

# Vacations Hawaii

A Subsidiary of Boyd Gaming Corporation  
HAWAII ♦ LAS VEGAS

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair  
Representative Isaac Choy, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Intrastate Commerce  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: SB 1299, S.D. 1 – Relating to Charter Tour Operators  
Testimony in Support With Proposed Amendments**

**Wednesday, March 15, 2017; 9:00 AM  
Conference Room 429**

Aloha Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Choy, and members of the committee:

This testimony is submitted on behalf of Bill Smith, Vice President and General Manager of Vacations Hawaii. On behalf of Vacations Hawaii, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1299, S.D. 1.

As the Committee is aware, the purpose of SB 1299, S.D. 1 is to amend the statute regulating travel agencies and charter tour operators to permit a charter tour operator to maintain a client trust account in a federally insured financial institution outside the state of Hawaii, but subject to all other provisions and protections under the existing statute.

Given recent and continuing discussions with the Regulated Industries Complaints Office of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, practical concerns have been raised regarding the language in SB 1299, S.D. 1 relating to the requirement to obtain “irrefutable evidence” that no financial institution in the state can maintain the charter tour operator’s client trust account before a charter tour operator will be permitted to use an out-of-state financial institution to maintain the account.

Given the foregoing, and to facilitate further discussions, Vacations Hawaii respectfully requests the Committee to amend the bill to replace the language in SB 1299, S.D. 1 with the language of HB 1262, H.D. 1, which was the version of this measure passed by this Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

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