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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
HB1828 HD2
Relating to Tourism
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 23, 2018
12:00pm
Conference Room 308

LATE

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **offers comments on HB1828 HD2**, 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.



LATE

Testimony of

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

before the
Committee on Finance
February 23, 2018

House Bill 1828, H.D. 2: Relating to Tourism

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee on Finance:

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. 2, which appropriates \$10 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.