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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
S.B. No. 2431, S.D.1
Relating to Hawaii Tourism Authority
House Committee on Finance
Friday, March 28, 2014
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

The Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) strongly supports S.B. No. 2431, S.D.1, to make permanent HTA's exemption from the supervision of accounts, granted by Act 58, Session Laws of Hawaii 2004.

Act 58, Session Laws of Hawaii of 2004, was enacted to enhance the operational effectiveness and efficiency of the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA). In response to a report by the Legislative auditor, Act 58 was enacted to grant to HTA an exemption from the supervision of accounts.

HTA will still have to preaudit all proposed payments for compliance with the applicable laws, orders, and rules; and maintain the documents necessary to support the disbursement from our accounts.

The amendments made by Act 58, allow the HTA to operate efficiently and to execute its financial transactions in a timely manner. In order to continue to do so, the provisions of Act should be made permanent.

We request that the effective date be changed to "upon its approval."

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

3/28/2014
Rm. 308, 2:00 PM

SB 2431, SD 1
Relating to Hawaii Tourism Authority

Chair Luke and Members of this Committee, my name is Max Sword, here on behalf of Outrigger Hotels Hawaii, in support of SB 2431, SD 1

Due to the fast changing nature of tourism promotion and marketing worldwide, the original language enacted in 2004 to enhance the operational effectiveness and efficiency of the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) was needed.

Granting HTA an exemption from the supervision of accounts, allowed the agency to move swiftly to execute its financial transactions and therefore allowing HTA to adjust it's marketing strategy on the world stage as needed.

We urge that you make the language of the original act be made permanent.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify.