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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
TOURISM TO UPDATE THE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PROJECT.

1           WHEREAS, tourism is vital to Hawaii's economy as  
2 demonstrated by \$18 billion in visitor expenditures in 2018,  
3 which is 20 percent of Hawaii's gross domestic product; and  
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5           WHEREAS, according to the Department of Business, Economic  
6 Development and Tourism's Quarterly Tourism Forecast, 9.95  
7 million tourists visited Hawaii in 2018 and is expected to grow  
8 to 10.67 million tourists by 2022; and  
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10           WHEREAS, the growing number of tourists will contribute to  
11 Hawaii's diminishing infrastructural and natural resource  
12 capacities, as exemplified by the Hawaii Tourism Authority's  
13 2016-2020 Strategic Plan's SWOT analysis that highlights some of  
14 the Hawaii's weaknesses as, "limited resources including water  
15 and food production," "aging infrastructure," and "overreliance  
16 on tourism and development"; and  
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18           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Tourism Authority's 2017 Resident  
19 Sentiment Survey shows that about 40 percent of Hawaii residents  
20 perceive tourism as an industry that increases traffic problems,  
21 results in higher cost of living, overcrowding, damage to the  
22 environment, and no respect for the culture; and  
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24           WHEREAS, since 2011, 20 percent less residents agree that  
25 overall tourism has brought more benefits than problems to the  
26 island, and 10 percent more residents agree that the island is  
27 being run for tourists at the expense of local people; and  
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29           WHEREAS, Hawaii is subpoenaing 10 years worth of records in  
30 an attempt to collect about \$136 million in transient



1 accommodation taxes, and general excise tax from illegal  
2 Airbnb's and home-sharing platforms; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,  
5 and Tourism conducted a research project on tourism's impacts on  
6 the economy, environment, socio-cultural factors, and physical  
7 infrastructure in 2001-2005 titled, "Sustainable Tourism  
8 Project"; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, this research project identified present capacities and  
11 issues that stemmed from visitor and resident growth, and then  
12 made recommendations based on specific resource and  
13 infrastructural element on each island for each local community;  
14 and

15  
16 WHEREAS, the Sustainable Tourism Project played a critical  
17 role in identifying how tourism impacted Hawaii, which developed  
18 general strategies and planning tools to aid policymakers to  
19 manage the industry's growth and thus, balance residents'  
20 quality of life and the quality of the visitor experience; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, since 2005, the number of visitors increased by  
23 2.45 million, which necessitates another research study on  
24 Hawaii's tourism impacts, especially because none has been  
25 conducted in the last 14 years; now, therefore,

26  
27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
28 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
29 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Business,  
30 Economic Development and Tourism's Research and Economic  
31 Analysis Division partners with the Office of State Planning and  
32 the Hawaii Tourism Authority is requested to conduct an updated  
33 Sustainable Tourism Project and propose updated recommendations  
34 to ensure the State's continued economic growth and maintained  
35 resources; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,  
38 Economic Development and Tourism is requested to consider  
39 engaging University of Hawaii in the Sustainable Tourism  
40 Project; and

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# H.C.R. NO. 231

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,  
2 Economic Development and Tourism is requested to annually report  
3 to the legislature 20 days prior to each Regular Session until  
4 the research project is complete; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon completion of the research  
7 project, the Department of Business, Economic Development and  
8 Tourism is requested to submit a final report with  
9 recommendations to the legislature; and

10  
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Department  
13 of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, the Director of  
14 the Office of State Planning, and the President of Hawaii  
15 Tourism Authority.

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OFFERED BY:



MAR 08 2019

