

MAR 07 2017

SENATE 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

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:

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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;
- 26
27 (4) Managing programs and activities to sustain a healthy
28 tourism industry for the State; and
- 29
30 (5) Coordinating tourism-related research, planning, and
31 promotional and outreach activities with the public
32 and private sector; and
- 33

34 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Tourism Authority receives funding
35 through the tourism special fund, which is allocated a set



S.R. NO. 27

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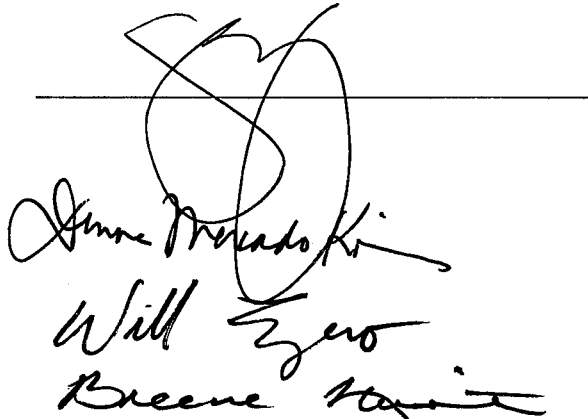
13 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Tourism Authority's internal governance
14 practices point to a need for increased transparency in the
15 administration of the public agency; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
18 Legislature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


Will Ezer
Breene Haim