

Honolulu, Hawaii
, 2020

FEB 13

RE: H.B. No. 1944
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Tourism & International Affairs, to which
was referred H.B. No. 1944 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS
TAX,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to allocate funds from the
transient accommodations tax (TAT) revenues directly to the Hawaii
Tourism Authority (HTA), rather than through the Special Land and
Development Fund, to be used to improve certain state facilities
in accordance with HTA's strategic plan.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawaii Tourism Authority and Kohala Coast Resort
Association. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to
this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.
Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Tax
Foundation of Hawaii.

Your Committee finds that given the continued growth of
visitors to Hawaii, more investment is needed in Hawaii's natural
resources and environment. Allocating funds from TAT revenues
directly to the HTA instead of through the Special Land and
Development Fund would allow for more efficient improvement and
maintenance of community infrastructure in accordance with HTA's



statewide strategic plan while also providing greater scrutiny and accountability of TAT revenues.

Your Committee has amended this measure by;

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2099, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Tourism & International Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1944, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1944, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Tourism &
International Affairs,



RICHARD H.K. ONISHI, Chair



