



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 9:05 A.M.  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 3024, SD1 RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT  
ACCOMODATIONS TAX**

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

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber") **opposes** SB 3024, SD1, which increases the allocation of transient accommodations tax revenues allocated to the Department of Land and Natural Resources from \$3 million to \$10 million, and allocates \$5 million to the division of conservation and resource enforcement.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing over 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We support the intent of SB 2430 which was to fix an administrative error in Act 161, SLH 2013, which provided that \$3 million of the excess TAT revenues deposited into the general fund be allocated for programs to support the protection, preservation, and enhancement of natural resources important to the visitor industry, including planning, construction, and repair of facilities, and operation and maintenance costs for public lands connected with enhancing the visitor experience.

While we support providing funds for these natural resource programs we believe that SB 2430 addresses that. Furthermore, HTA should be given the funding necessary to support Hawaii's number one industry.

For these reasons we oppose SB 3024.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.