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David Y. Ige
Governor

George D. Szigeti
President and Chief Executive Officer

Submission of Testimony in Opposition to S.R. 27 and S.C.R. 72

March 23, 2017

Aloha Senator Wakai and Members of the Senate Committee for Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology:

With this letter, I would like to share with you that I am opposed to Senate Resolution 27 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 72. I very much appreciate that the members of this Committee, and the Legislature as a whole, is working hard to guard the public's interests and making sure that State funds are being properly used.

I know this is the intent of these two Senate resolutions, but I believe they are not needed at this time and, if enacted, would run counter to what this Legislature stands for as a body.

A complete and thorough audit of the operations and management of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority is being performed by the State Auditor in 2018, which is in keeping with the schedule as required by the laws of our State. A management audit of HTA must be performed every five years.

This management audit will be an exhausting, time-consuming process that will take several months to complete. As we know from HTA's management audit in 2013, the information and recommendations that come from this audit in 2018 will be very useful in helping the HTA to run its operations more efficiently and effectively. Assuredly, the HTA will be an improved organization as a result of the audit in 2018, and both the State of Hawai'i and the tourism industry will benefit in the long run.

With all that said, having the State Auditor perform what would be the same management audit this year as will take place next year will duplicate a procedure that is already clearly defined and acceptable to all parties involved. In my opinion, valuable State funds will be used unnecessarily.

Speaking as a taxpayer and as a board member of the HTA, I can promise this Committee that the board of directors will ensure the State Auditor receives all of the necessary support, information and time of HTA staff that is needed to perform a thorough management audit in 2018.

I hope this helps ease your concerns about the oversight of HTA's operations, and also communicates why I stand in opposition to Senate Resolution 27 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 72.

Thank you for your service to Hawai'i, and for allowing me to share my thoughts in this letter.

Gerald De Mello

Board Member, Hawai'i Tourism Authority



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Twenty-Ninth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

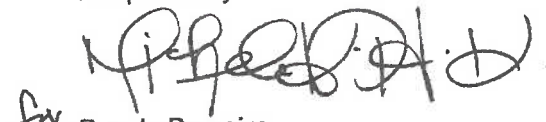
March 24, 2017

S.R. 27 - REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO
CONDUCT A MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE
HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.R. 27, which requests the auditor to conduct a management audit of the Hawaii Tourism Authority. The Hawaii Tourism Authority has a vital role in overseeing and guiding Hawaii's growing tourism industry. A management audit would ensure the Hawaii Tourism Authority, which receives State funding, continues to operate both responsibly and effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.R. 27.

Respectfully submitted,


for Randy Perreira
Executive Director