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**David Y. Ige**  
*Governor*

**Chris Tatum**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Statement of  
**CHRIS TATUM**

Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Monday, February 25, 2019  
2:30PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room #308

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

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

Over the past many months, our team has conducted a systematic review of our operations, proposed and executed internal adjustments, and analyzed our resource requirements. Based on our analysis, we believe that House Bill 739, which appropriates \$141,483,409 and 32 positions for Fiscal Year 2020 and \$141,483,409 and 32 positions for Fiscal Year 2021, is in alignment with our current budgetary needs and would fund our operation at the appropriate level.

As we move forward, the HTA will be placing significant focus on programs that support our host culture, career development, natural resources, and community enrichment. We believe that tourism, while being an important economic engine for our state, must expand its direct engagement and support of our community, and this funding will allow us to achieve these goals.

We sincerely appreciate your support in maintaining these funding levels as proposed in the bill.

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

**HB-739-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 2:57:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2019 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

While tourism plays a part in our local economy and life, it should not be the determiner for how the islands make decisions. Tourism and the military play too huge a role in our islands.

**LATE**

**HB-739-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 9:44:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2019 2:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Suzanne Skjold	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I do not feel this high level of funding is in the interest of the State or its residents and oppose funding at this level. I hope the Committee will strongly consider reducing this amount of funding and instead place those resources into creating a more sustainable and reasonable level of tourism in our state. The negative impacts of 10 millions plus visitors a year and the decline in the quality of life for residents is directly related to poor management and priority setting of the HTA. Until a plan for sustainable tourism, truly reducing impacts, and evidence of responsible stewardship of this budget is present, HTA should not be given this level of funding.

Thank you for your consideration and for putting our tax dollars to improve services and needs for residents.