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David Y. Ige
Governor

George D. Szigeti
President and Chief Executive Officer

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RECEIVED
Date & Time
Feb 13, 2018, 8:07 am

Statement of
George D. Szigeti
Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
on
HB1828 HD1
Relating to Tourism
House Committee on Tourism
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
9:00am
Conference Room 429

Chair Onishi, Vice-Chair Fukumoto, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) offers comments on HB1828, which proposes to allocate additional funds from transient accommodations tax (TAT) revenues to HTA to implement initiatives, in conjunction with the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association, to address visitor impacts on affected communities.

As the state body tasked with strategically managing, marketing and developing Hawai'i's visitor industry, HTA agrees that it is important to address the impact tourism has on the State. The State's infrastructure and resources are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. HTA supports the intent of this bill to fund and implement new initiatives to address visitor impacts that strengthen our communities, and maintain a positive visitor experience. However, the bill as currently written does not provide a definition of the type of visitor impacts that the bill is intended to address.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

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HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

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Feb 13, 2018, 8:08 am

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

before the
Committee on Tourism
February 13, 2018

House Bill 1828, H.D. 1: Relating to Tourism

Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Fukumoto, and members of the Committee on Tourism:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private-sector visitor industry organization with nearly 700 members, thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 1828, H.D. 1, which appropriates \$1 million in transient accommodation tax revenues to support initiatives that mitigate the negative impacts of tourism on communities, provided the TAT funds are matched dollar-for-dollar by the private sector, a county government, or both.

We support House Bill 1828 because it requires that public funds be matched by private (or county) money and should provide incentives for public-private partnerships that improve our tourism infrastructure and mitigate the effects of tourism. House Bill 1828 should also stimulate project-based approaches to our challenges and encourage transparency as government and the private sector collaborate openly on underwriting mutually beneficial public works.

Mahalo for the opportunity to express our support for this legislation.

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Feb 13, 2018, 8:07 am

HB-1828-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 9:22:50 PM

Testimony for TOU on 2/13/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shana Logan		Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha,

How have these funds been used to research the effects of tourism on homelessness and poverty in Hawaii? This is a study I think that would be interesting, as I personally believe (as do many others), that development and tourism are driving the cost of living so high that many are forced on the street. This includes the influx of migrants from other places, but tourism dollars drive this economy, so it seems tourists are first priority. Unfortunately.

Also, please, if the HTA is going to have an "emergency fund" for helping tourists only of \$5,000,000 then wouldn't it be nice to shift some of that money to helping mitigate homelessness and poverty for the local population that is displaced by tourism development? Not to mention, what money is allocated from this emergency fund for natural and war disaster preparation? Isn't this money supposed to be for situations like a nuclear attack, hurricane, flooding, and other disasters? How much of it has been used for this very thing? Or, is this a slush fund meant for balancing the books or raiding when other funds are low?

The public should have an accounting of all "emergency funds" and other accounts that are using/hoarding our tax dollars. The money should be spent for what it was designated for, or release it to pay for improving conditions for our struggling local population. Mahalo.