations throughout the world include:

- Talking & braille kiosks with narrated tour, destination & store descriptions.
- Theatres & hotel tv with audio described & close captioned movies/tv shows.
- International sporting events such as the Paralympics.
- Accessible safety paths to select beaches & hiking paths.
- RFID chips to as proximity locaters using smartphones and tablets.
- Disaster response systems in the event of fire, flood, earthquake.

Honolulu is a reasonably access friendly city due primarily to the need to satisfy disabled persons visiting Waikiki and the surrounding communities. However, cities outside the tourist mainstream will upgrade accessibility to meet the expanded demands of the independent disabled tourist and business traveler.

The Chamber of Commerce for Persons with Disabilities Hawaii will aid in marketing Hawaii as a desired accessible destination.



477 Opihikao Pl. Ste. A Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

derek@cocpwdhawaii.com

www.cocpwdhawaii.com

REQUEST TO AMEND

Humanizing the resolution is a needed step to change the mindset of the general public to regard persons with disabilities as just that, persons. Not as “them”, “they”, “handicapped” or “travelers”, but rightfully as “persons with disabilities” as follows:

REPLACE ALL REFERENCES TO: “TRAVELERS WITH DISABILITIES...”

WITH: “PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TRAVELING TO HAWAII”

REPLACE: “TRAVELERS WITH DISABILITIES MONTH”

WITH: “ACCESSIBILITY MONTH” RELATING TO “NATIONAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Tamura". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Derek Tamura
Director, Secretary, Treasurer
Chamber of Commerce for Persons with Disabilities – Hawaii
477 Opihikao PL Ste. A
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825
UNITED STATES

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 12:33 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: fosters005@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR70 on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM

HR70

Submitted on: 4/17/2013

Testimony for HLT on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Foster	Hawaii Advocates For Consumer Rights	Support	Yes

Comments: Please support HR70. Scott Foster, Communications Director

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 1:16 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: KeAloha.is@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR70 on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM

HR70

Submitted on: 4/17/2013

Testimony for HLT on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
KeAloha o `lo pu: Aiu	The voice of the Lord Ministry	Support	No

Comments: The idea of "a rising tide lifts all boats" suggests that improvements benefits all. Everyone in Hawaii benefits with the increase of high value tourists to Hawaii. As high value consumers, persons with disabilities spend more for a worthwhile experience. You can see the value of accessibility in high tourist area's such as hotels, airports and in Waikiki. It's good business sense. "Equal access for all" is the right thing to do.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 11:00 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: nashi@nashimoto.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR70 on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM

HR70

Submitted on: 4/17/2013

Testimony for HLT on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Masako Nashimoto Luttrell	Nashimoto and Associates LLC.	Support	No

Comments: This is the best idea to attract people to Hawaii from all over the world.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2013 3:41 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: caraltroy@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HR70 on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM*

HR70

Submitted on: 4/18/2013

Testimony for HLT on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cara troy	AccesSurf	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: jonella@motiv84gr8.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 8:01 PM
Subject: *****SPAM***** SB392/HB395 Safe Places Legislation

Aloha,

I say that in the true essence of the word. I also wish to thank you for your dedication and service to the future of our state and that of the world community. We are not alone in the struggles that we face, neither are we an island apart from the whole. We are connected by desire, purpose, and faith that we can provide the greatest opportunity to every human life.

The children and youth of Hawaii, as in other cities, states and countries, face great challenges today. Long term unemployment, poverty, lack of housing, eliminated services due to budget cuts or the shifting of funds between projects have left many wondering what will be next. Parents who are stretched to the limit, become overwhelmed with the seeming hopelessness of the situation, and many children and youth soon become disillusioned and angry.

Faced with the harsh realities of life, many of our youth become cast-offs, throw-aways, and some are forced to find alternative living arrangements that are not always safe. Many turn their anger inwards, and become drug addicts or alcoholics. Some never find the way to wholeness. But we have that way in sight; a light that will shine brightly for other struggling communities across the country to find a way that will offer hope to their youth.

We have the Safe Places legislation.

Working together, we can align current programs that address these challenges, and build a bridge that will close the gap between services developed and those rendered.

We do not need another non-profit vying for funding, or grass roots programs struggling to try and fill community needs. We need cooperation and partnership between providers. We need Safe Places.

If our youth know that there is a place to go that is safe, an oasis in the midst of the crisis; a place to get answers to questions, a safe place to just be - it will bring them much needed relief. No parent wants their child to suffer and we are all parents, aunts and uncles. We are all leaders in our community; a community that thirsts for the ability to support and encourage their youth; by helping them to reach for the possible, the promised, the future. It is attainable, this bright and glorious future and it is available to them now.

Thank you again for the support and leadership you bring to your constituents and the community, and thank you for your support of the Safe Places legislation.

Jonella DeLimas
Life Coach & Teacher
Motiv84gr8: Leadership In Action
www.motiv84gr8.com
402-306-8523

"Be the change you wish to see" - Mahatma Gandhi

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 5:06 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: crslethem@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HR70 on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM*

HR70

Submitted on: 4/17/2013

Testimony for HLT on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Lethem	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 11:13 AM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: brickllc@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR70 on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM

HR70

Submitted on: 4/17/2013

Testimony for HLT on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Bricker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I'm supportive and interested in being involved.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 4:09 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: felex.onmeiinc@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HR70 on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM*

HR70

Submitted on: 4/17/2013

Testimony for HLT on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felex Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2013 12:45 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: jeff@goldenresources.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HR70 on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM*

HR70

Submitted on: 4/17/2013

Testimony for HLT on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Golden		Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

morikawa2 - Shaun

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2013 2:25 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: stamurasnr@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HR70 on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM*

HR70

Submitted on: 4/18/2013

Testimony for HLT on Apr 19, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
steven tamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov