
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE
HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY.

1 WHEREAS, tourism is the top industry in Hawaii, and in
2 recent years there has been a steady rise of visitors to the
3 State; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 2016 there were approximately 8,900,000
6 visitors and \$15,600,000,000 in visitor spending in the State of
7 Hawaii; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Tourism Authority was established in
10 1998 by the Legislature, within the Department of Business,
11 Economic Development, and Tourism, to act as the lead state
12 agency for the growing Hawaii tourism industry; and
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14 WHEREAS, among other responsibilities, the Hawaii Tourism
15 Authority is charged with:
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17 (1) Setting tourism policy and direction from a statewide
18 perspective;
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20 (2) Developing and implementing the State's tourism
21 marketing plan and efforts;
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23 (3) Supporting programs and initiatives perpetuating the
24 Hawaiian culture, Hawaii's natural resources, and
25 community festivals and events statewide;
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27 (4) Managing programs and activities to sustain a healthy
28 tourism industry for the State; and
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30 (5) Coordinating tourism-related research, planning, and
31 promotional and outreach activities with the public
32 and private sector; and
33



H.C.R. NO. 202

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Tourism Authority receives funding
 2 through the tourism special fund, which is allocated a set
 3 amount each year of transient accommodations tax collections, to
 4 market, develop, and support Hawaii's tourism economy; and
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6 WHEREAS, due to the vital importance of the tourism
 7 industry in the State and the Hawaii Tourism Authority's access
 8 to and expenditure of significant amounts of State funds, it is
 9 appropriate and expected that, Hawaii legislators provide
 10 oversight of the Hawaii Tourism Authority's spending and
 11 activities by requiring timely reports and affirmative responses
 12 to information requests regarding the Hawaii Tourism Authority's
 13 internal governance practices, budget, and expenditures; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Tourism Authority's internal governance
 16 practices point to a need for increased transparency in the
 17 administration of the public agency; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 20 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 21 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is requested to
 22 conduct a management audit of the Hawaii Tourism Authority; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
 25 submit a report of the Auditor's findings and recommendations,
 26 including proposed legislation, if any, to the Legislature no
 27 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
 28 Session of 2018; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor; Director of
 32 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and President and
 33 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.
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 36

OFFERED BY: 

MAR 10 2017

