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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 TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Tuesday, February 5, 2019
9:00AM
State Capitol, Conference Room #312

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

Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the House Committee on Tourism & International Affairs: The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **strongly supports** House Bill 739, which provides for funding in support of our mission and programs.

Over the past two months, our team has conducted a 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. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.