



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
A S S O C I A T I O N

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann
President and CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Committee on
Ways and Means

Senate Bill 2987 SD1: Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on Senate Bill 2987 SD 1, which makes permanent the annual \$103,000,000 allocation of transient accommodations tax revenues to the counties. The bill requires the establishment of a state-county functions working group in 2022 to recommend the allocation of transient accommodations tax revenues between the State and counties based upon the division of duties and responsibilities for the provision of public services.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association believes the county governments should receive more from the transient accommodations tax because of the services that they provide to ensure a healthy tourism industry.

Shared TAT revenues are vital because the counties must absorb much of the costs created by community growth and provide the public services enjoyed by resident and visitor alike. These include all forms of public safety, roads, parks and public facilities, water and sewage infrastructure, and public transportation, among them. Oftentimes, the counties are not reimbursed for services that they provide at the request or on behalf of the federal and state governments, particularly in the area of public safety.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association recognizes and appreciates the efforts of the county governments in sustaining the visitor industry and we, in turn, continue to support the county governments in their efforts to secure an equitable share of tourism-generated revenue from the Legislature.

Mahalo!



Maui Hotel & Lodging

ASSOCIATION

Testimony of

Lisa H. Paulson

Executive Director

Maui Hotel & Lodging Association

on

SB 2987

Relating To The Transient Accommodations Tax

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Monday, February 29, 2016, 1:30pm

Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee,

The Maui Hotel & Lodging Association (MHLA) is the legislative arm of the visitor industry. Our membership includes over 150 property and allied business members in Maui County – all of whom have an interest in the visitor industry. Collectively, MHLA's membership employs over 20,000 local residents and represents over 19,000 rooms. The visitor industry is the economic driver for Maui County. We are the largest employer of residents on the Island - directly employing approximately 40% of all residents (indirectly, the percentage increases to 75%).

MHLA would like to submit comments only for SB 2987, which makes permanent the annual \$103,000,000 allocation of transient accommodations tax revenues to the counties. Requires the establishment of a state-county functions working group in 2022 to recommend the allocation of transient accommodations tax revenues between the State and counties based upon the division of duties and responsibilities for the provision of public services.

Our comments are as follows: 1) We appreciate the Senate considering making permanent the annual allocation of \$103,000,000 of TAT to the counties, but we ask that both the State and the county allocations should increase or decrease proportionately with increasing or decreasing transient accommodations tax revenues; 2) We would like to see the next Working Group get started sooner than July 1, 2022. The future allocation of the TAT to the counties is too important a discussion to be put off for so long.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: pili.nahooikaika@mauicounty.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2987 on Feb 29, 2016 13:30PM
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 10:21:42 AM
Attachments: [SB 2987 SD 1 Relating to TAT.pdf](#)

SB2987

Submitted on: 2/29/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 29, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pili Nahooikaika	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.

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Cc: michael.victorino@mauicounty.us
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2987 on Feb 29, 2016 13:30PM*
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 10:54:44 AM

SB2987

Submitted on: 2/29/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 29, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Victorino	Individual	Oppose	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.

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