

---

---

## HOUSE 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  
4

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  
9

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  
17

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  
23

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  
28

29 WHEREAS, Hawaii is subpoenaing 10 years worth of records in  
30 an attempt to collect about \$136 million in transient  
31 accommodation taxes, and general excise tax from illegal  
32 Airbnb's and home-sharing platforms; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,  
3 and Tourism conducted a research project on tourism's impacts on  
4 the economy, environment, socio-cultural factors, and physical  
5 infrastructure in 2001-2005 titled, "Sustainable Tourism  
6 Project"; and  
7

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

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

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

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

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

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,  
40 Economic Development and Tourism is requested to annually report

1 to the legislature 20 days prior to each Regular Session until  
2 the research project is complete; and

3  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon completion of the research  
5 project, the Department of Business, Economic Development and  
6 Tourism is requested to submit a final report with  
7 recommendations to the legislature; and

8  
9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
10 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Department  
11 of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, the Director of  
12 the Office of State Planning, and the President of Hawaii  
13 Tourism Authority.

14  
15  
16

OFFERED BY:



MAR 0 8 2019

