



Testimony of

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before the Committees on  
Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology  
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
March 19, 2018

House Bill 1828, H.D. 3: Relating to Tourism

Chair Wakai, Chair Nishihara, and members of the committees:

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. 3, which appropriates funds from the 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.

With its emphasis on P-3 projects, 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.

**HB-1828-HD-3**

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Senators,

HB 2828 HD3 seems to focus on giving more funds to HTA to assist in mitigation of negative impacts of tourism, but the bulk of the monies in this bill are allocated to promotion of tourism, leaving only a paltry amount for protection of resources. As noted as follows:

(5) \$3,000,000 shall be allocated to the special land and development fund established under section 171-19; provided that the allocation shall be expended in accordance with the Hawaii tourism authority strategic plan for:

(A) The protection, preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of natural resources, including beaches, important to the visitor industry;

(B) Planning, construction, and repair of facilities; and

(C) Operation and maintenance costs of public lands, including beaches, connected with enhancing the visitor experience

But, over 100million is allocated for promotion of tourism. It seems this bill shorts the preservation and maintenance efforts significantly. I urge you to support amendments to increase the amounts provided to protect irreplaceable natural resources throughout the islands.