



DAVID Y. IGE  
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## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of  
**MIKE MCCARTNEY**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, February 4, 2020  
9:05 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312  
In consideration of  
**HB 2467**  
**RELATING TO TOURISM.**

**LATE**

Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Holt and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent and provides **comments** for HB2467, which requires DBEDT to study the need for a tourism information center in the Capital District.

There are several tourist attractions in the Capitol District area including the State Capitol, the Iolani Palace, the King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center and Statue, Washington Place and the Hawaii State Art Museum. The following were the number of visitors at some of the attractions in FY 2018:

- King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center: 179,390
- Iolani Palace: 130,836
- Hawaii State Art Museum: 62,237

Given that the total visitor arrivals in 2018 was 9,888,845, visitors to the Capitol District accounted for 1.8% (assuming visitors came to visit King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center also visited other attractions nearby).

The study would include the resources needed for the information center which include site selection, structure, restrooms, parking, personnel, display, maps, etc. The study would also include the best practices and cost of other visitor information centers in other states on the mainland. The information center should not only be for visitors but for the broader community as well.

DBEDT does not have the adequate resources and expertise in some of the research areas. We estimate that \$300,000 to \$500,000 would be needed to conduct the study by contracting out the project to professional research firms. In addition, DBEDT would like to work with the various agencies and stakeholders in the Capitol District to accomplish this task and would require until October/November 2021 to complete the study.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



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**David Y. Ige**  
Governor

**Chris Tatum**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of  
**CHRIS TATUM**

**LATE**

Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, February 4, 2020  
9:05 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room #312

In consideration of  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 2467**  
**RELATING TO TOURISM**

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Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the Committee on Tourism & International Affairs: the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **supports** House Bill 2467, which requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to study the need for a tourism information center in the Capital District.

HB2467 would help Hawai'i in its efforts to improve the experience for our visitors. Providing them with information and directions while in the Capital District would be very helpful. This would also help the state with finding out how many tourists visit the State Capitol building every year.

It is for these reasons that the HTA **supports** HB2467. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony.