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David Y. Ige
Governor

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Statement of
CHRIS TATUM

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Monday, March 11, 2019
2:45PM
State Capitol, Conference Room #414

In consideration of
**HOUSE BILL NO 739 HD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism: The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **strongly supports** House Bill 739 HD1, which provides for funding in support of our mission and programs.

As mentioned in our previous testimony on this measure, we have conducted a systematic review of our operations, proposed and executed internal adjustments to align with our new vision of destination management, and analyzed our current and future resource requirements. Based on our analysis, we believe that House Bill 739, HD1, which appropriates \$141,483,409 and 32 positions for Fiscal Year 2020 and \$141,483,409 and 32 positions for Fiscal Year 2021, will allow us to fulfill our new vision's budgetary needs and would fund our operations at the appropriate level.

As part of our new vision, the HTA will be placing significant resources towards programs that support our host culture, career development, natural resources, and community enrichment. We believe that tourism, while being economically crucial to our state, must further engage our residents and support our communities. The funding provided through this measure will allow us to achieve these goals.

It is for these reasons that the HTA **strongly supports** House Bill 739 HD1. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.