



Statement of
George D. Szigeti
Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
on
HB973 HD1 Proposed SD2
Relating to Economic Development
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, April 5, 2018
10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority ("HTA") offers the following **testimony in support of HB973 HD1 Proposed SD2**, which would make an appropriation from the State's general revenues for the temporary Commission (the "Commission") on the Thirteenth Festival of Pacific Arts ("Festival") to plan for the historic Festival to be held in Honolulu from June 11 to June 27, 2020.

The funds would help the Commission maximize Hawai'i's opportunity to host the Festival and showcase the indigenous cultures of Oceania. Hawai'i is in a unique position to leverage its experience, infrastructure and capacity to organize a gathering that will bring visitors from around the world. More than 2,000 delegates representing 27 nations and thousands of participants, from visitors to local residents, will join in the Festival. It will be the largest gathering of Pacific peoples united in respect and appreciation of one another. In addition, many Hawai'i residents have deep ties to the various cultures that will be represented in the Festival. This unique connection presents an opportunity to strengthen community bonds and deepen our knowledge and understanding.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.



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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

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Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, April 5, 2018
10:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

HB973, HD1, SD1, Proposed SD2
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** HB973, HD1, SD1, Proposed SD2, relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts which appropriates funds for the planning of the Festival.

Hawaii will host the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts for the first time ever. This Festival is important as a venue where the indigenous cultures from throughout the Pacific region can be celebrated and perpetuated through the sharing and passing of cultural traditions from one generation to the next.

The Festival is also expected to have a significant economic impact, as approximately 3,000 delegates and up to 100,000 visitors comprised of accompanying family and friends, and Pacific cultural scholars and enthusiasts from around the world are anticipated to attend. This could potentially generate \$185.7 million in direct visitor spending resulting in state tax revenues of \$21.7 million.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

HB-973-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 6:44:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Testifying for Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaiian Affairs Caucu	Support	No

Comments:

Support proposed SD2 that Makes an appropriation to the temporary commission on the thirteenth Festival of Pacific Arts to plan for the Festival of Pacific Arts to be held in Honolulu from June 11 to June 27, 2020, that will further economic development in Hawaii. Besides economic development, this is the largest cultural festival of the Pacific indigeneous peoples nations.



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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, April 5, 2018, 10:15 AM, Conference Room 211
House Bill 973, Proposed SD 2, Relating to Economic Development

TESTIMONY

Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

If the Senate passes HB 973, Proposed SD 2, the subject of the Proposed SD 2 will not have had 3 readings or a public hearing in the State House. Under Article III, Section 15 of the Hawaii Constitution, the Legislature is not authorized to enact a bill whose subject has not had three separate readings in the State House and three separate readings in the State Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-973-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 6:11:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Proposed SD2 which makes an appropriation to the temporary commission on the thirteenth Festival of Pacific Arts to plan for the Festival of Pacific Arts to be held in Honolulu from June 11 to June 27, 2020, that will further economic development in Hawaii.

HB-973-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 6:11:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Continuing my support for the Pacific Arts Fest in 2020, my testimony in support is only for that part of this bill.