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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 HD3**  
**Relating to Tourism**  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Monday, March 19, 2018  
1:30pm  
Conference Room 414

Chairs Wakai and Nishihara, Vice-Chair Taniguchi, and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) offers **comments on** HB1828 HD3, which proposes to allocate additional funds from transient accommodations tax (TAT) revenues to HTA to support 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

**HB-1828-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 12:13:28 PM

Testimony for ETT on 3/19/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair; the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Technology:

To the Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair; the Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB1828 HD2** relating to Environmental Protection; Carbon; Sequestration; Emissions; Farming; Office of Planning; Task Force; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in support of **HB1828 HD2** and is in favor of its passage.

**HB1828 HD2** is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it makes permanent the Carbon Farming Task Force established by Act 33, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, and renames it the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force; aligns the State's clean energy and carbon sequestration efforts with climate initiative goals; amends membership and duties of the Task Force; establishes a zero-greenhouse gas emissions target for the State; and makes an appropriation.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[w]e believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally-friendly modes of transportation, recycling, and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation, and restoration of Hawaii's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of

environmental damage to handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifer and take appropriate action to secure our freshwater resources.

We support the democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in the management of coastal resources.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous people in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 413-439 (2016)).

Given that **HB1828 HD2** makes permanent the Carbon Farming Task Force established by Act 33, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, and renames it the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force; aligns the State's clean energy and carbon sequestration efforts with climate initiative goals; amends membership and duties of the Task Force; establishes a zero-greenhouse gas emissions target for the State; and makes an appropriation, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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**HB-1828-HD-3**

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 1:12:49 PM

Testimony for ETT on 3/19/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Madsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this idea and would like to make a few comments/suggestions.

Please include any elements of sustainability whenever possible. For example if trails are eroding can we use the planting of avocado or ulu trees to help correct the problem. That will also provide access to fruit along the trail for many years to come and add to the experience of any user.

Last I knew the world's largest food forest was going to be 7 acres in Seattle. If you really want to get the most bang for your money why not do something here "news worthy" here in Hawaii to help generate some free publicity for Hawaii Tourism.

I'd really like to see more fruit trees planted in the median of the Panaewa strip. Maybe even have a course at the correctional facility across the street where they can learn skills like the proper ways to plant trees here in Hawaii. Eventually, maybe they can have a culinary course when they have more fresh produce to work with. It would really beautify the area and help reduce food insecurity in East Hawaii. I want people to be able to come and learn about how to conceptualize abundance and learn how to continue to work with that abundance to improve even more aspects of people's lives.

I would also like to point out I am very dismayed in what had happened in Puerto Rico with the current federal government leaving them to fend for themselves after a devastating hurricane. Puerto Rico's government was also similarly overthrown by the United States government 5 years after they overthrew the Hawaiian Government and that's the treatment they got? This has everything to do racial/cultural backgrounds and Hawaii has a different but very diverse background ad well. In a time of "fake" ballistic missile attacks we really need to take steps to ensure that if the boats were to stop at anytime... for any reason... that there isn't going to be statewide panic.

I'd also like to see a food forest go in down in Ka'u very near or along the highway. That way the many people coming/going to see the volcano will have an additional place to stop to enjoy if they want. I am only speaking of East Hawaii because that is what I currently know the most about; however, I think similar things should happen in places like Waimanalo and Waianae areas to help improve quality of life in such areas.

Mahalo,

Chris Madsen

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