



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS
Wednesday, February 1, 2017
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309
in consideration of
HB 134
RELATING TO SPORTS.

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of HB 134, which creates a Hawaii Sports Task Force to plan and coordinate efforts to reestablish and secure Hawaii as a host site for the Pro Bowl, an NFL pre-season game, world-title soccer tournaments, mixed martial arts UFC tournaments as well as other sports entertainment events.

DBEDT agrees that sporting events can strengthen and diversify Hawaii's economy by attracting a diversified visitor demographic, as well as bring pleasure to Hawaii's residents. We note that the sports industry is a dynamic area of business and to attract sporting events requires a knowledge of the finances of each different sport and the sports infrastructure of each island.

DBEDT recognizes the honor of being designated to serve as the host of the Hawaii Sports Task Force. However, DBEDT does not have the staff capacity or expertise in the broad array of sports to carry out this mandate with its own limited resources. DBEDT defers to the Hawaii Tourism Authority for resources to implement this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaii-tourism-authority.org

David Y. Ige
Governor

George D. Szigeti
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
George D. Szigeti
Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
on
HB 134 Relating to Sports
House Committees on Economic Development & Business
Wednesday, February 1, 2017
9:00am
Conference Room 309

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) offers the following **comment** on HB 134, which would create a Hawai'i Sports Task Force to plan and coordinate by reporting on and proposing legislation to the Legislature efforts to keep the Pro Bowl in Hawai'i and secure Hawai'i as a host site for a National Football League preseason game, world-title soccer tournaments at Aloha Stadium, mixed martial arts Ultimate Fighting Championship tournaments at Aloha Stadium and other international sporting events.

HTA supports the goal of ensuring that Hawai'i remains a premier destination for sporting events. Deepening Hawai'i's connection to the sports industry is consistent with HTA's mission to promote Hawai'i as a visitor destination and improve the visitor experience in the state. In furtherance of these goals, HTA sponsors many events in Hawai'i, including the Diamond Head Classic, Hawai'i Bowl, Maui Jim Invitational, the PGA Tournament of Champions, Sony Open and Mitsubishi Electric Championship, Xterra World and Trail Championships, Fed Cup and Hawai'i Open Tennis Tournament, the Ironman Triathlon, the State Farm Armed Classic, Dukes Oceanfest and the Queen Liliuokalani Canoe races. Recognizing that major sporting events draw visitors to Hawai'i and generate substantial media exposure, HTA continues to look for new sporting event partners and new events to sponsor.

In light of HTA's existing mission and efforts, HTA would like to be part of any discussion on the formation of a Sports Task Force. As discussed above, HTA has a comprehensive process to evaluate sporting events to ensure that they are consistent with our Strategic Plan and thoroughly reviewed for return on investment and return on objectives. HTA works in conjunction with our sports consultants, Ascendent Sports Group, to assess and evaluate sports opportunities and initiatives and to recommend sporting events in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

David Y. Ige
Governor

Roderick K. Becker
Comptroller



Ross I. Yamasaki
Chairman, Stadium Authority

Scott L. Chan
Manager

Ryan G. Andrews
Deputy Manager

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

TESTIMONY
OF
ROSS YAMASAKI, CHAIRMAN
STADIUM AUTHORITY
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEES
ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS
AND
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
February 1, 2017

H.B. 134

RELATING TO SPORTS

Chairs Nakashima, Johanson, Vice Chairs Keohokalole, Holt, and members of the respective Committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in the form of comments on H.B. 134.

The Stadium Authority recognizes the depth of planning and coordinating required to capitalize on Hawaii's assets and place the State of Hawaii in the best possible position to attract and retain large scale sporting events.

The Stadium Authority appreciates the Legislature's intent and attention to leveraging and maximizing resources and opportunities through a means that it deems most effective and efficient.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 134.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Development & Business
and Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 309, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 134 RELATING TO SPORTS

Chairs Nakashima and Johanson, Vice Chairs Keohokalole and Holt, and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 134, which establishes the Hawaii Sports Task Force to plan and coordinate efforts to reestablish the Pro Bowl in Hawaii, to secure Hawaii as a host site for a National Football League preseason game, world-title soccer tournaments, mixed martial arts Ultimate Fighting Championship tournaments and other international sporting events at Aloha Stadium, and to secure and maintain Hawaii as a host site for other sporting and sports entertainment events statewide.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,600 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We respectfully request that the bill be amended to:

- Include a representative of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii on the proposed task force.
- Rename the Hawaii sports task force to Hawaii Sports and Entertainment Task Force.
- In addition to sporting events, add "entertainment" events as well so as not to exclude non-sporting events, such as festivals, conferences, etc.

Sporting and entertainment events draw massive spending and can have great economic impact, which will in turn, sustain and create jobs. The task force will be commissioned to study Hawaii's unique location and potential as an entertainment and sporting destination of the Asia Pacific region.

We believe that establishing Hawaii as a sports and entertainment destination and leveraging our resources will drive economic development and growth, provide greater visibility through positive media exposure and coverage via social media and other channels, and enhance the quality of life for our communities across our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 12:01 AM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: kananisouza@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB134 on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM

HB134

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for EDB on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanani Souza	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I SUPPORT HB134, which would establish a Hawaii Sports Task Force to plan and coordinate efforts to reestablish the Pro Bowl in Hawaii, which costs the State of Hawaii and tourism industry \$26.2 million as the Pro Bowl moved to Orlando, Florida for a few years. This specialized task force would be more than HTA - as it seeks to include county mayors and experts who know how to better attract major international sporting events - to secure Hawaii as a host site for a National Football League preseason game, world-title soccer tournaments, mixed martial arts Ultimate Fighting Championship tournaments and other international sporting events at Aloha Stadium, and to secure and maintain Hawaii as a host site for other sporting and sports entertainment events statewide. This will greatly support Hawaii's tourism industry and our State's economy. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in support of HB134 to establish a Hawaii Sports Task Force.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:56 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: chris@erice.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB134 on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM

HB134

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for EDB on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Erice	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB 134, relating to public housing, because last year the Hawaii Supreme Court reversed a State housing eviction, because the Supreme Court stated that Public Housing did not have law which would allow for the eviction. Now the convict is suing the state of Hawaii for damages for an illegal eviction, although he was legally convicted for fraud. THAT IS WHY WE NEED THIS BILL TO PASS INTO LAW - to protect the state from illegal evictions from public housing and from convicts suing the state. Below are the facts of the case. Public Housing officials are finding that it's harder to evict a man for theft than to convict him of the crime. Back in 2012, Fetu Kolio, the former president of the Mayor Wright Homes Tenant Association, pleaded guilty to stealing \$1,400 from the project. He was later evicted for engaging in criminal activity, which is barred under his rental agreement. But in 2015, the state Supreme Court overturned the eviction, saying the rental agreement only refers to criminal activity that threatens the health and safety at the project. Kolio's lawyer said the Supreme Court got it right. Attorney Philip Miyoshi said the rules on criminal activity were specifically designed to deal with drug dealing and gang violence in the projects, not white collar crimes. "Mr. Kolio admits that he made a wrong decision. He paid for that decision but clearly that was not a basis for evicting under the lease agreement," he said. Miyoshi attorney said he will ask the state to allow Kolio to return to Mayor Wright. He's also considering a lawsuit for damages. The 48-year-old Kolio is a longtime tenant and a former resident activist at Mayor Wright. According to court records, Kolio pleaded guilty to stealing money meant to be used for tenant vocational programs and other training programs. He served a 30-day jail sentence and was ordered to pay back the money. The Hawaii Public Housing Authority, which oversees Mayor Wright, then evicted Kolio for violating his rental agreement that bars criminal activity. But in its ruling, the high court ruled that the HPHA failed to show how the theft threatened the health and safety at Mayor Wright. This bill would place in law the enforcement right for the public housing authority to legally evict a convict. Thank you for your kind consideration in support of HB396.

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keohokalole2 - Anthony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 4:20 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: prentissc001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB134 on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM

HB134

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for EDB on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Prentiss	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: In addressing this bill, it should be noted that there are proposals to build a new stadium that would accommodate 35,000 seats while the recent ProBowl in Orlando, Fl. had an attendance of 60,000 people.

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keohokalole2 - Anthony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:14 PM
To: edbtestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB134 on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM

HB134

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for EDB on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We FULLY SUPPORT this bill. We also seek to have the bill to specifically identify areas on all islands that have the potential to host sporting events, since the bill appears to be quite O`ahu centric.

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