

MAR 07 2017

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# SENATE 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  
4

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  
8

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  
13

14           WHEREAS, among other responsibilities, the Hawaii Tourism  
15 Authority is charged with:  
16

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



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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  
 14

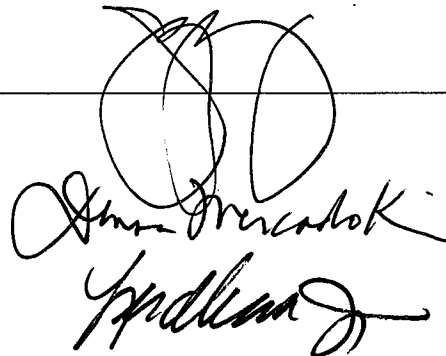
15 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Tourism Authority's internal governance  
 16 practices point to a need for increased transparency in the  
 17 administration of the public agency; now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
 20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the  
 21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is  
 22 requested to conduct a management audit of the Hawaii Tourism  
 23 Authority; and  
 24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
 26 submit a report of the Auditor's findings and recommendations,  
 27 including proposed legislation, if any, to the Legislature no  
 28 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
 29 Session of 2018; and  
 30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor; Director of  
 33 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; and President and  
 34 Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.  
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 36  
 37

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



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*Breene Hunt*

