

TESTIMONY OF
JAMES P. GRIFFIN, Ph.D.
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEES ON
WAYS AND MEANS
AND
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

April 9, 2021
10:30 a.m.

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

MEASURE: H.B. No. 862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2
TITLE: RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT.

DESCRIPTION: Part V: Clarifies the employment of professional staff by the public utilities commission. Effective 7/1/2050. (Proposed SD2)

POSITION:

The Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) supports Part V of this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

COMMENTS:

The Commission supports the language in Part V of this measure, which clarifies the employment and utilization of Commission staff.

The language in Part V, which amends Section 269-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is an essential component of the Commission’s broader reorganization effort that is being considered by the Legislature. With an enhanced organizational structure, the Commission will have the staff resources to meet and adapt to its increased responsibilities in the rapidly evolving utility (energy, gas, private water and sewage, telecommunications) and motor and water carrier sectors, as well as to support the state’s efforts to achieve its Clean Energy Goals by 2045. The amended language establishes and clarifies the roles and responsibilities of key Commission staff, in an effort to increase

operational efficiencies and productivity, and enable the Commission to focus on its important duties to protect the public interest.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākāua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
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David Y. Ige
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Friday, April 9, 2021
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room #211
via videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 862, HD2, PROPOSED SD2
RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection: the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **strongly opposes** House Bill 862, HD2, Proposed SD2, which prohibits holdover board members of HTA, specifies that moneys in the Tourism Emergency Special Fund are to be used exclusively for safety and security emergency measures, requires that a 3.5 percent cap on spending from the Tourism Special Fund include all governance, employment expenses, and organization-wide costs as administrative expenses. It also repeals the allocation from Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) to the Tourism and Tourism Emergency Special Funds as well as repeals HTA's ability to establish an advisory group.

In the attached letter dated January 4, 2021 to Governor David Ige, the members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism (EET) unanimously asserted the following:

"As a COVID vaccine is distributed, every tourism destination on the planet will be competing for the same potential visitors. It is imperative that HTA assure them that Hawai'i is safe and open for business. Defunding them will mean employment for our neighbors will continue to evaporate. HTA is the fulcrum that will catapult Hawaii out of its financial misery. We hope you will reinstate full, or partial payments to HTA."

This bold and urgent assertion issued by EET, underscores our **strong opposition** to this bill, which takes a sledgehammer to HTA and three of its four strategic pillars (Hawaiian culture, natural resources, and community), just as we launch our tourism recovery strategies that will help our devastated

economy heal from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the many destructive actions, this bill will:

- Erase the HTA from the TAT distribution that has provided critical support and is necessary to ensure a successful recovery.
- Eliminate HTA's statutory ability to support programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and language, including training programs for those who work in the visitor industry.
- Remove HTA's statutory authority to allocate \$1,000,000 of its annual budget to support efforts to manage and protect our natural resources that are frequented by visitors.
- Remove HTA's statutory ability to support programs that focus on tourism education, training and career counseling effectively derailing the many programs designed to prepare and elevate Hawaii's residents, particularly our youth, into senior level management positions within the visitor industry.
- Eliminate the ability to fund safety and security programs like the Visitor Aloha Society of Hawai'i.
- Eliminate HTA's statutory authority to convene advisory groups with state and county agencies, such as what HTA did with the Destination Management Action Plans (DMAPs).
- Eliminate HTA's statutory authority to coordinate the development of new products including sports, culture, health and wellness, education, technology, and agriculture.
- Remove HTA's statutory authority to review the expenditure of public funds by contractors that perform tourism promotion and marketing.
- Remove HTA's authority to issue Requests for Proposals and execute contracts.
- Eliminate HTA's ability to keep tourism data confidential, including completed survey forms, coding sheets, and database records of information.

If HB862, HD2, Proposed SD2 passes as it is currently drafted, these are some of the effects:

- **It potentially prevents HTA from funding any staff positions and from incurring any administrative costs.** (HTA's administrative cap is calculated based upon its TAT allocation to the Tourism Special Fund.)
- It prohibits HTA from fulfilling its mission – “to strategically manage Hawai'i tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires, and visitor industry needs.”
- It restricts HTA's ability to maintain Hawai'i's position as a premier, world-class destination and protect and deliver on the Hawai'i brand – our Hawaiian culture, diversity (culture and people), natural beauty (place), and aloha spirit (connection). We need to provide a quality visitor experience in addition to supporting our residents' lifestyles and values.
- It does not allow HTA to actively address broad tourism issues through destination management and working with other agencies to strengthen natural and cultural assets valued by both Hawai'i's residents and visitors.
- It prevents HTA from supporting Hawaiian culture, natural resources, and community programs. Programs such as Merrie Monarch Festival, statewide King Kamehameha Celebration, statewide Aloha Festivals, statewide Prince Kūhiō Festivals, Prince Lot Hula Festival, and May Day. Hawaiian cultural and music performance at the airports and in resort areas statewide would no longer be supported.

- It eliminates HTA's ability to successfully address the action items from the DMAPs for all counties. We will no longer be able to convene stakeholders to address concerns and resolve action items and mitigate "hotspots." Future efforts to bring together state and county agencies will not be possible without the statutory authority.
- There will no longer be a state agency responsible for developing, coordinating, and implementing policies and directions for tourism. The branding message now becomes blurred and no longer controlled by the state because that power has been effectively removed.
- There will be no state agency responsible for eliminating and reducing barriers to travel including being responsible for providing a positive and competitive business environment.
- Sports, culture, health and wellness, education, technology, agriculture, and nature tourism will no longer be included in the development of new products at the county-level or with people in the public and private sector.
- HTA will no longer be able to support educational, training, and career counseling programs leaving the community with no opportunity to gain critical knowledge and skills to advance in the visitor industry or encourage our youth to pursue a career in the hospitality industry. Programs such as LEI (Leadership, Exploration, Inspiration) that serves hundreds of Hawaii high school student would no longer be able to serve our youth.
- HTA will no longer be available as a resource to provide technical assistance or other assistance. The HTA fields hundreds of calls a year for technical assistance and other requests. This measure takes that ability away and will create frustration for people seeking help.
- HTA will no longer be able to support the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture and community including the work we've done to ensure that the Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by the visitor industry, that Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as our official language of the state, that Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites are supported and nurtured, and that a native Hawaiian cultural education and training program exists for the visitor industry workforce.
- HTA will no longer have the ability to keep information private that may provide a competitive advantage to other destinations. Reports, data, information, and private information shared with HTA will now become public and may be used by other destinations. Also, survey participants expect anonymity when responding to a survey and the lack will create a significant barrier to survey participation.

This bill will have far-ranging, negative impacts and we believe this is unnecessary and detrimental. Gutting HTA by removing critical functions and responsibilities will do nothing to move the economic needle in the right direction. Hobbling HTA and its programs by eliminating funding from the TAT will only push the economic recovery needle in the wrong direction and does nothing to solve Hawai'i's tourism challenges. HTA has a significant task ahead in supporting the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through the revitalization of the visitor industry.

It is for these reasons we **strongly oppose** HB862, HD2, Proposed SD2. I am available to answer any questions.



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 4, 2021

Dear Governor Ige,

Happy New Year!

We look forward to working with you to resolve an array of challenges in the coming year. One of the most urgent, is reviving our economy. Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism met with Hawaii Tourism Authority staff on December 30. We heard about the dire financial situation facing the beleaguered agency and the immediate need for TAT collections to replenish their special fund.

Through your Executive Order, HTA disbursements of TAT ceased in May 2020, with no indication of when their coffers will be replenished. HTA's FY20 budget of \$86.8 million, dropped to \$40.9 million for FY '21 (52.8% reduction).

This past summer HTA worked with its contractors and vendors to implement budget reductions. Here are the programs and percentages cut: Hawaiian Culture (-79.23%), Natural Resources (-73.19%), Community (-81.94%), Branding (-47.21%), Sports (-65.45%), Safety and Security (-51.55%), and Tourism Research (-29.10%).

As a COVID vaccine is distributed, every tourism destination on the planet will be competing for the same potential visitors. It is imperative that HTA assure them Hawaii is safe and open for business. Defunding them will mean employment for our neighbors will continue to evaporate. HTA is the fulcrum that will catapult Hawaii out of its financial misery. We hope you will reinstate full, or partial TAT payments to HTA.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Aloha,

Glenn Wakai
Chair EET

Bennette Misalucha
Vice Chair EET

Gil Riviere
Member EET

Chris Lee
Member EET

Kurt Fevella
Member EET

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS AND
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 862, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, PROPOSED S.D. 2

April 9, 2021
10:30 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 862, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Proposed S.D. 2.

H.B. No. 862, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Proposed S.D. 2: 1) abolishes the Office of Aerospace Development (OAD), the Aerospace Advisory Committee, and the Hawai'i Unmanned Aerial Systems Test Site Advisory Board; 2) transfers administration of the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) from the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Imiloa; 3) transfers the administration, along with all rights, powers, functions, and duties, of the Challenger Center Hawai'i Program (CCHI) from OAD to the Department of Education (DOE); 4) transfers all appropriations for CCHI from OAD to DOE; 5) specifies that the Executive Director of PISCES shall oversee the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program; 6) prohibits holdover board members of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA); 7) specifies that moneys in the Tourism Emergency Special Fund (TESF) are to be used exclusively for emergency measures; 8) requires that the

3.5 per cent cap on spending from the Tourism Special Fund include all governance and employment expenses and organization-wide costs as administrative expenses; 9) repeals the allocation from the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) to the TESH; 10) repeals HTA authorization to establish an advisory group; 11) requires State and local boards to develop written conflict of interest policies; 12) requires the Governor to fix the compensation for the Hawai'i Workforce Development Council's (Council) Executive Director and requires the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to provide support staff to the Council; 13) transfers the Council to DLIR; and 14) clarifies the employment of professional staff by the Public Utilities Commission.

The measure establishes the PISCES Special Fund (PISCESSF) into which shall be deposited: 1) revenues, moneys, and fees from services, rentals, publications, royalties, and patents generated under this subpart; 2) gifts, donations, and grants received by PISCES; and 3) proceeds from revenue bonds issued by the Director of Finance. Funds may be expended for exploration systems for the operation, maintenance, and management of its projects, facilities, services, and publications and for the design and construction of new facilities and the renovation of or addition to existing facilities. All moneys remaining in the PISCESSF at the close of each fiscal year that are deemed, by the Director of Finance, to be in excess of the moneys necessary to carry out the purposes of this section in the next fiscal year shall lapse to the credit of the State general fund.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and

charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 862, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, Proposed S.D. 2, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed PISCESSF would be self-sustaining.

B&F notes that pursuant to the Governor's emergency proclamation, allocation of revenues collected under TAT is currently suspended with all revenues collected being deposited to the credit of the State general fund. However, Section 12 of Part III of Proposed S.D. 2 resumes the allocation of TAT pursuant to Section 237D-6.5, HRS.

B&F is concerned that resuming TAT allocations will reduce the current level of revenue to the State general fund for FYs 22 and 23 and negatively impact the State's share of direct federal aid from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

Provisions of the ARPA specifically state:

“A state or territory shall not use the funds provided under this section or transferred pursuant to section 603(c)(4) to either directly or indirectly offset a reduction in the net tax revenue of such state or territory resulting from a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation during the covered period that reduces any tax (by providing for a reduction in a rate, a rebate, a deduction, a credit, or otherwise) or delays the imposition of any tax or tax increase.”

B&F defers to HTA on the impacts of repealing TAT allocations to the Tourism Special Fund and TESH.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Statement of
L. RICHARD FRIED, JR.

LATE

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Friday, April 9, 2021
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room #211
via videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 862, HD2, PROPOSED SD2
RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection: I, as the current HTA Chair, **strongly oppose** House Bill 862, HD2, Proposed SD2.

I agree completely with the statement of our CEO, John De Fries, and I wish to address this very poorly conceived bill from a high-level view as someone that has been on the HTA Board over seven years and has been its Board Chair over four years. During that time there have been significant changes and currently we are in the best position we have been in since I have been associated with the Board. In my opinion, this bill would be a disaster for Hawaii tourism and its economy, by taking away from the visitor industry those people who collectively are the best people in Hawaii to oversee our major industry.

As an example of the depth and breadth of people that are currently on the HTA Board, all of whom are non-paid, we have the local Director for a national airline; we have several people that are extremely well thought of, both as General Managers and hotel owners; we have a planner who was instrumental in our new five-year plan; we have several Hawaiian speakers who are extremely well versed in Hawaii culture which has been a dramatic shift in our focus; we have an attorney who is very well versed in land use matters; we have the CEO of the Chamber of Commerce; and we have a long-term Board member who has a very significant tourism activity on an outer island.

On the staff side, to cite a few examples, we have a many generation CEO who has been involved in the industry. We have an extremely competent COO who was the Executive Director for the County of Maui. We have a Hawaiian speaker who was instrumental in taking the Hawaiian programs in-house so that we have more control over them. We have another staff member who did a remarkable job in the recently completed assessment of all the islands' needs, to include deep input from the residents in a variety of areas on each island. This focused in part on one of the major problems we have with certain attractions being over taxed

and how to handle that, whether it be by fees or use limits or a combination of both. Another staff member provides excellent data regarding all aspects of our visitors. We have an HTA communications person who, during COVID, has not missed a day providing multiple updates and is likely the best source in the State for someone that wants to know exactly where we are as to COVID-19. We have an attorney working on the HTA contracts who has had a great deal of experience. We have a finance person who has worked in the trenches to keep us totally knowledgeable as to the state of where and how HTA's funds are spent. None of the executive staff has had a day off this year and for most of last year.

The visitor industry, in last year prior to COVID, brought in more than 2 billion in state taxes and over 600 million in tourist accommodation taxes by far the single biggest impact on the state's economy. Being aware of the side effects of too much tourism, there is a focus on bringing in, more than I have seen in the past, the Hawaii residents into the mix to improve the resident sentiment. This includes attempts to limit airbnbs in residential areas, which is one of the main objections residents raise when they express any dislike of tourism. There is a greater emphasis on increasing our convention business.

Hawaii needs HTA to function as it now does and this bill would almost eliminate all the benefits HTA provides for the State.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LESLIE WILKINS
CHAIRPERSON

ALLICYN C.H. TASAKA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
830 Punchbowl Street, Suite 417, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 586-8630 Web: <http://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/>

April 9, 2021

LATE

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair and
Members of the Senate Committee Commerce and Consumer Protection

Date: Friday, April 9, 2021
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

From: Allicyn Tasaka, Executive Director
Workforce Development Council

Re: HB 862 HD2 SD1 PROPOSED SD2 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The Workforce Development Council (WDC) is only addressing Part IV pages 27- 31 of the proposed SD2. This section of the measure adds a conflicts of interest for state and local board members, amends authority to the Governor to appoint and fix compensation for the Executive Director position, delineates staff support shall be provided by DLIR, removes administering of funds, and removes the agency of administrative status.

The WDC offers clarifying comments.

II. CURRENT LAW

The WDC issued WIOA Bulletin No. 11-16 Conflict of Interest Policy on September 16, 2016.

Link: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/wdc/files/2016/09/WIOA-Bulletin-No-11-16-002.pdf>

[20 CFR 683.200 \(c\)\(5\) and 2 CFR 200.318 \(c\)\(1\) addresses conflicts of interest for local and state board members.](#)

Public Law No. 113-128 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA) in the 113th Congress through H.R. 803) was enacted on July 22, 2014. WIOA mandates all states to increase employment services to job seekers and employers, and subsidizes employment, education, training and support services for individuals with barriers to employment, to help them succeed in the labor market. Barriers are identified as those with low level of literacy, low income, ex-offenders, homeless, veterans, at-risk youth, aging out of foster care, individuals with disabilities, migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Also, to increase employment, retention, earnings and attainment of credentials through employment services offered at the American Job Centers. There is a component in WIOA to meet the skill requirements of employers, which is a reason that the WDC board is composed of majority business executives and labor leaders of in-demand industry leaders.

The WIOA core partners include Title II DOE Adult Education, Title IV Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Title III Wagner-Peyser, and Title I for adult, dislocated worker, youth programs is administered by WDC.

20 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 670.110 Structure of the State Workforce Development Board describes the structure and composition. The WDC has 41 members of whom 29 are business executives and community and labor leaders, a representative from the House and Senate, and ten ex-officio state and county representatives from the departments, DOE and UH, including the Governor and the four Mayors (HRS Chapter 202-1). Link: <https://ecfr.io/Title-20/Section-679.110>

20 CFR Section 679.130 Functions of the State Workforce Development Board Link: <https://ecfr.io/Title-20/Section-679.130>

20 CFR Section 679.160 State Workforce Development Board May Hire Staff The State Workforce Development Board may hire a director and other staff to assist with carrying out the functions of the WIOA programs. Link: <https://ecfr.io/Title-20/Section-679.160>

III. COMMENTS ON SENATE BILLPROPOSED SD2

The WDC offered federal citations which reflects the amendments in the measure that would be in compliance with federal regulations. The State statutes, policies and procedures and by-laws follow the WIOA federal guidelines.



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/09/2021

Time: 10:30 AM

Location: CR 211 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Ways and Means
Senate Commerce and Consumer
Protection

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0862, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Abolishes the office of aerospace development, aerospace advisory committee, and the Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test site advisory board. Transfers administration of the Pacific international space center for exploration systems from the department of business, economic development, and tourism to the University of Hawaii at Hilo Imiloa. Transfers the administration, along with all rights, powers, functions, and duties of the Challenger center Hawaii program from the office of aerospace development to the department of education. Transfers all appropriations for the Challenger center Hawaii program from the office of aerospace development to the department of education. Specifies that the executive director of the Pacific international space center for exploration systems shall oversee and manage the unmanned aircraft systems program. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 862, HD2, SD2 proposed. The Department supports the Challenger Center Hawaii program to be transferred from the Office of Aerospace Development and placed within Department of Education for administrative purposes.

The Challenger Center Hawaii, one of more than 40 Challenger learning centers in the United States and globally, promotes a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

(STEM) education program. Challenger Center Hawaii's missions immerse students in a hands-on experience where they apply problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

These learning opportunities have served as a springboard for students to embark in STEM careers. Since 1993, over 132,000 Hawaii students have participated in a Challenger Center Hawaii mission and have been inspired by the legacy of Ellison Onizuka and his contribution to the aerospace industry.

During the Legislative Session of 2013, the budget was amended to appropriate 5.0 FTE in EDN 100 and \$248,656 in general funds in BED 128 Office of Aerospace.

These amendments are found on page 121 and 205 of the Legislative Budget Worksheets:

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2013/worksheets/HB200_HD1_SD1_CD1_Worksheets.pdf. Since this time, the Office of Aerospace has needed to transfer the funds required to support the 5.0 FTE to the Department on an annual basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

LATE


OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai
Legislative Testimony

HB862 HD2 SD1 PROPOSED SD2

RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Ki‘ina Hana a me nā Kumuwaiwai

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka ‘Oihana Kālepa a me ka Ho‘omalū Mea Kemu

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

‘Apelila 9, 2021

10:30 a.m.

Lumi 211

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees **OPPOSE** Part III of the proposed SD2 draft of this measure.

The amendments made to the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority’s (HTA’s) statutory responsibilities under Part III of the proposed draft, including with respect to promoting and perpetuating Native Hawaiian language and culture and mitigating the impacts of tourism on our natural environment, will undermine the protection and perpetuation of our islands’ cultural foundation and identity and the natural environment upon which Native Hawaiians and all Hawai‘i residents rely.

Notably, the provisions proposed for deletion under this measure seek to recognize and mitigate the impacts of the historical and ongoing exploitation of Hawaiian culture and our islands’ unique and fragile natural environment, which have served and continue to serve as the foundation of our tourism industry. Tying the hands of the HTA in addressing these impacts may only exacerbate the erosion of the cultural and natural integrity of our islands, negatively impacting the cultural, environmental, socioeconomic, educational, and recreational interests of all Hawai‘i residents, and undermining our tourism industry itself over the long term.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committees to **DELETE** Part III of the proposed SD2 draft. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI K. KAAUWAI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony of Nalani Kaauwai Brun
Director, Office of Economic Development

Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
April 9, 2021; 10:30 am
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of
House Bill 862 HD2 SD2
Relating to State Government

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz and Chair Baker, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committees:

The County of Kauai **provides comments** on Part III of HB862 HD2 SD2 Proposed Draft, which relates to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and elimination of their programs.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority has provided funding and support to over thirty cultural, natural resource and community programs on Kaua'i each year including but not limited to the Kōloa Plantation Days Parade, the Alaka'i Boardwalk restoration project in Koke'e, National Tropical Botanical Garden's 'Ohia Seed Banking project in the face of ROD, the Waimea Town Celebration, the Queen Emma's Eo e Alaka'i event and the Heiva I Kaua'i.

Native Hawaiian culture is what makes Hawai'i different from any other visitor destination in the world and is the true underlying draw for visitors. The HTA has been our State's lead to insure that this important piece of who we are is taken care of and at the forefront in advertising Hawai'i as a prime vacation location. The Hawai'i Tourism Authority also provides Native Hawaiian Education and Training for the entire visitor industry. This service is vital to make sure that we honor the host culture in a pono way and avoid cultural appropriation.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority's work in developing, coordinating and implementing state policies and directions for tourism and related activities is crucial to the future of the visitor industry and allows our residents to further reap the benefits of having the industry here.

Our current partnership with the Hawai'i Tourism Authority is active and much like working as an 'ohana. We need each other to work to manage a very large, complicated industry that is fueling our economy. The HTA has always reached out to the Counties for guidance and support and we have done the same.

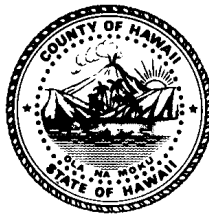
The Hawai'i Tourism Authority has been working closely with our industry partners to groom the next generation of leaders from our schools via their LEI program. This kind of workforce development is important to the future of the visitor industry and to our residents who will be ready to take on jobs from management and engineers to marketing and back of the house.

Destination management is the true challenge for the visitor industry right now. The County of Kaua'i welcomes the lead of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority in a partnership to manage response to these challenges. We are very appreciative to the HTA for their work in helping Kaua'i County come up with our own Destination Management Action Plan (DMAP). There was much engagement and many concerns noted from our community. Many of the recommendations made and accepted must be worked on from a State level. We continue to be grateful to the HTA for taking the lead on those specific recommendations. We need their help. The DMAP will help residents and the visitor industry coexist peacefully into the future.

Please do not eliminate their ability to address issues dealing with impacts to Hawai'i's natural resources. Please do not eliminate their ability to fund programs and activities that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and support community-based tourism projects that improve and enrich the residents' quality of life and Hawai'i's product offerings. Please do not eliminate key functions of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority which will restrict their ability to work towards a regenerative tourism model, and our ability to carry out the Destination Management Action Plan for Kaua'i.

We are open to more discussion and wish to hear what agencies would fill the gap with the elimination of these services.

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740



April 8, 2021

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB862 HD2 SD1, RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT
Committee on Way and Means
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 9, 2021
10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211 Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB862 HD2 SD1, relating to the Office of Aerospace Development; Aerospace Advisory Committee, Hawaii Unmanned Aerial Systems Test Site Advisory Board; Repeal' University of Hawaii at Hilo Imiloa. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Climate Resilience and Natural Resources Committee.

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to *protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources*. Please defer HB862.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Agriculture to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Rebecca Villegas

Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Council Member, Hawai'i County Council



From: Doug Simons, Executive Director, Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope

To: Committee on Energy, Economic Development & Tourism
Senator Wakai, Chair Energy, Economic Development, & Tourism Committee
Senator Misalucha, Vice Chair Energy, Economic Development, & Tourism Committee

Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Dela Cruz, Chair Ways and Means Committee
Senator Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Ways and Means Committee

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Baker, Chair Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Senator Chang, Vice Chair Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee

Subject: Testimony of **Support** for HB862-HD2-SD1, Proposed SD2 Relating to State Government

Date: 7 April 2021

Through this letter I would like to state my strong **support** for the parts of HB 862-HD2-SD1 (Proposed SD2) pertaining to PISCES. I also support the parts of this bill that transfer administration of the Pacific international space center for exploration systems (PISCES) from the department of business, economic development, and tourism to the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

This bill will help stabilize the future for PISCES, which has for many years been an important partner to CFHT in education and workforce development. PISCES has demonstrated convincingly that they are a pioneer in high-tech development activity on Hawai'i Island and they have become an integral partner on many fronts with the Maunakea Observatories, a leader worldwide in astronomical research. The high-tech research conducted and supported by PISCES benefits the development of aerospace and other local industries in Hawai'i. PISCES has been a strong supporter of STEM education and workforce development for high school and college students, partnering on numerous occasions with CFHT and providing unique opportunities in robotics design and engineering. I look forward to many years of continued partnership between Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope and PISCES and would deeply value your support of PISCES and all it represents to the future of Hawai'i through this legislation.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Doug Simons', written in dark ink.

Dr. Douglas A. Simons
Executive Director
Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope Corp.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
and
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 9, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.
By
Bonnie Irwin
Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 862 HD2 Proposed SD2 – RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) is in support of Section 1 of HB 862 HD2 Proposed SD2, Relating to State Government. This section seeks to transfer administration of the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) to UH Hilo for administrative purposes only. We support this bill provided that it is properly funded by the Legislature. In addition, we also request that should PISCES transfer to UH Hilo, the bill be amended to remove 'Imiloa Astronomy Center as unit in which PISCES is housed. This will allow UH Hilo flexibility in determining the administrative oversight for PISCES.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Pacific International
Space Center for
Exploration Systems

PISCES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Henk Rogers, Chair
Senate Nominee
Term: 2014 – 2022

Mike McCartney
Ex-Officio, Director, DBEDT
Designated Alternates
Chung I. Chang
Deputy Director, DBEDT
Term: 2020 – 2022
Mary Alice Evans
Director, Office of Planning
Term: 2013 – 2022

Bonnie Irwin
Ex-Officio, Chancellor of the
University of Hawai'i at Hilo
Term: 2020 –

David Lassner
Ex-Officio, President of the
University of Hawai'i
Designated Alternate,
Brennon Morioka
Dean of the College of
Engineering at the University
of Hawai'i at Manoa
Term: 2013 –

David DeLuz, Jr.
Governor Nominee
Term: 2020 - 2021

Luke Flynn
Governor Nominee
Term: 2016 – 2023

Dennis Gibson
House Nominee
Term: 2018 – 2022

Rachel Solemsaas
House Nominee
Term: 2018 – 2022

Kim Binsted
Senate Nominee
Term: 2016 – 2024

Statement of
Rodrigo Romo
Program Director
Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES)
Before the
Committee on Ways and Means
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 9th, 2021 @ 10:30, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HB862-HD2-SD1 Proposed SD2 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz & Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang and members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support of Part I of this Bill on the subject Pertaining to the placement of the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) within the University of Hawaii at Hilo Imiloa for administrative purposes only.

The Aerospace Industry is a rapid growing industry that could help the State on its path towards Economic Recovery. Hawaii has various advantages both geographical as well as geological that make it an ideal location for various aerospace related activities. This Bill transfers the Pacific International Space for Exploration Systems to the University of Hawaii in Hilo and allows it to continue its work related to Aerospace development, workforce development and applied research.

The works PISCES has been doing with regards to Economic Development involving the Aerospace Industry, Workforce Development for the younger generations and applied research play an important role in the recovery of Hawaii.

In order for PISCES to continue with its operations, funding will be required for the agency.

We appreciate the support this committee has shown to the PISCES program in the past and thank you for this opportunity to offer comments.

Rodrigo Romo
Program Director
PISCES
99 Aupuni St., Ste. 212-213
Hilo, HI 96720

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 5:22:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kauwila Hanchett	Testifying for Holani Hana Inc.	Oppose	No

Comments:

Welina me ke aloha,

I am writing this letter in opposition to HB862 HD2 SD1 which will repeal both the allocation from transient accommodations tax to the tourism and tourism emergency special funds and HTA's authorization to establish an advisory group. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, these funds supported essential environmental, cultural, and community-based projects across ka pae 'aina o Hawai'i. Our nonprofit organization received support from HTA's Kukulū Ola program to train established and emerging cultural practitioners in hale building under master practitioner Francis Palani Sinenci.

Protecting our natural and cultural landscapes is critical to ensuring Hawai'i continues to be a beautiful place to live, work, play, and visit. From our perspective, investing tourism-related dollars back into local communities through HTA's Aloha 'Āina and Kukulū Ola programs is the highest and best use of these funds.

I urge decision-makers to continue to support these essential programs that will ensure a thriving 'aina, vibrant community, and culturally-rich landscape for current and future generations of residents and visitors.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kauwila Hanchett



HAWAI'I FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala, HI 96774
Phone: 808-933-9411
Email: hfia@hawaiiiforest.org
Website: www.hawaiiiforest.org

Date: 4/7/2021
FROM: Hawaii'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)
SUBJECT: **Testimony Apposing HB862, HD2, SD2**

Dear Hawaii'i Legislators,

On behalf of the Directors of the Hawaii'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), this testimony is in opposition of HB862, HD2, SD2.

Over the past 15 years, HFIA and our affiliate the Hawaii'i Forest Institute (HFI) have benefited from Hawaii'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Cultural Resources, Natural Resources, and Community Enrichment Program grants. HTA grants have supported the following forest restoration and education projects on Hawaii'i Island:

- [Ka'ūpūlehu Dryland Forest](#), a 76-acres endangered native forest.
- [La'i'Ōpua Dryland Habitat Preserve](#), a 70-acres endangered native forest.
- [Pana'ewa Zoo Discovery Forest](#), a forest demonstration and education project.
- [Pālamānuī Dry Forest Preserve](#), an 84-acres endangered native forest.
- [Keauhou Bird Conservation Center Discovery Forest](#), a 40-acre native forest restoration project.

HTA has also supported [Hawaii's Woodshow™, Na Lā'au o Hawaii'i](#), HFIA's annual woodworking exhibition in Honolulu, which encourages an appreciation for local artists and promotes the positive role forests play in our economy and ecology. The Show includes a student challenge for young artists. HTA funds have also supported the [Honolulu Zoo Children's Discovery Forest](#), a forest demonstration and education project.

HB862, HD2, SD2 proposed, as currently drafted, would eliminate HTA's ability to address issues dealing with impacts to Hawaii'i's natural resources. It would also eliminate their ability to fund much-needed programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and help the community. The bill eliminates key functions of HTA and will restrict their ability to work towards a regenerative tourism model.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020, we outplanted 2,454 seedlings; managed 276 acres of forest habitat; brought 8 additional acres of forest habitat under intensive management; and benefited an estimated 5,251 people through forest stewardship activities and live and virtual classroom and community event presentations.

Established in 1989, HFIA is a nonprofit organization founded by people committed to sustainable forest management. HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through forest management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 250 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, governments and others interested in HFIA's goals and mission.

Mahalo,

Heather Simmons, Executive Director
Hawaii'i Forest Industry Association

HFIA Board of Directors

Officers: President Don Bryan, Vice-President Guy Cellier, Secretary Peter D. Simmons, Treasurer Wade Lee
Directors: Thomas Calhoun, Jeremy Campbell, Aaron Hammer, Nickolas Koch, Tai Lake, Gilles Lebbe, Michael Sowards, Irene Sprecher, Michael Tam, Jorma Winkler, Ron Wolfe, Aileen Yeh

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 7:12:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Milton Lau	Testifying for Ki-ho'alu Foundation	Oppose	No

Comments:

On behalf of the Ki-ho'alu Foundation and its Board of Directors we would like it known that as a non-profit entity whose sole mission is to promote and perpetuate hawaiian culture, we oppose the passage of HB862 HD2 SD1 as we feel it sorely impacts on our ability to achieve our strategic goals of promoting and perpetuating our Hawaiian Culture. One of the events that we produce on every major island is the Annual "Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festiva". This year will mark the 39th year of the festival which has served hundreds of thousands of local kamaiana as well and tens of thousands of visitors to our state annually. In fact, through the assistance of the Hawaii Tourism Authority and its Community Enrichment Programs, our Foundation has made it possible to employ dozens of island musicians for the festivals, attracted thousands of visitors to these festivals, which, in turn, has supported our tourism industry and local retail businesses on each of the major islands. Cultural Tourism works! These festivals which are supported by the Hawaii Tourism Authority have literally assisted us in promoting and perpetuating our island culture while at the same time attract thousands of visitors to these islands and goes a long way to employ and support local businesses. Finally, we are in many ways an economic generator tor the State of Hawaii. Mahalo.

April 7, 2021

STRONG SUPPORT for HB 862 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang, members of the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection,

On behalf of The Success Factory, I'm testifying in support of HB 862 HD2 SD1.

Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) is a strong proponent of STEM and space exploration research in Hawaii. It is active in several youth programs and has brought light to the career opportunities available in the STEM fields. This is critical to our recovery and the diversification of our economy. PISCES' efforts will not only contribute to scientific discoveries, but it will help facilitate the creation of meaningful and good-paying careers in our state.

Please support **HB 862 HD2 SD1**. It will enable PISCES to continue its invaluable contributions.

Noel Morin
President

The Success Factory is a grassroots 501(c)(3) non-profit that serves as an economic development initiative by inspiring and building STEM career readiness through NexTech STEM Programs for Hawaii Island youth.



Sustainable Energy Hawai'i

sustainableenergyhawaii.org

421 Lama St.

Hilo, HI 96720

April 7, 2021

STRONG SUPPORT for HB 862 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice-Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang, members of the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I chair **Sustainable Energy Hawai'i**, a coalition of concerned citizens dedicated to improving the quality of life of Hawaii residents.

Sustainable Energy Hawai'i is in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 862 HD2 SD1

Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) has been doing incredible work in STEM, workforce development, aerospace industry, and space exploration. These areas are critical for our state's recovery from the impact of the pandemic and the much-needed diversification of our economy.

This measure will allow PISCES to continue its valuable work.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Ha". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Richard Ha

Chair

Sustainable Energy Hawai'i

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 8:13:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Coney	Testifying for Legacy Reef Foundation	Oppose	No

Comments:

As the co founder of legacy reef foundation, a coral preservation educational center. We have received grants from HTA that have been instrumental in our ability to education thousands of children on how they can protect our coral reefs.

losing this funding source would be a disaster for Hawaii's Children!

please do not allow this bill to pass

LĀNA'I CULTURE & HERITAGE CENTER

**E Ho'ohanohano 'ana i ka wā mamua, a e Ho'olako 'ana i ka mua aku!
(Honoring the Past, and Enriching the Future!)**

A Non-Profit Charitable, Museum, Research and Educational Organization
P.O. Box 631500• Lāna'i City, Hawai'i 96763 (808) 565-7177• info@LanaiCHC.org• www.LanaiCHC.org



Keahiakawelo-
ka lama o Lāna'i

April 7, 2021

TO: COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

RE: HB 862, HD2, SD2 Proposed - Elimination of HTA's Key Functions

Aloha 'oukou e nā Mea Hanohano:

My name is Kēpa Maly, and I write you from the Lāna'i Culture and Heritage Center. The Hawai'i Tourism Authority has supported us tremendously – helping to develop our award winning GPS Web-enabled App, Lāna'i Guide and development of the supplemental www.lanaiguideapp.org; and also supported educational/interpretive programs that serve both residents and guests, as well as with other projects through funding as a Community Enrichment Program contract recipient.

We have always appreciated the initiatives of HTA, which support honua ola / bio-cultural landscape programs for visitors. These initiatives offer some of the best ways to offer culturally relevant, responsible and enriching experiences for guests and residents alike. We believe that this bill, HB862, HD2, SD2 will strip HTA of the ability to help small rural non-profit organizations like ours in creating programs of value for residents and visitors. This would be detrimental to the residents of Lāna'i who work in the tourism industry as well as our community.

Some of us also participated in the Destination Management Action Plan for Lāna'i, and we were looking forward to seeing the actions carried out. But this bill appears to eliminate HTA's ability to fund programs and activities that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and support community-based tourism projects that improve and enrich the residents' quality of life and Hawai'i's product offerings.

Please support quality programming initiatives of HTA and Lāna'i by setting this bill aside.

Na'u no me ke aloha,

Kēpa Maly

Directors and Officers:

Pamela Alconcel, Treasurer
Nelinia Cabiles
Dean Del Rosario, President
Michelle Fujie
Harrilynn Kameenui
Kēpa Maly, Chairman
John Mumford
Warren Osako
Diane Preza
Natalie Ropa, Secretary

Executive Director:
Shelly Kaleialoha Preza

Kupuna Advisor:
Martha Haia Evans

Administrative Volunteer:
Onaona Maly

Statement of
MAPUANA DE SILVA
Halau Mohala Ilima

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Friday, April 9, 2021
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room #211 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 862, HD2, SD1: PROPOSED SD2
RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang, members of the Committee on Ways and Means and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

As a member of the Native Hawaiian community, a master kumu hula, the Executive Director of the non-profit organization Hikaalani, the President of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, and a Commissioner of the FestPAC 2024 Commission, I **strongly oppose** the Proposed SD2 for House Bill 862, HD2, SD1, specifically the sections affecting the future and the work of HTA. I have no opinions on the other subject matters in the Proposed SD2.

It is quite obvious to me that the author of this bill has little regard for Native Hawaiian Sacred Sites, the Hawaiian Culture, the Hawaiian Language, the Native Hawaiian Natural Resources (yes, they are Native Hawaiian, they were here long before any of us), the Native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioners, and the Native Hawaiian People (the people who put the Hawaiian in Hawaii). Most people who live in Hawaii, including all of you, make their living off of taking advantage of this paradise and all of the Native Hawaiian things I just listed. And now you don't want to invest in our home, our culture, or our people. You want to use us, you want take all you can from our home, our resources, and our way of life and give us little to nothing in return.

I was more or less born and raised in Kaohao. My family moved there when I was 2 and I have no memory of living anywhere else, so in essence I was born and raised there. I have been living on the same ancestral lands for 70 years and 5 generations. Oh, you don't know where Kaohao is? Maybe you know it by the 1924 developer's name: "Lanikai." I grew up in Kaohao and Kailua when no one wanted to visit us because we lived so far away from everything, we lived in the country. When we could hike Kaiwa with our friends to have lunch and be away from people. When our playground was Kaiolena (our beaches) and our uncles took us to the two Mokulua islands to picnic and enjoy the place where we lived, and where we learned to fish and grow what we needed. Where our community came together to purchase the land for our private community park and where we paid off the mortgage by holding an annual fundraiser luau and twice a year community plays that our "Mortgage Players" wrote, directed, and acted in.

Just today two people were rescued from Kaiwa, they were probably tourists. And this has become a monthly (or more) occurrence. When we were kids there were never any rescues from Kaiwa. Why? Because we respected and loved our home. We knew how to behave and take care of our aina and each other. We would never be so selfish to have to be rescued from Kaiwa. How embarrassing! But none of you care about any of that.

HTA has been helping us here in Kailua to take care of our sacred sites like Kaiolena, Kailua Bay, Kaiwa, Ulupo, Kawainui, Maunawili, and Waiuaia (to name just a few). These are the places that “sell” Hawaii to the tourists. HTA has been helping us take care of these places. We have partnered with DLNR because they do not have the resources to do the work that is needed to maintain these places that the tourists visit – more and more tourists every year. You want them all to come, by the millions – but you won’t spend the money or allow HTA to enable the communities to care of these places? What are you thinking? How do you expect the work to get done? Or are you willing to just let everything get used, fall apart, get run down, get over crowded, and turn in to places no one wants to visit any more? Is that being responsible?

With the help of HTA our Kailua community, as well as all of the other communities throughout our pae aina (our islands), have just started to make some real headway in caring for and protecting our aina, our sacred sites, and the places that people most often visit. The places that continue to have to endure the trampling of feet, the pollution of noise, smoke, and rubbish, and the lack of care by our government officials – all of you! What do you not understand about this: if you don’t take care of the beautiful places, practices, and people that make Hawaii unique and that tourists come to Hawaii to see and experience, the lure will no longer exist and the tourists will go to other countries (New Zealand, Canada, Japan, Europe, etc.) where their governments understand the give and take of providing resources and maintaining the beauty and sacredness of your aina (land), your lahui (people), your mea waiwai (treasurers).

I believe that part of the problem is that all of you are stuck in your cement building (the Capitol) and now on Zoom, making decisions that affect everyone who does not work in there, and you have no idea, no clue what we are doing in the communities. You should be required to come to Kailua and to go to all of the communities that HTA has helped, to see the work that we are doing, FOR YOU. And perhaps, just perhaps, then, you will start to understand the impact and the importance of defeating Proposed SD2 from House Bill 862 HD2 SD1. If you strip HTA of all of its ability to care for and advance the Native Hawaiian culture and aina-supporting activities, you will be turning your backs on your greatest assets – the Native Hawaiian: sacred sites, culture, language, natural resources, cultural practitioners, and people – the very things that make Hawaii uniquely Hawaii, the very things that attract tourists to our paradise.

It is for all of the reasons that I have presented above, that **I URGE AND IMPLORE YOU TO OPPOSE AND REJECT THE PROPOSED SD2 FOR HOUSE BILL 862, HD2, SD1, and specifically the sections affecting the future and the work of HTA.**

I ka lahui,
Mapuana de Silva



KL Felicitas Foundation

info@klfelicitasfoundation.org
www.klfelicitasfoundation.org
P.O. Box 2118 · Big Sur · California · 93920

April 8, 2021

Re: H.B. 862

To Whom It May Concern:

Our foundation has been investing and granting into Hawai'i social enterprises on the forefront of reshaping the tourism experience since 2008 through our support of Hawai'i Investment Ready and through support of several island for profit and not for profit enterprises. Hawai'i Tourism Authority has been a valuable partner in this important work to reshape the tourism economy to better serve Hawai'i residents and its visitors. As a graduate of The Kamehameha Schools and UH Mānoa, I come to this work with over 60 years of observing the damage that tourism in its current form has brought to our islands.

HB 862 is effectively gutting the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's (HTA) ability to be the shaper of a much needed new approach to sustainable tourism. Beginning on page 14, this document, all language in this document intended to support this work has been deleted.

In going through my father's belongings after his recent death, I ran into an economic report from the Bank of Hawai'i written in 1950. This report cited the imbalance of imports and exports, making the strong case that Hawai'i had to reverse this trend if it was to ever have a strong economy. That meant and still means more local production and less imports, as well as less reliance on volatile industries like tourism.

Hawai'i Tourism Authority has the opportunity to be a global leader in what is currently a global movement. And Hawai'i, especially at the county level, is already showing leadership in this area and being cited for this work at a global level. I know because I am working in the area of overtourism to address the economic and environmental impacts overtourism is having on our environment and on our communities.

I strongly urge that the items stricken be reinstated and that HTA is empowered to do this work.

Lisa L. K. Kleissner
Board President



KAULUAKALANA

Navigating Towards a Hopeful Future

Testimony in Opposition to HB862 HD2 SD1

Aloha kakou,

As a non-profit dedicated to growing and strengthening relationships between our community and our lands and waters, we are in opposition to HB 862 HD2 SD1.

Ke aloha,

Kaleo Wong

Kaleo Wong
Executive Director
Kauluakalana
kaleo@kauluakalana.org
(808) 352-7145

Statement of

Henk B. Rogers

Chair, Board of Directors, PISCES

Founder, International MoonBase Alliance

Member, Board of Governors, National Space Society

Member, Moon Village Association

Member, Open Lunar Foundation

Before the Committee on Energy, Economic Development & Tourism, Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 9, 2021 @ 10:30, Conference Room 211

In consideration of

HB862-HD2-SD1, Proposed SD2 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang and members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support of the parts in this Bill pertaining to PISCES. Transferring PISCES to be administratively attached to Imiloa under the University of Hawaii in Hilo will allow PISCES to continue developing its work in economic development related to the aerospace industry, workforce development, education outreach and applied research.

The world is entering into the next Space Race. China and Russia have announced that they are going to work together to build a Moon Base. This means that NASA, ESA, JAXA and all the rest of the “free world” space agencies are going to have to work together to compete. The very first thing that needs to be worked on is a landing pad for the SpaceX Starship. If a rocket takes off or lands on the existing lunar surface, debris from such a landing will go ballistic and because of the vacuum of the Moon will stay ballistic until it finally hits something. PISCES has already done a successful test using Hawaii lava rock dust as a lunar simulant (96% same chemistry) for NASA to show how regolith (Moon Dust) can be sintered into something stronger than concrete using only heat (no binder). PISCES is an integral part of NASA’s efforts to build a place for rockets to land on the Moon and get started on building a permanent settlement there.

I have a weekly Zoom with NASA Ames about developing a two campus Lunar University. One campus will be in Silicon Valley to be close to the tech industry. The other campus will be on the Big Island where the conditions are closest to the Moon of anywhere in the country.

Let’s not miss this opportunity for Hawaii to become a cornerstone in the effort to settle on the Moon. PISCES must survive.



April 7, 2021

Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Legislature

Opposition to HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2

Dear Senator Dela Cruz, Senator Baker and Members of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection,

The Kohala Coast Resort Association is **vehemently opposed** to HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2.

This proposed SD2 version would eliminate nearly every one of the Hawaii Tourism Authority's core functions beyond marketing, damaging important work throughout the state of Hawaii that has been built over decades. The preservation of Hawaiian culture, protection and maintenance of our natural resources, and community engagement including product development that celebrates our traditions, and allows small businesses and entrepreneurs a way to engage with visitors to our islands, is absolutely essential. By eliminating three of the four key pillars of HTA's mission, this bill would undermine the work of thousands of local businesses, non-profit organizations, and community members, who have given countless hours to create a shared vision for tourism in our state. **Please honor the work and the care that has gone into crafting these new tourism strategic plans, and destination management action plans vetted by each island, by striking these proposed additions in SD2, that were completely out of alignment with the intent of the original legislation.**

KCRA is a collection of master-planned resorts and hotels, situated north of the Kona International Airport which represents more than 3,500 hotel and timeshare accommodations and an equal number of resort residential units. This is approximately 35 percent of the visitor accommodations available on the Island of Hawai'i. KCRA member properties annually pay more than \$25 million in TAT, \$25 million in GET and \$11 million in property taxes. KCRA members employ more than 5,000 Hawaii Island residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie P. Donoho". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Stephanie Donoho
Administrative Director



96 Pu'uhonu Place
 Hilo, HI 96720
 (808) 935-4304
 (808) 969-7512
 ahapunanaleo.org

Testimony of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo
 to the Senate committee on Ways and Means

Date: April 8, 2021
 Time: 10:30a
 Location: Conference Room 211

HB 862, HD2, SD2: Relating to State Government

Ka Papa Alaka'i
Board of Directors

- Kauanoë Kamañā
Pelekikena
- 'Alohilani Rogers
Kākau'Ōlelo
- Larry Kimura
- William H. Wilson
- Ki'ope Raymond
- Keawe Lopes

Ka Luna Ho'okele
Chief Executive Officer

Ka'iulani J.K.N. Laehā

Ka Luna Ho'okō
Chief Operating Officer

K. Sean Kekina

Nā Papahana
Pūnana Leo
Pūnana Leo Programs

Aukukui

Hale Kipa 'Ōiwi

Kula Kamali'i

- Pūnana Leo o Hilo
- Pūnana Leo o Honolulu
- Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i
- Pūnana Leo o Maui
- Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i
- Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae
- Pūnana Leo o Kona
- Pūnana Leo o Waimea
- Pūnana Leo o Mānoa
- Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko
- Pūnana Leo o Lahaina
- Pūnana Leo o Hāna

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee;

'O wau 'o Ka'iulani Laehā, ka Luna Ho'okele o ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo. My name is Ka'iulani Laehā, CEO, 'Aha Pūnana Leo.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo opposes the proposed amendment of HB862, specifically section 201B-7 that eliminates:

(5) Perpetuating the uniqueness of the native Hawaiian culture and community, and their importance to the quality of the visitor experience, by ensuring that:

(A) The Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by Hawaii's visitor industry;

(B) Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as both an official language of the State as well as the foundation of the host culture that draws visitors to Hawaii;

(C) Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites that give value to Hawaii's heritage are supported, nurtured, and engaged in sustaining the visitor industry; and

(D) A native Hawaiian cultural education and training program is provided for the visitor industry workforce having direct contact with visitors;

These activities are crucial to maintaining the state's progress to a normalized Hawaiian language and would adversely implicate the near 40 years of language revitalization efforts of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo and our Hawaiian language speaking community. We are coming upon the United Nations declared International Decade of Indigenous Languages and Hawai'i has been a key player in contributing to global efforts.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 862 SD 2 HD 2.

Mahalo,

Ka'iulani Laehā



International Festivals & Events Association
World Headquarters
2603 Eastover Terrace, Boise, Idaho 83706, U.S.A.
Telephone: 208-433-0950 Web: www.ifea.com

April 7, 2021

Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Legislature

Opposition to HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2

Dear Senator Dela Cruz, Senator Baker and Members of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection,

The International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA World) is **vehemently opposed** to HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2.

This proposed SD2 version would eliminate nearly every one of the Hawaii Tourism Authority's core functions beyond marketing, damaging important work throughout the state of Hawaii that has been built over decades. The preservation of Hawaiian culture, protection and maintenance of our natural resources, and community engagement including product development that celebrates our traditions, and allows small businesses and entrepreneurs a way to engage with visitors to our islands, is absolutely essential. By eliminating three of the four key pillars of HTA's mission, this bill would undermine the work of thousands of local businesses, non-profit organizations, and community members, who have given countless hours to create a shared vision for tourism in our state. **Please honor the work and the care that has gone into crafting these new tourism strategic plans, and destination management action plans vetted by each island, by striking these proposed additions in SD2, that are completely out of alignment with the intent of the original legislation.**

My organization, the International Festivals & Events Association (IFEA World), *the Premier Association Supporting and Enabling Festival and Event Professionals Worldwide*, has had the very real pleasure of working closely and

in partnership with the HTA for many years, to raise the brand of Hawaii festivals and events, and to educate, certify and support those Hawaii professionals (on all of the islands) who are responsible for protecting and furthering the unique Hawaiian culture; driving all important visitor and tourism numbers; driving economic impact; and protecting the quality of life for your residents, together with the cultural and natural resources for which they can be rightfully proud.

We work with organizations, governments, states and countries around the world, and I can assure you that the HTA is among the finest, most credible and most effective of all of those. To do anything that would risk the foundations of success that they have built and continue to grow, on your behalf, would be ludicrous. It would not only show a lack of leadership and understanding of what they provide, but will have lasting and irreparable damage on your magnificent state.

Please vote to oppose HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven Wood Schmader". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "S" that loops back under the rest of the name.

Steven Wood Schmader, CFEE
President & CEO

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:48:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Brandt	Testifying for Foresight/Policy Analysis	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I strongly oppose the Gut & Replace version of HB862

that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7,

and which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax.

This kind of subterfuge is just one of far too many examples of why most of the public hold politicians in such low regard.

It seems legislators want to cut everything--except their own pay by voting for a raise during a budget crisis!

AUWE!!!

*While facing a global pandemic for over a year, **communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment.***

A gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite.

AUWE!!!

The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities.

Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future.

So with as much respect as I can muster, please try to get a clue while you still can.

And if you can't, I suggest you start looking for a REAL job!

This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders."

Please defer HB862.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Thomas Brandt

Foresight/Policy Analysis



Hawai'i Island Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce

April 8, 2021

Board of Directors

President

Kirstin Kahaloa

Re: Opposition to HB 862 HD 2 SD 2

Vice President

Benson Medina

Aloha,

Secretary

Margaret Stanley

I am writing on behalf of Hui 'Oihana, Hawai'i Island's Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, in strong opposition to HB 862 HD 2 SD 2.

Treasurer

Kimo Lee

Our Chamber's mission is to strengthen the Native Hawaiian community and businesses by supporting a thriving economy rooted in language, culture, and aloha. Our membership has been encouraged by the direction of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority under President & CEO John De Fries, putting into action the principles of HTA's recently adopted strategic plan as well as the specifics of Hawai'i Island's Destination Management Action Plan.

Assistant Treasurer

Zeda Medina

Removing the important functions of thoughtful development of tourism policy, coordination of public and private entities, work to develop new tourism products that keep us competitive as a destination, developing career pipelines to our state's largest industry, and protecting the cultural and natural resources that are our differentiators takes us back to the earliest days of tourism promotion in Hawai'i – a strategy that resulted in decades of unbridled tourism at the expense of our kama'āina.

Past President

Richard Ha

As we consider a post-pandemic future that is more responsive to community needs while maintaining a robust economy, these proposed changes to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority have the dubious distinction of being both penny- and pound-foolish.

Directors

Darren Elisaga

Mike Kaleikini

Kanoe Pu'uohau

Lani Weigert

As the voice of the Native Hawaiian community at the intersection of culture, community, and commerce, Hui 'Oihana believes in building a sustainable economy that aligns directly with indigenous values and its impact on people. HB 862 HS 2 SD 2 is in opposition to our mission and core values.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our opposition to HB 862 HS 2 SD 2.

Kirstin Kahaloa
President

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:12:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Aeto	Testifying for Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA) stands in **strong opposition** to HB 862 HD 2 SD 2.

NaHHA was founded in 1997 by Dr. George Kanahale, and your predecessor in the Legislature Sen. Kenneth Brown – two iconic Hawaiian leaders who understood the implications, opportunities and impacts that Hawai'i's visitor industry was having on the people of Hawai'i, Hawaiian culture, local ways and our state's natural and cultural resources.

They knew the tourism industry in Hawai'i needed to elevate its consciousness and operating priorities by identifying and committing to a bold range of stewardship responsibilities and begin to re-envision the entire industry as keepers of the Hawaiian culture. By nurturing Hawaiian culture and the Aloha Spirit, Hawai'i tourism would in turn be nurtured here at home, and its identity would be empowered and celebrated around the world.

The removal of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's *kuleana* (responsibility) to perpetuate the uniqueness of the native Hawaiian culture, as well as its mandate to protect our natural resources, would be a major course reversal on our journey to a visitor industry that will be welcome in Hawai'i for generations to come.

Furthermore, the other changes to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's statutory mandate contemplated in this bill would severely compromise the agency's ability to deliver on its recently approved strategic plan, as well as the community-driven Destination Management Action Plans, offering yet another example of promises broken by state government.

For the Hawai'i we all love, mahalo for the opportunity to share our **strong opposition** to HB 862 HS 2 SD 2.

John Aeto
Board President
NaHHA



1050 Queen Street, Suite 100, Honolulu, HI 96814

Telephone: 808.206.8446 - Email: info@kanuhawaii.org - <http://www.KanuHawaii.org>

Date: 04/09/2021

Time: 10:30 AM

Location: CR 211 & Via Videoconference

Committee(s): WAM/CPN

Title of Bill: HB 862, HD2, SD1 (SD2) RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Kanu Hawaii is opposed to HB 862, HD2, SD1 (SD2) as it would severely impact HTA and its ability to support cultural and environmental, community enrichment programs.

As we understand it, the bill essentially removes HTA's non-marketing/branding activities, such as:

- It eliminates HTA's ability to successfully address the action items from the DMAPs for all counties and will no longer be able to convene stakeholders to address concerns and resolve action items
- It prevents HTA from supporting Hawaiian culture, natural resources, and community programs
- It dispenses with the HTA's new strategic plan by eliminating three of the four pillars outlined
- Sports, culture, health and wellness, education, technology, agriculture, and nature tourism will no longer be included in the development of new products at the county-level or with people in the public and private sector
- HTA will no longer be able to support educational, training, and career counseling programs leaving the community with no opportunity to gain critical knowledge and skills to advance in the visitor industry
- HTA will no longer be available as a resource to provide technical assistance or other assistance
- We will no longer be able to support the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture and community including the work we've done to ensure that the Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by the visitor industry, that Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as our official language of the State, that Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites are supported and nurtured, and that a native Hawaiian cultural education and training program exists for the visitor industry workforce

The community enrichment program and others that may be impacted play an important role in helping to connect residents with our visitors and the visitor industry. These activities help to mitigate negative perception and actual challenges among residents and visitors while providing opportunities to share our culture identity, values and place in a way that considers our local values and our priorities.

Kanu Hawaii, the organizations that it fiscally sponsors and our over 19,000 members that represent every zip code in Hawaii, have and may continue to be direct beneficiaries of these programs and can attest firsthand to the importance of their impact in building a more sustainable and prosperous future for our island home.

We ask that you reconsider the portions of the bill that might negatively impact these programs specifically, and HTA more broadly.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keone Kealoha", written in a cursive style.

Keone Kealoha
Executive Director, Kanu Hawaii

Hika‘alani

Testimony on H.B. 862, H.D. 2, S.D. 1: Proposed S.D.2 Relating to State Government

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hearing: Friday, April 9, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

Aloha, and mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of Hika‘alani, which **strongly opposes** the proposed language in S.D. 2 regarding the role and functions of the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority (HTA).

Hika‘alani is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded in 2010, dedicated to the restoration of indigenous land-use, culture, and identity in Kailua, O‘ahu. We are educators, scholars, and practitioners of Hawaiian culture with deep-rooted ties to our Kailua home. Our vision is to reestablish centers of stewardship and learning at storied places in the ahupua‘a of Kailua where we can again gather, as Hawaiians did in centuries past, to practice the culture that sustains and defines us.

Hika‘alani is concerned about the sections in this proposal that appear to change the focus and work of the HTA. In particular, this proposal deletes the HTA’s responsibility in relation to supporting and advancing knowledge of the Hawaiian culture and community, and supporting Hawaiian language, cultural practitioners, and sites. It is crucial that visitors to our islands have an opportunity to understand our foundational culture and history, and that our language, cultural practitioners, and cultural sites are sustained and supported in order for our culture to continue to flourish.

Again, mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony in **strong opposition** to the new sections that would be added to H.B. 862, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, by the Proposed S.D. 2, that would negatively affect the future and work of the HTA. Hika‘alani has no opinion on the other subject matters in the Proposed S.D. 2.

Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie
President, Hika‘alani Board of Directors



Testimony of the
OAHU ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (OEDB)
In OPPOSITION of HB862, HD2, SD2
RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Friday, April 9, 2021
10:30 A.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 211, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang, and Committee Members,

It is with grave concern that I submit this testimony in absolute opposition to HB862, HD2, SD2. In order to build back right, this is not the time to cut the funding to the leaders and most significant organizations that define and help our community to do just that.

In 2018, I attended a discussion breakout for the Hawaii Conservation Alliance Conference and it was about the Ala Wai Watershed management and restoration. In the audience there was a young woman who (during the Q&A) bravely, yet humbly asked a question, "How can the children who are caring for the Ala Wai today continue to care for her in the future?"

One panelist replied, "That question is why we are working on workforce programs with the Schools and University which will provide jobs and skills to care for the Ala Wai." Another panelist explained that the Hospitality Industry was working on projects to support that effort.

When all the question were asked and answered, I raised my hand I said, "I'd like to interpret what I heard this young person asking. I heard her say, how can the children who are caring for the Ala Wai today continue to care for her tomorrow when they can't even afford to live in the ahupuaa?" I said this is not a question the panelists can answer, this is a question that we must all answer together, and in fact this falls on me as an economist!

The young woman turned to me and expressed softly, "mahalo".

Now is the moment for so many to be engaged in the process of caring for our home and people. Now is



the time to erect and innovate the strategies and programs that will restore and preserve Hawaii as a revered resource rather than a referenced resource for the World. Now is the time to invest, not cut the resources, to the new leaders who carry a malama mandate, not because of their positions and jobs, but because their love for our home and people is in their genetic makeup to do so.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pono Shim', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pono Shim
President & CEO
Oahu Economic Development Board



Moku O Keawe

Hawai'i Council for the
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
P.O. Box 7164 | Hilo, Hawai'i | 96720

Senate Committee on WAYS AND MEANS and COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFIARS

Friday, April, 9, 2021, CR211 & Videoconference 10:30 a.m.

Re: HB862 SD2 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz and Chair Baker and members of the committees,

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs – Hawai'i Council **OPPOSES HB862, SD2 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT.**

This measure will have a negative impact on the myriad of programs that are supported through the Office of Aerospace. We are most concerned that this bill proposes to eliminate key education programs as well as support for Hawaii Tourism Authority that provide avenues for Hawaiian cultural programs such as the Merrie Monarch and many other activities that bridge the Native Hawaiian culture and the visitor industry.

Hawaii residents should not be marginalized by such measures. I urge this committee to **OPPOSE HB862,SD2**, and really look into the impacts as our economy is at stake and our leaders should be looking at avenues that build our economic sectors as well as support cultural and natural resources.

Me ka mahalo nui,
Shane Akoni Palacat-Nelsen
Pelekikena



2667 'Anu'u Place
Honolulu HI, 96819

Phone: 808-845-8918
Email: info@awaiaulu.org



April 8, 2021

Re: Testimony in opposition to HB862 HD2 SD1

Aloha,

As a dedicated cultural institution, we oppose this bill.

We strongly oppose the passage of this bill that includes aspects that directly undermines decades of efforts to rebuild and foster Hawai'i's uniqueness as embodied in its culture, language and society. The direct impacts from this bill, while egregious, would impart a more far reaching erosion of those long standing efforts.

Like most parts of the State Government, it has taken many, many years to develop an understanding and appreciation for the value and importance of Hawai'i's cultural foundations as pillars of the State's economy and society. This bill dismisses that long process.

Me ka 'oia 'i 'o,

M. Puakea Nogelmeier
Executive Director

Directors

President

Neil J. Hannahs

Vice-President

Gaylord Wilcox

Treasurer

John Marrack

Secretary

Marti Steele

James Haynes

Wayne Pitluck

Aaron Salā

Executive Director

Puakea Nogelmeier

Projects Manager

Kau'i Sai-Dudoit

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:24:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faith Sereno Rex	Testifying for SMS Consulting	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Faith Rex and I work for SMS Consulting. We are currently helping the Hawai'i Tourism Authority with writing the Destination Management Action Plans. HTA is making huge strides in working towards regenerative tourism, and this bill, HB862, HD2, SD2, would affect their ability to carry out the actions outlined in the DMAPs. This bill eliminates their ability to fund programs and activities that the community has asked for through the DMAPs, including those that perpetuate the uniqueness of the Hawaiian culture and community.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:25:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Farden	Testifying for Kanaeokana	Oppose	No

Comments:



April 8, 2021

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Senate Committee on Commerce and

Consumer Protection

FR: Kanaeokana Kula Hawai'i Network

RE: HB862 HD1 SD1 Relating to State Government

Aloha Senators:

Kanaeokana, the Kula Hawai'i Network which includes membership of DOE Hawaiian Language Immersion Program sites, all 17 Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools (HFCS), and over 50 other Hawaiian education organizations, strongly opposes HB862 HD1 SD1 because of its impacts to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's mission and work, and its ripple impacts on Hawaiian culture, our 'Ä• ina, and Hawaiian education.

Please consider our concerns:

- It prevents HTA from supporting Hawaiian culture, natural resources, and community programs.**
- HTA will no longer be able to support the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture and community including their efforts to ensure that the Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by the visitor industry, that Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as our official language of the state, that Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites are supported and nurtured, and that a native Hawaiian cultural education and training program exists for the visitor industry workforce.**
- HTA will no longer be able to support projects and programs that work to manage, improve, and protect Hawaii's natural environment and other areas frequented by visitors. This will hobble our efforts to prioritize a regenerative tourism economy.**

Therefore, our members strongly oppose this measure and we ask the committee chairs and members to OPPOSE HB862 HD1 SD1.

Me Ka 'Oia'i'o

Elena Farden, Co-Chair

Mahina Paishon-Duarte, Co-Chair

KÅ• mike Advocacy

Kanaeokana Kula Hawai'i Network

April 8, 2021

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Re: HB862 HD2 SD2 Proposed

Welina mai kākou,

I submit this testimony to remove the language inserted into Part III of the proposed H862 HD2 SD2 to amend HRS Section 201B-2.

If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything it is that the mass tourism model that Hawai'i has become dependent on is fragile and leaves our economy and those employed in this model extremely vulnerable. The language inserted into proposed HB862 HD2 SD2 to strip the Hawai'i Tourism of any of its statutory mandates other than direct marketing to tourists is essentially a double down bet on mass tourism and discards the unique competitive advantage of our cultural and biological diversity. We should be doing the exact opposite and doubling down on our cultural and natural resources because it will make Hawai'i a better place to live for our residents by rebalancing the costs and benefits from the extractive mass tourism model. Furthermore, it sets a foundation upon which Hawai'i can market itself to the previously elusive higher spending visitor and further reduce the negative impact from tourism.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority signed on to the 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration -- a movement to collectively work together toward a just, equitable, and resilient future economy. HTA has taken a bold step to also declare its intention to move towards regenerative tourism - a model to create a better balance between the industry and our communities and 'āina. This is in line with the findings from a resident survey in December 2020 that concluded, among other things, that to improve the weakening resident sentiment towards tourism that "Native Hawaiian culture and language be presented authentically" and "provide residents with a voice in tourism development."

Therefore this move to insert these amendments to HRS Section 201B-2 make no sense because they directly go against what our residents are asking for by stripping away HTA's ability to do so.

The people of Hawai'i got a glimpse of what life is like with less crowded beaches and roadways when there are not 20,000+ tourists landing here every day. I do not know any local resident that did not appreciate what that was like for those few months. We have a unique opportunity through this crisis to imagine and create a new future for Hawai'i that is less vulnerable and less extractive to our communities and our 'āina.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Keoni Lee
Co-Founder, 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:35:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Lapilio	Testifying for Waianae Economic Development Council	Oppose	No

Comments:

I wish to express my strong opposition to HB862 HD2 SD1. Changes made to this bill to remove funding for HTA programs that support culture, the environment and communities make a mockery of everything local residents have been saying about the negative and corrosive aspects of unbridled and out-of-control tourism.

If support for these programs is removed then the tourist industry is taking more than it gives. If you cannot support the well-being of the product you are selling then you have lost the right to be its stewards. As it is written, this bill has become a threat to our quality of life.

Kill HB862.



April 7, 2021

Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Roselyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Legislature

Opposition to HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2

Dear Senator Dela Cruz, Senator Baker and Members of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection,

Mauna Kea Resort is **vehemently opposed** to HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2.

This proposed SD2 version would eliminate nearly every one of the Hawaii Tourism Authority's core functions beyond marketing, damaging important work throughout the state of Hawaii that has been built over decades. The preservation of Hawaiian culture, protection and maintenance of our natural resources, and community engagement including product development that celebrates our traditions, and allows small businesses and entrepreneurs a way to engage with visitors to our islands, is absolutely essential. By eliminating three of the four key pillars of HTA's mission, this bill would undermine the work of thousands of local businesses, non-profit organizations, and community members, who have given countless hours to create a shared vision for tourism in our state. **Please honor the work and the care that has gone into crafting these new tourism strategic plans, and destination management action plans vetted by each island, by striking these proposed additions in SD2, that were completely out of alignment with the intent of the original legislation.**

Sincerely,

Craig Anderson
VP Operations Mauna Kea Resort
Chair, Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association (Hawaii Island Chapter)

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:40:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
TERRY KIMOKEO	Testifying for Ke Aloha Aina Hawaiian Civic Club	Oppose	No

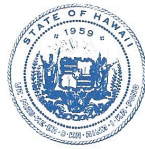
Comments:

Aloha kākou,

Ku'e au i kāia. I oppose.

Mahalo

STATE OF HAWAII



KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

355 NORTH KING STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

April 8, 2021

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to you to oppose the passing of this Bill. On behalf of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission we oppose HB 862, HD2, SD2 Proposed, as currently drafted, as it would eliminate HTA's ability to address issues dealing with impacts to Hawai'i's natural resources. It would also eliminate their ability to fund programs and activities that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture such as the King Kamehameha Celebrations statewide. HB 862, HD2, SD2 Proposed also removes support for community-based tourism projects that improve and enrich the residents' quality of life and Hawai'i's product offerings. This bill essentially eliminates key functions of HTA, it will restrict their ability to work towards a regenerative tourism model, and ability to carry out their Destination Management Action Plans.

Not only would this eliminate key funding for the King Kamehameha Celebrations but it would also impact many other Hawaiian organizations which is detrimental to the entire state of Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Hammond".

Amy Hammond
Executive Director
King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

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**HB862 HD2 Proposed SD2
STATE GOVERNMENT**

Senate Committee on Ways & Means and Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

April 9, 2021

10:30 AM

Videoconference

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), a member-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to enhance the cultural, economic, political, and community development of Native Hawaiians, **STRONGLY OPPOSES** HB862 HD2 Proposed SD2, which would repeal a very broad array of facets related to tourism, the sustainable growth and management of tourism, and the management of tourism-related economic impacts on Hawai'i's natural environment and its natural resources; **thereby reducing the potential amount of tourism-related revenue that is granted through the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) to Native Hawaiian and Native Hawaiian-serving organizations that work toward the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian cultures, practices, and the natural resources upon which these cultures depend.**

CNHA has played a pivotal role in supporting Hawai'i's economy during the height of the pandemic and its associated economic crisis, in part, by establishing The Pop-Up Mākeke, a virtual marketplace through which many hundreds of local small business owners were able to maintain a source of income at a time where job layoffs were at an unprecedented high and where countless families across the country were struggling just to survive. CNHA would not have been able to establish The Pop-Up Mākeke had it not been for funding opportunities through HTA.

CNHA would like to emphasize that HTA serves the critical function of making funding opportunities available for the perpetuation and protection of Native Hawaiian cultural practices, Native Hawaiian culturally and historically-dependent resources, and Hawai'i's natural environment. Tourism is Hawai'i's premier economic driver and Hawai'i maintains a world-renown status for its natural beauty and the uniqueness of the Native Hawaiian culture.



In an attempt to avoid the exploitation of the Native Hawaiian people, the State government has often sought to improve relations with the Native Hawaiian community for a more sustainable and regenerative model of tourism. While often slow to implement, successful strategies have been incredibly impactful, resulting in greater Native Hawaiian agency in tourism through the establishment of the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association and much needed financial support through programs like Kūkulu Ola – none of this would be possible if not for tourism income appropriated through HTA. **The removal of a funding source for HTA would have a direct impact causing the removal of funding for the perpetuation and protection of Native Hawaiian culture, practices, reliant-resources, and the integrity of the natural environment.**

There is not enough funding available for Native Hawaiian and Native Hawaiian-serving organizations to effectively elevate Native Hawaiian society to a level of equity and equality in offset of the historical injustices, systemic oppression, and trans-generational trauma endured by the Native Hawaiian community. The modicum of funding that is available goes to great lengths in assisting a community of people, who have always given back to the overall benefit of the people of Hawai'i. We need more funding opportunities, not less.

For these reasons, CNHA respectfully requests that this proposed measure be held.
Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Respectfully,

J. Kūhiō Lewis
President & CEO
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement



Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 597

Honolulu, HI 96809

nhccoahu@gmail.com

April 8, 2021

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony In **Opposition** to HB862, HD2, SB2 Proposed, Relating to State Government

Aloha e Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker; Vice Chairs Keith Agaran and Chang; and Committee Members:

The Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce (NHCC) humbly submits this written testimony in strong **OPPOSITION** to HB862, HD2, SB2 Proposed, relating to State Government (hereinafter the “Bill”).

The mission of the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) is to *“strategically manage Hawaii tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires and visitor industry needs.”* On January 30, 2020, the agency adopted HTA’s Strategic Plan 2020-2025, which focuses on the following 4 pillars:

- 1) Land and Natural Resources
- 2) Hawaiian Culture
- 3) Community
- 4) Brand and Marketing

HTA serves a critical function and provides valuable programs and resources. In addition, HTA provides the Native Hawaiian community with the opportunity to perpetuate culture, educate visitors and provide an authentic visitor experience, and have a voice relative to the tourism industry. This Bill proposes to: eliminate many of HTA’s key functions; eliminate HTA’s ability to fund programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture; and restrict the Agency’s ability to work toward a regenerative tourism model. In essence, this Bill will strip HTA of all essential functions and authority except for strictly marketing tourism.

In particular, NHCC opposes this Bill because of the following negative and potentially devastating effects it will have:

- This Bill will prohibit HTA from fulfilling its mission.
- This Bill will, for all intents and purposes, dispense with HTA's Strategic Plan by eliminating 3 of the 4 articulated pillars.
- This Bill will prevent HTA from supporting Hawaiian culture, natural resources and community programs.
- Under this Bill, there will no longer be a State Agency responsible for developing, coordinating, and implementing policies and direction for tourism.
- Under this Bill, HTA will no longer be able to support educational, training, and career counseling programs, thereby leaving the community with no opportunity to gain critical knowledge and skills to advance in the visitor industry. As a result, all of HTA's workforce development efforts and programs will be forced to cease.
- Under this Bill, HTA will no longer be available as a resource to provide technical or other assistance. In past years, HTA has been able to collaborate with partners and assist organizations and businesses through cultural training programs, festivals, events workshops, agritourism webinars, and nonprofit financial management webinars.
- Under this Bill, HTA will no longer be able to support projects and programs that work to manage, improve, and protect of Hawaii's natural environment and other areas frequented by visitors.
- Under this Bill, HTA will no longer be able to support the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture and community, including the work HTA has done to ensure that the Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by the visitor industry, that Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as our official State language, that Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites are supported and nurtured, and that a native Hawaiian cultural education and training program exists for the visitor industry workforce.

For these reasons, NHCC **STRONGLY OPPOSES** HB862 HD2, SB2 Proposed. Accordingly, we request that the Committees do not move forward with this bill.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony on a matter of significance to the Native Hawaiian community.



Shannon H. Edie
President
Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:57:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
maile meyer	Testifying for Native Books, Na Mea Hawai'i, Pu'u honua Society	Oppose	No

Comments:

welina mai nei, greetings to those individuals tasked to put community interests and the needs of our beloved land, water, and people of Hawai'i nei ahead of personal concerns,

Mahalo for your hard work in reviewing all the ways that you can move the resource of funding out to community. HTA is one of the avenues that translates the interests and needs of off Island visitors who come to our home. Removing from HTA funds that helps visitors and people living in Hawai'i understand the unique nature, history and extraordinary experiences we share, especially as they relate to Hawaiian cultural connectivity, may be "penny wise" but it is certainly pound foolish."

Please reconsider this thinking, perhaps you believe "some other entity" will help to fund "those programs." The programs you are considering eliminating from HTA deeply impact the "curious" visitors who are traveling now. Travel is not a cattle call experience any more, people come to create meaningful exchanges around community work projects, understanding place, meaningful exchanges, experiences that are other than transactional. These exchanges happen organically in communities all over the Islands and are part of the evolution of the visitor industry, post pandemic.

The "returns" from the thinking of HBB62 HD2 SD1 are difficult to calculate, but easy to conceptualize, especially in the world we live in now. Hawai'i and its people are part of the solution to the pain and suffering so many have experienced from COVID-19. If that isn't apparent, that the work of these programs through HTA are vital, perhaps you SHOULD CUT these programs, it will certainly LOWER THE QUALITY and QUANTITY of the visitor experience and keep less people traveling to Hawai'i. Perhaps I will change my testimony and support your reasoning, but that feels shortsighted--we need more understanding between visitors and residents, not less.

respectfully submitted,

Maile Meyer



WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

MEASURE: H.B. No. 862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2
TITLE: RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT.

The Waimea Hawaiian Civic Club, organized in 1949 and chartered by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in 1959 **strongly opposes** HB 862.

This bill proposes to remove some key functions of Hawai'i Tourism Authority, including the protection and promotion of Hawaiian culture, language and the natural environment. It not only removes funding from HTA by reallocating portions of the TAT, but deletes the functions which broaden HTA's scope to care for and protect the very traits that visitors come to experience.

This is an excessively harsh and severe bill which targets a number of different programs. Of greatest concern is the impact on Hawai'i Tourism Authority and the funding they provide to support Hawaiian cultural programs through the Counties and throughout the Pae 'Āina. Merrie Monarch and several other cultural activities receive funding through HTA's program.

We strongly URGE this committee not to pass a bill such as this which would strip the heart of Hawaii's culture, language and natural environment out of what makes Hawaii unique in all the world.

Respectively submitted,

WAIMEA HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB
Pelekikena



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April 8, 2021

HB 862 – RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony in regards to House Bill 862.

Specifically, the Omnitrak Group, Inc. expresses its vehement opposition to HB 862's intent to delete language from SECTION 8. Section 201B-7 Hawaii Revised Statutes that permits the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to withhold completed survey forms and questionnaire forms, coding sheets and database records of information if release of such sensitive information would place a business at a competitive disadvantage or frustrate the Authority's ability to compete as a visitor destination or utilize information for a legitimate government function.

On behalf of the Authority, the Omnitrak Group Inc. currently conducts all passenger departure surveys at airports statewide aimed at gathering data on visitor expenditures and visitor characteristics which are critical to the state's efforts at assessing the economic performance and impact of Hawai'i's visitor industry.

Currently, survey participants are assured that their individual responses will be kept completely confidential. Removing this guarantee of confidentiality as HB 862 proposes to do will have a significant negative impact on departing visitors' willingness to participate in and provide such sensitive information on the departure surveys. As survey participation plummets, this will in turn suppress the state's ability to gauge the economic impact and performance of tourism in Hawai'i.

In addition, it is standard practice in marketing research to ensure the confidentiality of survey participants' responses. Removing such protections, flies in the face of marketing research industry standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Mahalo and best regards,

Christopher Kam
President
Omnitrak Group Inc.



'Ilio'ulaokalani Coalition

Advocating for the protection of Native Hawaiian Rights and the Protection of the Natural and Cultural Resources of Hawai'i

RE: Strong Opposition to HB862 HD2 SD1: Relating to State Government, Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Members of the Committee Ways and Means

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, Members of the Committee Commerce and Consumer Protection

Aloha Mai Kākou,

Mahalo nui loa for allowing me to testify in strong opposition of HB 862 HD2 SD1: Relating to State Government

'Ilio'ulaokalani Coalition is a hui (group) of kumu hula (master teachers of Hawaiian dance), Native Hawaiian artists and cultural practitioners who advocate for the protection of our Native rights, sacred sites and the natural and cultural resources of Hawai'i.

We **strongly oppose the proposed amendments to HB 862 HD2 SD1:** Relating to State Government, Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, specifically section 201B-7 that only supports SPORTS and eliminates all support for Native Hawaiian Cultural programming and our Hawaiian environment. Specifically, we object to deleting the following sections from HRS 201 B-7:

(5) Perpetuating the uniqueness of the native Hawaiian culture and community, and their importance to the quality of the visitor experience, by ensuring that:

(A) The Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by Hawaii's visitor industry;

(B) Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as both an official language of the State as well as the foundation of the host culture that draws visitors to Hawaii;

(C) Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites that give value to Hawaii's heritage are supported, nurtured, and engaged in sustaining the visitor industry;
and



'Īlio'ulaokalani Coalition

Advocating for the protection of Native Hawaiian Rights and the Protection of the Natural and Cultural Resources of Hawai'i

(D) A native Hawaiian cultural education and training program is provided for the visitor industry workforce having direct contact with visitors;

We have worked for years to re-claim and sustain our Native Hawaiian language, cultural practices, arts, traditions and the natural and cultural resources that are vital for Hawai'i. We are what makes Hawai'i unique and special. Removing policies and vital support for these programs will be detrimental to our economy. We are appalled that our State Legislature is entertaining this type of legislation in the midst of the pandemic.

Mahalo Nui Loa

Vicky Holt Takamine

'Īlio'ulaokalani Coalition

vtakamine@gmail.com

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:10:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kea Kala	Testifying for Ke Aloha ?Aina Hawaiian Civic Club	Oppose	No

Comments:

Our ohana does not support a plan that does not perpetuate the uniqueness of the Hawaiian culture, language, and community.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:13:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John White	Testifying for Kaanapali Beach Hotel	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Senator Baker & Senator Cruz,

Please accept this letter as strong opposition to HB 862, HD2, SD1. The version of this bill is significantly different than the bill passed by the House.

The specific area of this new version in front of you includes reducing the Hawaii Tourism Authority's scope and funding. The HTA is much more than a marketing organization. As we found out in our Destination Management Area Plans (DMAP), the community wants all four pillars of the HTA supported and acted upon. As a Maui steering committee member, I personally heard the concerns about our natural resources, traffic, affordable housing and perpetuating the Hawaiian Culture from the Maui community. The unifying mission is regenerative tourism.

Kaanapali Beach Hotel, Hawaii's most Hawaiian Hotel, strongly supports the HTA's four pillars and regenerative tourism mission. We highly recommend that any reduction of HTA's mission, authority and/or funding be removed from this bill.

If this bill passes, how will these pillars be cultivated and synchronized? The hard work of the HTA and all the island DMAP Steering Committees will be lost and the community outcry will fall on deaf ears. Please pause and digest the negative impacts of passing this bill as it is written today.

Mahalo for your consideration.

John White, Director of Sales & Marketing and HTA DMAP Steering Committee Member

Kaanapali Beach Hotel

SPECIAL EVENTS

H A W A I I

April 8, 2021

Honorable Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to you to oppose the passing of this Bill. We oppose HB 862, HD2, SD2 Proposed, as currently drafted, as it would eliminate HTA's ability to address issues dealing with impacts to Hawai'i's natural resources. It would also eliminate their ability to fund programs and activities that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and support events statewide. HB 862, HD2, SD2 Proposed also removes support for community-based tourism projects that improve and enrich the residents' quality of life and Hawai'i's product offerings. This bill essentially eliminates key functions of HTA; it will restrict their ability to work towards a regenerative tourism model, and ability to carry out their Destination Management Action Plans.

Mahalo,



Amy Hammond
President
Special Events Hawaii, Inc.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:18:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryson Hoe	Testifying for Makauila, Inc.	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the Gut & Replace version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.



April 8, 2021

Testimony in opposition to HB862
Hawai'i State Senate

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker; Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang; and members:

I am providing testimony in strong opposition to HB 262, which is being heard in your committees April 9. I have worked in tourism for many years and currently own a consulting company that is focused on tourism and hospitality.

I oppose this bill for many reasons but, chief among them, it seems unclear to me what “problem” it is trying to solve. Hawai'i tourism is, of course, a critical part of our economy and substantive changes to its governance and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority should not be undertaken lightly or without careful consideration with all stakeholders involved. This bill seems to have arisen late in the session without the opportunity to fully understand the ramifications of what it is proposing. Certainly, there are changes and improvements that can be made in regard to tourism governance (and I have advocated for them), but the proposed changes in this bill are sweeping and do not, in my opinion, consider the full impact that they may have to effectively manage tourism in the state or the programs – including Hawaiian culture, natural resources, and fundamental research – that are HTA's kuleana.

To cite only a few of the specific issues that I believe are problematic in this bill:

- Striking language about developing and coordinating state policies for tourism. (Page 14 line 7-11). I have long held a concern that the state does not have a long term, coordinated, comprehensive tourism policy that transcends the boundaries of agencies and jurisdictions. Notwithstanding HTA's shortcomings in this regard, striking this language from HTA's mandate will almost certainly exacerbate the lack of coordination in our tourism policies and plans.
- Striking language regarding coordination of all agencies and advising the private sector. (Page 14 line 16). Speaking as part of the private sector, companies and organizations rely on HTA for research, interpretation of that research, and communications regarding the implementation and coordination of plans. As you are probably aware, the state's activities in tourism management are only the tip of the iceberg – private companies and organizations outspend state initiatives and are closer to tourism markets and stakeholders. Close coordination between the private sector and the HTA is essential to synchronize and synergize these activities. Coordination across agencies is, similarly, essential since the counties (operating parks, beaches, safety programs, and other tourism related activities), the federal government (operating national parks, monuments, and sites), and state agencies (such as the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and others) have programs that intersect with tourism and tourism issues. Coordination across these boundaries is essential. The distribution and interpretation of visitor industry data, in particular, is essential for effective planning for private sector entities.

- Striking language regarding the development of new products with counties and others. (Page 15, lines 5-9). Hawai'i has an enviable brand that is cohesive at least in part because of the direction of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. Without coordination with counties and the private sector, I fear that new festivals, events, sites, and attractions may be created that fly in the face of Hawai'i's brand.
- Striking language to provide technical or other assistance to agencies and the private sector upon request. (Page 19 lines 11-15). This part of the bill seems especially problematic since so many in the industry rely on the HTA's expertise, especially when it comes to research and the interpretation of research. As a "heavy user" of research data I can attest to the fact that HTA has been invaluable in this regard and Hawai'i is the envy of other destinations who do not enjoy such a symbiotic relationship between the destination management organization and the private sector.
- Striking language regarding withholding of public disclosure of private/sensitive information including completed survey forms. (Pages 20-21, lines 20-19 through 21-7). Confidentiality in completing survey forms is absolutely essential to the effectiveness of HTA research. Especially with the many privacy issues in the world today, changing any language regarding confidentiality is, in my opinion, a serious mistake.

As noted, I am unsure about the "problems" this bill is intended to rectify or how the deletions of HTA's authority and programs would be replicated by other state agencies. Certainly, with changes as sweeping as proposed in this bill, it would be prudent to have a fuller discussion of the nature of the issues involved and the implications for any changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Aloha,



Frank Haas
President



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April 8, 2021

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committees on Ways and Means, and Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawai'i State Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

HB 862 – RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Thank you Chair Dela Cruz and Chair Baker for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 862. I would like to take this opportunity to provide some history on why the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) was a core recommendation from the Economic Revitalization Task Force (ERTF) - a government-private sector-all county-NGO group of leaders (Gov Cayetano, Senate President Mizuno, Speaker Souki, Chamber of Commerce president, Small business representatives, representatives from all counties) who worked for more than six months to recommend a package to the State Legislature in 1998. My perspective was that of one who made the motion for the measure, took ERTF's input into the community to get support, and then helped to lead advocacy efforts at the Legislature.

1. When HTA was founded, the Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau (HVCB) already existed, and it focused solely on marketing Hawaii. By virtue of the fact their private sector funding came dominantly from hotels and their Board members consisted dominantly of members of the industry, HVCB had an innate organizational conflict of interest to address policy issues affecting all Hawaii stakeholders of the visitor industry.
2. The sentiment by resident, political and business stakeholders was that a policy agency was needed - one that would analyze and recommend strategies for sustaining the visitor industry, and do evidence-based planning to ensure it was responsive to Hawaii's people, and respectful of its culture. The solution was not to expand HVCB but to move the tourism function from the Office of Tourism at DBED&T, establish an independent Board for governance, and fund it through the transient accommodations tax (TAT) so it could address broader, more diverse long-term issues.
3. During the work of the ERTF and then through community and Legislative discussions I helped lead for ERTF, we heard repeatedly of the need to sustain tourism and the natural and cultural resources that attract visitors. We found that diverse communities' desires to communicate their unique art and culture were well-aligned with market research showing visitors increasingly sought authenticity. We heard much of the negative sentiment toward tourism and the need for residents' concerns to be considered.
4. So a new agency that addressed all of these mid and long term issues became the mandate of HTA.
5. One of HTA's major tasks was to develop a Visitor Industry Strategic Plan and to update it. Through this work, HTA continues to hear from the community the need to support our culture, especially the Hawaiian culture, our natural resources and our people.

I believe that the reasons for establishing HTA are as important or more important today than ever in Hawaii. We need a sustainable visitor industry as a base for Hawaii's economy. But we also need an agency to focus beyond sales and marketing as HVCB does and on the policy issues that impact all State residents. I strongly oppose this Bill: HB 862.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honorable Patricia M. Loui

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:20:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chandra Bertsch	Testifying for Holo Holo Charters	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it is written. HTA is key part of managing tourism and this bill would severely impact HTA's ability manage resources and perpetuate the Hawaiian Culture.

Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu
HB 862 HD2 SD1 – Proposed SD2

The Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu stands in strong opposition to HB 862 HD2 SD2.

The Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu was founded in 1918 by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole and other Native Hawaiian leaders – our very first Native Hawaiian to be elected as a representative to the US Congress and the only representative ever to be of royal lineage. The principles on which our club was founded are the same today as they were over 103 years ago; to elevate the social status of Hawaiians, to elevate the intellectual status of Hawaiians, and to increase pride in race heritage and Hawaiian identity.

Since our founding, more than 60 other Hawaiian Civic Clubs have been created spanning throughout the State of Hawaiʻi and across the Pacific to the US extending the reach of civic duty and responsibility based in those founding objectives.

Prince Kūhiō knew that in order to accomplish these objectives for Hawaiians, it could not be done without legislation, the development of Hawaiian programs and festivals, and strong Hawaiian community support, and Hawaiian leadership.

The Hawaiʻi Tourism Authority (HTA) recently released its new Strategic Plan regarding work to be completed and goals set for 2020-2025. In doing so they also published this document in the Hawaiian Language. HTA has been consistently committed to the normalization of Hawaiian language. Language is the key to our culture.

The HTA Strategic Plan 2020-2025 positioned HTA to make a statement to the Hawaiian community that the agency is working harder to better balance tourism by focusing on more than just marketing Hawaiʻi as a destination. HCCH sees these strong pillars (Natural Resources, Community, and Hawaiian culture) as an opportunity for HTA to better balance tourism in a way that benefits the residents of Hawaiʻi in a more sustainable way. In September 2020 HTA put a strong Native Hawaiian leader at the helm of the organization and the Hawaiian community has been ecstatic that Hawaiian cultural values will be the focus of this leaders conversations with community while employed by the agency.

Furthermore, the dispensing of three of the four pillars outlined in the HTA Strategic Plan limits HTA's ability to focus on the most important aspect of the visitor industry, which is the Host (community and residents). If HTA is only counted on to Market Hawaiʻi and nothing else, then the place and host suffer. Tourism is not just about the visitor! HTA currently supports cultural educational, training, and career counseling programs that are vital and critical to ensuring Hawaiians are included in the visitor industry and able to advance their skills.

HCCH has legitimate concerns that there will no longer be an agency that is vested in the effects of tourism on our communities and no agency to help steward relationships within the

community as it relates to tourism. Why should marketing be the only focus? Where is the balance?

Furthermore, Hawaiian communities are tired of the promises made and broken by state and local government and their retracting of those promises by creating legislation like this that cripples the effectiveness and ability of agencies that are actively supporting the efforts of community. HTA multiplies our efforts, to remove their ability to engage with community and to support Hawaiian culture, programs, and projects would be a great disservice to Hawai'i.

April 8, 2021

RE: HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2 – Relating to State Government

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and Chair Baker and the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce **strongly opposes** HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2– Relating to State Government.

With nearly 500 members, our chamber represents the business community in the Kona and Kohala districts on the west side of Hawai'i Island. We recognize the visitor industry as the region's main economic driver and support initiatives that promote responsible tourism and sustainable growth.

We know, firsthand, the important role Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) plays in supporting Hawai'i Island's visitor industry. We embrace HTA's mission "To strategically manage Hawai'i tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires and visitor industry needs."

We support HTA's Strategic Plan 2020-2025 that outlines four interacting pillars:

- 1) Natural Resources: Respect for our natural and cultural resources.
- 2) Hawaiian Culture: Support native Hawaiian culture and community.
- 3) Community: Ensure tourism and communities enrich each other.
- 4) Brand Marketing: Strengthen tourism's contributions.

As a member of the Steering Committee, the Kona-Kohala Chamber actively participated in the formation of the recently published Destination Management Action Plan (DMAP) for Hawai'i Island. This experience was hard work, but very inspiring as multiple stakeholders came together to create a shared vision to rebuild, redefine and reset the direction of tourism over a three year period. Clear objectives and specific actions are outlined in this plan and shaped by these overarching themes:

- 'Aina-based education and actions centered around community-driven stewardship.
- Opportunities for community-led decision making and involvement of 'aina-based/place-based organizations in tourism.
- Two-way communication and engagement between government, the visitor industry and communities.
- Importance of pono practices undertaken by both residents and visitors.

- Management and protection of natural and cultural resources.
- Residents' quality of life is looked after.

We are very concerned with the content pertaining to HTA in HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2. We believe this bill is counterproductive to our future progress. This bill essentially eliminates HTA's ability to successfully address the action items from the DMAPs for all counties. HTA will no longer be able to convene stakeholders to address concerns and resolve action items. It prevents HTA from supporting Hawaiian culture, natural resources and community programs and basically dispenses with the HTA's strategic plan by eliminating three of the four pillars.

Our community was especially hard hit in 2020 due to COVID-19 impacts that resulted in severe loss of business and mass employee layoffs. West Hawai'i's economic recovery is dependent on rebuilding our visitor industry and our plans are in place with HTA and our DMAP. This is simply **not** the time to change course and pull support from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce exists to provide leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i. We work to enhance the quality of life for our community through a strong, sustainable economy.

Please do not pass HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2.

Sincerely,



Wendy J. Laros, President and CEO
Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
In Opposition to Part III of HB 862 HD2 SD2 (Proposed), RELATING TO STATE
GOVERNMENT.**

**Committee on Ways and Means & Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 9, 2021, 10:30 AM
Conference Room 211 via Videoconference**

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang, and Members of the Committees,

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i (TNC) opposes Part III of HB 862 HD2 SD2 (proposed), which would terminate authorization for Native Hawaiian cultural, natural resource, and other community based programs to receive Transient Accommodation Tax dollars distributed by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA.)

Hawai'i's environment is the engine that drives the state's economy and stands as a natural, recreational, and cultural treasure supporting the islands' lifestyle and livelihood. Careful, thoughtful, and intentional preservation, management, and restoration is required to ensure our environment remains the state's economic and environmental cornerstone. HTA's Aloha 'Āina Program is a critical element of that work, awarding grants to dozens of nonprofits to maintain, preserve and protect the state's fragile environmental resources.

In 2020, HTA awarded over \$1 million in funding through its Aloha 'Āina program to 34 nonprofit programs statewide in their efforts to maintain, preserve and protect Hawaii's natural resources. Examples of the vital efforts funded through this program included: restoring coral reef ecosystems, Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death seed banking, conservation education, and supporting the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps.

HTA's 2020-2025 strategic plan rightfully identifies natural resources and Hawaiian culture as two of the four pillars driving the agency's work, recognizing that Hawai'i's economy and its natural resources are irrevocably intertwined. Eliminating HTA's authority in this arena, as proposed in this legislation, would be devastating to both.

TNC is proud of its award-winning work with HTA's Aloha 'Āina Program protecting and preserving the state's marine and forest resources. Between 2015-2020, we have partnered with HTA on projects to:

- Improve visitor access to native forest preserves to increase understanding of and support for protecting Hawai'i's unique native ecosystems;
- Remove and prevent the spread of invasive species and diseases that degrade native forests, our fresh water supply, and the visitor experience;

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Duke E. Ah Moo Paul D. Alston (Chair) Kris Billeter Dr. C. Tana Burkert Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III Ka'iulani de Silva
Dave Eadie Matt Emerson Hon. Judith Epstein Dr. Alan M. Friedlander Benjy Garfinkle James J.C. Haynes III Sean A. Hehir
Brett MacNaughton Kathy M. Matsui Janet Montag Alicia Moy Dustin E. Sellers Peter K. Tomozawa Richard N. Zwern

- Increase collaboration between local communities, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations to protect, manage, and restore native forests, coral reefs, and reef fisheries for the benefit of residents and visitors; and
- Partner with community groups to blend the best available science with local knowledge to develop robust conservation plans, design and implement effective management strategies, and monitor changes over time to assess effectiveness.

Increasing evidence demonstrates that these locally-based collaborative efforts improve management and enhance sustainability. Here in Hawai'i, they also help to perpetuate culture, increase local food security, and ensure a more positive visitor experience. TNC is grateful to HTA and the State for ongoing support of the preservation of our natural resources.

We ask the committees to remove the proposed amendments in Part III of HB 862 HD2 SD2 (proposed) relating to HTA's ability to do this vital work.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify here today.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and work in over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties, and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and for the many benefits they provide to people.



Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

1321 Kino'ole Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Phone: (808) 935-7178
Fax: (808) 961-4435
E-mail: admin@hicc.biz
www.hicc.biz

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Way and Means
and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 9, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.**

RE: HB 862, HD2, SD2 PROPOSED

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer
Protection

The Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce ("HICC") **strongly opposes HB 862, HD2, SD2** as it is proposed because it would render the Hawai'i Tourism Authority unable to the job we all count on it to do. HICC **does** however, support the transfer of administration of the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i.

The HICC is one of Hawaii Island's leading business advocacy organizations, representing 300+ island businesses. As the "Voice of Business" on Hawaii Island, we work on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the island's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This bill, as it is currently drafted would eliminate HTA's ability to address issues dealing with impacts to Hawai'i's natural resources, its ability to fund programs and activities that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and support community-based tourism projects. HTA's ability to manage or mitigate the impact of tourism on our communities will also be severely limited. The bill would remove all functions from HTA except marketing and statistics and compromises its ability to deliver on its 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. An enormous amount of time and thought went in to develop our recently unveiled Hawai'i Island Destination Management Action Plan (DMAP) by our community leaders and this this bill will restrict our community's ability to carry it out.

As we consider a post-pandemic visitor industry that is more responsive to community needs while maintaining a robust economy, these proposed changes to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority hearken back to the earliest days of tourism promotion with no destination management. We ask you not let that happen.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition of HB 862, HD2, SD2.

Sincerely,

Miles Yoshioka, Executive Officer, Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce
and Hawai'i Island DMAP Steering Committee Member



WAIKĪKĪ IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

LATE

Testimony of Rick Egged
Waikīkī Improvement Association

Before the

Senate Committee on Ways and Means & Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Thursday, April 8, 2021

In consideration, of HB 862 HD2, SD1 Relating to State Government

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Baker and members of the Committees,

My name is Rick Egged, President of the Waikīkī Improvement Association (WIA). The WIA is a membership organization consisting of landowners, hotels, retailers and restaurants in Waikīkī, the businesses that serve them and those interested in the future of this important part of our community and economy.

WIA opposes House Bill 862 HD2, SD1, Proposed SD2. The proposed version of this bill is a disaster for those maintaining and developing Hawaii's natural and cultural assets.

- It prohibits HTA from fulfilling its mission – “to strategically manage Hawai‘i tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires, and visitor industry needs.” [SEP] It restricts HTA’s ability to maintain Hawai‘i’s position as a premier, world-class destination and protect and deliver on the Hawai‘i brand – our Hawaiian culture, diversity (culture and people), natural beauty (place), and aloha spirit (connection). We need to provide a quality visitor experience in addition to supporting our residents’ lifestyles and values. [SEP]
- It prevents HTA from supporting Hawaiian culture, natural resources, and community programs. [SEP]
- There will no longer be a state agency responsible for developing, coordinating, and implementing policies and directions for tourism. The branding message now becomes blurred and no longer controlled by the state because that power has been removed. [SEP]
- HTA will no longer be able to support projects and programs that work to manage, improve, and protect of Hawaii's natural environment and other areas frequented by visitors. [SEP]
- HTA will no longer be able to support the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture and community including the work we have done to ensure that the Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by the visitor industry, that Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as our official language of the State, that Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites are supported and nurtured, and that a native Hawaiian cultural education and training program exists for the visitor industry workforce. [SEP]

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Rick Egged

President of Waikiki Improvement Association

April 8, 2021

Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Legislature



RE: Opposition to HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2

Aloha Senator Dela Cruz, Senator Baker and Members of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection,

On behalf of [Fairmont Orchid](#), a resort located in Hawaii Island, we appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2.

As we look forward to recovering from the devastating impact of COVID-19, we find it necessary to enlist the support of the Hawaii Tourism Authority to protect and maintain our natural resources, preserve our beautiful Hawaiian culture and engage with our community in a manner that is meaningful, *pono* and sustainable. We believe this proposed SD2 version would compromise Hawaii Tourism Authority's ability to strategically manage Hawaii tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with their goals of honoring cultural values, community desires and visitor industry needs. Consequently, this could undermine the work of thousands of local businesses, non-profit organizations and community members who are dedicated to sharing a vision for sustainable tourism in the state of Hawaii. As such, we respectfully request that you prohibit this bill from moving forward.

Mahalo for the consideration,



Charles Head
General Manager



CORAL REEF ALLIANCE

April 8, 2021

LATE

Ways and Means Committee

Hawai`i State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: In opposition of HB862 SD2 limiting HTA continuing their vital work

Dear Ways and Means Committee,

On behalf of the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL), I am writing to oppose HB862 SD2 which proposes to eliminate Hawai`i Tourism Authority's (HTA) ability to work on Natural Resources, Hawaiian Culture and Community Programs. It is critically important for Hawai`i's economy to maintain these priorities as HTA provides critical support to communities for taking care of our state's natural resources (coral reefs and forests) for both residents and visitors to enjoy, and upon which our economy heavily relies. More than ever, our State and communities need this support from HTA to ensure that tourism is culturally and environmentally sustainable. For Hawai`i to continue being an exemplary and world-class destination that values people, culture and nature, HTA needs to be supported in continuing its culturally appropriate and *pono* work grounded in our communities. We now have this opportunity to reimagine a more sustainable future for our state's tourism sector and wider economy and HTA is on the right path in supporting work on Natural Resources, Hawaiian Culture and Community Programs. Thank you for this opportunity to support HTA so that they can continue caring for our island home and safeguarding our economy.

Sincerely,

Manuel Mejia

Regional Director, Main Hawaiian Islands

mmejia@coral.org

(808)225-3647

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 11:36:59 AM
Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kawika Riley	Testifying for Kupu	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of Kupu, a youth-focused conservation nonprofit, this testimony is in opposition to HB 862, HD 2, SD 2, as proposed. As written, the proposed draft would eliminate a mechanism through which the Hawai'i Tourism Authority supports meaningful programs and activities related to Native Hawaiian culture and the natural and cultural resources that make Hawai'i unique in the world. These activities are important and they connect clearly to the purpose of HTA, as tourism must be balanced with protection and management upon the resources and public goodwill that the industry relies upon.

While we have no comment on the other provisions of the bill, we urge the Committee to hold the measure as proposed, or amend the measure to restore this important function to the HTA.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



LATE

April 8, 2021

RE: HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2 – Relating to State Government

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and Chair Baker and the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

The Kohala Center is a 501(c)(3) 'āina-based organization focused on research, education, economic development and stewardship. We respectfully engage with Hawai'i striving to be in a state of pono together once again. This is our mission and vision. By turning ancestral knowledge and research into action, we hope to improve ecosystem conditions that lead to stronger pilina –meaningful relationships with our food, water, place, and people.

The Kohala Center **strongly opposes HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2.**

This bill as it is currently drafted would eliminate or severely limit HTA's ability to:

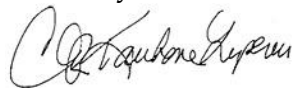
- support the perpetuation and protection of Hawaiian culture, natural resources and community-based partnerships with the tourist industry
- ensure accurate portrayal of Hawaiian culture by the visitor industry and that Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as our official language of the State
- ensure that Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites are supported and nurtured
- support educational, training, and career counseling programs to advance in the visitor industry

The bill would remove all functions from HTA except marketing and statistics and compromises its ability to deliver on its 2020-2025 Strategic Plan. An enormous amount of time and thought went in to develop our recently unveiled Hawai'i Island Destination Management Action Plan (DMAP) by our community leaders, including The Kohala Center, and this this bill will restrict our community's ability to carry it out.

We envision a post-pandemic visitor industry that is more responsive to community needs while maintaining a robust economy. We are looking forward to engaging our tourists to be a part of the solutions. We believe this bill is counterproductive to our future progress.

Please do not pass HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui
President and CEO



KE ONE O KĀKUHIHEWA

O'ahu Council of the
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

LATE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Friday, April 9, 2020
Via Wikiō
Ke Kapikala Moku'āina
415 South Beretānia Street

Re: HB 862 HD2 SD1-Relating to State Government

BENTON KEALII PANG, PH.D.-
HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB OF
HONOLULU
PELEKIKENA

JACOB KA'ŌMAKAOKALĀ AKI-
KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC
HOPE PELEKIKENA

GEORGIANA NAVARRO-
MĀKAHA HCC
HOPE PELEKIKENA 'ELUA

LEATRICE KAUAHI-HCC OF
HONOLULU
PU'UKŪ

ROTH PUAHALA -KING
KAMEHAMEHA HCC
PELEKIKENA IHO NEI

TERI LOO-KO'OLAUPOKO HCC
KĀKAU 'ŌLELO

CHRISTINE "CHRISSY" ANJO-
PEARL HARBOR HCC
HOLE KĀKAU 'ŌLELO

'AHAHUI SIWILA HAWAII O
KĀPOLEI
KALA HOLDEN

ALI'I PAUHI HCC
KEHAULANI LUM

'EWA-PU'ULO A HCC
MARLEEN KAU'I SERRA O

HCC OF HONOLULU
ANITA NAONE

KAILUA HCC
MAPUANA DE SILVA

KALIHI-PĀLAMA HCC
JUANITA BROWN
KAWAMOTO

KING KAMEHAMEHA HCC
LETANI PELTIER

KO'OLAULO A HCC
RANAE "TESSIE"
FONOIMOANA

KO'OLAUPOKO HCC
ROCKY KALUHIWA

LUALUALEI HCC
SHIRLINE HO

MĀKAHA HCC
LUANN LANKFORD-
FABORITO

MAUNALUA HCC
ROSE KITTY SIMONDS

NA LANI 'EHA HCC
R. KELANI RAMOS

NĀNĀIKAPONO HCC
JAYCINE HICKS

PAPAKŌLE'A HCC
KEALI'I LUM

PEARL HARBOR HCC
ANTOINETTE LEE

PRINCE KŪHIŌ HCC
A. MAKANA PARIS

PRINCESS KAHANU HCC
DREANA KALILI

PRINCESS KAI'ULANI HCC
RUSTY RODENHURST

QUEEN EMMA HCC
RAWLETTE P. KRAUT

HCC OF WĀHIAWA
NOELANI DEVINGENT

HCC OF WAIALUA
MAKALAPUA CASSON-
FISHER

WAI'ANAE HCC
CYNTHIA ENRIQUEZ

WAIKIKI HCC
DWYNN KAMAI

HCC OF WAIMĀNALO
LOUANNA KAIO

Aloha Luna Ho'omalua Donavan Dela Cruz, and Rosalyn Baker, *Hope Luna Ho'omalua* Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Stanley Chang, and members of the House Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Ke One O Kākuhihewa **OPPOSES** the intent of HB 862 HD2 SD1. This bill prohibits holdover board members of the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) and repeals many of HTA's authorities.

The HTA Strategic Plan 2020-2025 positioned HTA to make a statement to the Hawaiian community that the agency is working harder to better balance tourism by focusing on more than just marketing Hawai'i as a destination. Ke One O Kākuhihewa sees these strong pillars (Natural Resources, Community, and Hawaiian culture) as an opportunity for HTA to better balance tourism in a way that benefits the residents of Hawai'i in a more sustainable way. In September 2020 HTA put a strong Native Hawaiian leader, John DeFries, at the helm of the organization and the Hawaiian community has been estatic that Hawaiian cultural values will be the focus of this leaders conversations with community while employed by the agency.

Furthermore, the dispensing of three of the four pillars outlined in the HTA Strategic Plan limits HTA's ability to focus on the most important aspect of the visitor industry, which is the Host (community and residents). If HTA is only counted on to Market Hawai'i and nothing else, then the place and host suffer. HTA currently supports cultural educational, training, and career counseling programs that are vital and critical to ensuring Hawaiians are included in the visitor industry and able to advance their skills.

HTA multiplies our efforts, to remove their ability to engage with community and to support Hawaiian culture, programs, and projects would be a great disservice to Hawai'i.

Thus, Ke One O Kākuhihewa respectfully urges the Committee to **HOLD HB862 HD2 SD2.**

Ke One O Kākuhihewa is a native Hawaiian council made up of 24 civic clubs on the island of O'ahu. Our oldest member, Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu was established by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole on December 7, 1918.

Sincerely,



Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.



HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 12:04:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melissa McFerrin	Testifying for Koloa Plantation Days	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I live on Kaua'i and have been the coordinator for KĀ• loa Plantation Days since 2008. We have received funding in the past from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority through its Community Enrichment Program and its former Signature Events Program. We oppose HB862, HD2, SD2 because under this proposal, HTA will no longer have the statutory authority to coordinate the development of new products with the counties and other persons in the public sector and private sector, including the development of sports, culture, health and wellness, education, technology, agriculture, and nature tourism.

The importance of that support from HTA - financial, communications and training - for cultural festivals cannot be overstated. Koloa Plantation Days, like the majority of the cultural events on Kauai rely on HTA grant support to provide these experiences inexpensive or free to the community. With rising costs, insurance, technology and the level of quality that local customers and also visitors expect, hosting cultural festivals comes at significant cost. Hawaii Tourism Authority support provides training, access to best practices, PR support and invaluable grant support each year beyond which local sponsorship and volunteerism can provide. During these economic times, access to cultural experiences is all the more important - as it connects our children with our history, and creates bonds within our community between businesses, non profit, educational and cultural organizations to work together.

These cultural experiences are not only important to our community, in actuality, these cultural experiences help differentiate Hawaii as a visitor destination, and represent us around the world. For instance Koloa Plantation Days is unique in that it celebrates and commemorates the founding of the first commercial sugar plantation in the State of Hawaii in 1835, and the various ethnicities which came together to live and work on sugar plantations. The diversity of our local culture has never been more important to share than in these times.

Without Hawaii Tourism Authority support, Koloa Plantation Days like many other cultural festivals would face a challenging future, far beyond what is being experienced now. This is not the time to remove that support, as once these festivals are lost or no

longer widely available to all community members, they would be difficult if not impossible to restore.

Please help preserve programs like the Community Enrichment Program by voting no to HB862, HD2, SD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

Melissa McFerrin Warrack
Event Committee Chair & Marketing Coordinator
Koloa Plantation Days

LATE

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, and
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 9, 2021 at 10:30 A.M.
Written Only**

RE: HB 862, HD 2, Proposed SD 2, RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker and Members of the Committees:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **opposes** HB 862, HD 2, Proposed SD 2, specifically the elimination of Hawaii Tourism Authority's ability to fulfill its mission.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This bill seeks to eliminate HTA from fulfilling its mission – "to strategically manage Hawai'i tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires, and visitor industry needs." As we consider a post-pandemic visitor industry that is more responsive to community needs while maintaining a robust economy, these proposed changes to the Hawaii Tourism Authority hearken back to the earliest days of tourism promotion with no destination management.

Amongst the many implications, it will also the Authority will no longer be able to support educational, training, and career counseling programs leaving the community with no opportunity to gain critical knowledge and skills to advance in the visitor industry or encourage our youth to pursue a career in the hospitality industry. Programs such as LEI (Leadership, Exploration, Inspiration) that serves hundreds of Hawaii high school student would no longer be able to serve our youth.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 1:59:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lea Hong	Testifying for The Trust for Public Land	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

The Trust for Public Land opposes HB862 HD2 SD2. Portions of the bill would reduce the responsibility of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) to consider impacts of tourism on natural and cultural resources, monitor the public's support of increased tourism, and eliminate HTA's ability to fund programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture, restore natural areas, and help our local communities. The bill eliminates key functions of HTA and will restrict the agency's ability to work towards a regenerative tourism model.

The Trust for Public Land has been part of CHANGE meetings regarding our natural resources and environment flowing out of the Hawai'i Executive Conference. There was agreement, even within the business community, that we needed to do a better job of caring for the natural and cultural resources that make Hawai'i the unique and special place it is for residents and visitors, and that the current model of tourism is not working. Portions of this bill would undermine HTA's consideration, study, and adoption of more regenerative tourism practices that reinvest in the resources and communities negatively impacted by tourism.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify -

Lea Hong

State Director

The Trust for Public Land



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND THE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 211
FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021 AT 10:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair;
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

To The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair;
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

OPPOSE HB862 SD2 PROPOSED RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap. I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, in the county most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of our dependence on the visitor industry and corresponding rate of unemployment. I am writing share our opposition to the proposed HB862 SD2.

In recent years, HTA has been involved in significant planning to develop programs and refocus and reposition our visitor industry. Their plans are based on the quadruple bottom line, which includes culture. Our communities want additional cultural education and to educate visitors on how they can be better stewards while visiting Hawaii. To dismiss the work that has been done statewide on planning and to amend this bill in the eleventh hour without sharing the rationale for why this is being proposed is deeply concerning and frustrating as HTA is at a point where the plans we and others worked on and want to see are getting rolled out. The visitor industry is coming back and we don't want to lose ground on getting these new programs out as we refocus and renew our visitor industry.

Therefore, we cannot support this proposed draft, ask you not adopt the proposed HB862 SD2 and allow HTA to move forward with their plans in these areas.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 3:19:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregg Nelson	Testifying for Napili Kai Beach Resort	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Chairs and Committee Members,

I am writing to you in opposition to HB862, HD2 SD1 and hope you will consider voting against this measure. This bill if passed would have a severely negative impact on HTA during a critical time for the tourism industry. We are just now in the early stages of recovery for both tourism and hawaii's economy. Though we are encouraged to see tourism returning we are mindful of the need to manage many aspects of tourism better going forward and HTA plays a big role in this effort. This bill would restrict HTA's ability to confront challenges dealing with potential negative impacts to our State's natural resources. Also it eliminates HTA's ability to fund the many programs that suport Hawaiian culture and community based tourism projects that enhance the quality of life for Hawaii's residents.

Its a bad bill and I appreciate your consideration of a "No" vote.

Mahalo

Gregg Nelson

General Manager

Napili Kai Beach Resort

Maui, Hawaii



Testimony Before the Senate Committees on
Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday April 9, 2021 at 10:30 AM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

LATE

RE: Opposition to HB862 SD2 Relating to State Government

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Baker and Distinguished Members of the Committees:

As the COVID-19 crisis draws slowly to a close, we need a strong Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) with the experience and knowhow necessary to help rebuild our struggling tourism industry. As you know, tourism is the number one economic driver in our state. With their expertise in promoting our state, they can help to move more of our fellow residents from the unemployment line to gainful employment, by attracting would be vacationers to Hawaii.

House Bill 862 SD2 as currently drafted, would eliminate HTA's ability to address issues dealing with impacts to Hawai'i's natural resources and would eliminate HTA's ability to fund programs and activities that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and support community-based tourism projects, which improve and enrich our residents' quality of life and Hawaii's product offerings. The bill essentially eliminates key functions of HTA and will restrict its ability to work towards a regenerative tourism model, and their ability to carry out the Destination Management Action Plans being developed with substantial community input by each County.

Our state's economy is in a fragile condition due to an over year-long pandemic. COVID-19 has decimated our state's ability to attract tourists and generate revenue. Now that there is light at the end of the tunnel, let's not dismantle the very agency that will help us through to more prosperous days.

Thank you for considering the position of the Kauai Chamber on this critical legislation for our state.

Mahalo,

Mark Perriello
President & CEO
Kauai Chamber

KA LĀHUI HAWAI‘I

KŌMIKE KALAI‘ĀINA

BEFORE THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS AND COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEES

April 9, 2021

House Bill 862 HD2 SD2 Proposed

LATE

RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Baker, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Change and Members of the Committee,

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i Kōmike Kalai‘āina submits the following written testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 862 HD2 SD2 Proposed which is utilizing a tactic called 'gut and replace'. The proposed measure covers two unrelated topics one of which is just being added now near the end of the three month long legislative process. If this proposed measure is passed it will deprive the public and legislators of adequate time to review and comment on the unrelated topic.

In 2018, the League of Women Voters and Common Cause Hawai‘i sued the State of Hawai‘i claiming that 'gut and replace' was both undemocratic and unconstitutional - the case has gone all the way to the Hawai‘i Supreme Court. The public has already been cut off from physical access to and participation at the legislature due to Covid-19 restrictions. Please do not use the Covid-19 pandemic as an excuse to further undermine public participation and silence our voices.

Me ka oiai'o,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale
Public Affairs Officer, Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i Kōmike Kalai'āina



**HONOLULU
FESTIVAL
FOUNDATION**

P.O. Box 8494
Honolulu, Hawaii 96830
Tel (808) 926-2424
Fax (808) 926-9648
www.honolulufestival.com

LATE

April 8, 2021

Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawai'i State Legislature

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO HB862 HD2 SD1 PROPOSED SD2

Aloha Senator Dela Cruz, Senator Baker and Members of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection:

The Honolulu Festival Foundation stands in **strong opposition** to HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2.

This proposed SD2 will significantly reduce the ability of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) to manage tourism responsibly for our state by eliminating the majority of its core functions related to destination management.

Our biggest concern is that this bill would prevent HTA from supporting events like the Honolulu Festival, as well as its other programs focusing on preservation of natural resources, Hawaiian culture and education. Many of us are nonprofit organizations that work hard to enhance the resident and visitor experience in our communities and rely on funding from HTA to put on our events. Without this support, dozens of festivals like ours would be negatively impacted and the community would stand to lose the most.

Hawai'i's economic recovery is dependent on tourism's success. We all have a responsibility and opportunity to rebuild the industry smarter with a regenerative focus that enhances life for residents through a vibrant tourism industry.

However, if we are to be successful in this journey, we need a tourism leader that can guide us through these pivotal times, while balancing the needs of the industry and the community for the overall good of the state. We don't believe this bill does that.

We have seen positive progress by HTA and its Board of Directors over the past two years in moving Hawaii forward. Any changes to its current mission would impede the momentum which is underway.

We kindly ask you to vote in opposition of HB862 HD2 SD1 Proposed SD2.

Mahalo,

Tatsuo Watanabe
Secretary
Honolulu Festival Foundation



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of
Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
House Bill 862, SD2 Proposed: Relating to State Government

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Baker, and members of the Committees, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers—advocates on behalf of an industry that has suffered tremendously as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. With travel restored, the COVID-19 vaccine being administered in great numbers, we must now pivot strongly and look to the future and decide how we will compete with other premier travel destinations so that we can put many more of our people back to work. Let us not forget that we continue to have one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation.

To retain and solidify our status as being among the top-tier destinations around the world, we will need research, branding and marketing of the highest quality which is what the Hawai'i Tourism Authority is capable of doing for our industry and our state. The proposed SD2 of House Bill 862 would strip away the necessary Transient Accommodations Tax funding for HTA and its marketing partners, like the Hawai'i Visitors & Convention Bureau who work tirelessly to market our product to the rest of the world and lure and create business opportunities through sports, music, entertainment, and cultural events. Our economic recovery process will be long and difficult given the substantial losses that Hawai'i businesses incurred in 2020. A strongly supported HTA through the TAT funding mechanism is critically important for our economy to rebound significantly.

For these reasons, HLTA opposes House Bill 862, SD2 Proposed.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 7:01:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vince Kana`i Dodge	Testifying for `Ai Pohaku	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,- A greeting only used here in Hawaii which embodies the host culture and it's a recognition of the aliveness and importance of all beings including the wind and the rain and the stones and the dirt.

We strongly oppose the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 8:06:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janice Ikeda	Testifying for Vibrant Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Cruz, Chair Baker, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Vice Chair Chang,

Vibrant Hawai'i is a multi-sector, collective impact initiative on Hawai'i Island that aims to build resilience and abundance for all on Hawai'i Island by implementing strategies that are developed and resourced by our community and reflect native intelligence.

We hold strong concerns in the recent changes to HB862 which would prohibit HTA from fulfilling its mission to strategically manage Hawai'i tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires, and visitor industry needs by restricting HTA's ability to actively address broad tourism issues through destination management and working with other agencies to strengthen natural and cultural assets valued by Hawai'i residents, and prevents HTA from supporting Hawaiian culture, natural resources, and community programs.

Vibrant Hawai'i strongly opposes the Gut & Replace version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax.

Sincerely,

Janice Ikeda

Executive Director

Vibrant Hawai'i



Kailua

HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

P.O. Box 1123

Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

desilvak009@gmail.com

LATE

Written testimony of

KĪHEI DE SILVA

Director, Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club

submitted to the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Friday, April 9, 2021

10:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room #211 & Videoconference

In consideration of

HOUSE BILL NO. 862, HD2, SD1: PROPOSED SD2

RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Aloha kākou, Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang, members of the Committee on Ways and Means, and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I write on behalf of the members of the Board of Directors of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic who wish to express their unanimous and adamant opposition to those sections of Proposed SD2 for House Bill 862, HD2, and SD1 that affect the mission, work, and future of HTA. We offer no opinions on the other subject matter in the Proposed SD2.

Established in 1959, the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club (KHCC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the perpetuation of our Hawaiian people, culture, and natural resources. We have held fast to the same threefold mission in the nearly six decades of our existence; we strive to: 1- advance the appreciation, study, and practice of Hawaiian culture, 2- enrich the lives of Hawaiians and our Kailua community, and 3- care for the lands, waters, and storied places of our ahupua'a.

As curators and co-curators of Ulupo Heiau since 1987, we are regularly engaged in supporting ‘āina restoration and ‘āina-based educational activities at Ulupō and its surrounding lands, and we enjoy very close relationships with the Kailua-based non-profit organizations Hika‘alani and Kauluakalana whose missions also align with our dedication to culture and community.

As a result of our combined efforts, Ulupō has become something of a right-off-the highway anachronism, a step back into a much older time of order and carefully managed abundance, a time before the place became overrun with head-high guinea grass, shrimp plant, all manner of choking vines, African tulip trees, acid-leaching common mangoes, impenetrable hau thickets, monster monkeypods, and scattered homeless camps.

Today, the ‘āina unfolds from heiau to marsh in a corridor of well-tended lawns and ‘auwai (water courses), shaded kukui and pandanus groves, neatly planted mounds of almost 20 varieties of native ‘uala (sweet potato), stands of native sugar cane, banana, and wauke (paper mulberry), newly constructed dry-stack rock walls that define pathways and planting areas, thriving native lei plants (‘ilima, ti, ‘ōhi‘a lehua, and ‘a‘ali‘i), and – above all – our spring-fed taro fields. By our most recent count, the two functioning lo‘i of 2015 have now become 40; more than 30 are in various stages of cultivation (some in their third and fourth generation of harvest) and the remainder in a soon-to-be-implemented soil remediation project. As we and our partners, currently under the leadership of Kauluakalana, have expanded this kīpuka (oasis; a safe, healthy, regenerative space) of thriving, ancestral land, we have also begun to offer ‘āina- and culture-based learning experiences to the community through the hosting of school field trips, monthly community work days, service learning projects for groups and individuals, etc.

Among the most significant these efforts has been Pili Mai, a program – now in its fourth iteration – that allows us to have a deep, ongoing impact on our home community by engaging a cohort of Kailua families in a year-long commitment to family-centered taro instruction. Families make (and name) their poi pounding stones and boards, and learn how to plant, tend, harvest, clean, cook, and pound the taro of Ulupō. They are introduced to stories of Kailua’s abundant past and are asked to reflect on the significance of taro to our people. They are taught by some of the most knowledgeable taro practitioners of our time, and they celebrate their entire journey at Kū‘oko‘a Kūkanono, a day of sharing at Ulupō whose focus is on teaching extended family members the process that will help put Ulupō poi back on their tables on a regular basis.

The summary of accomplishments and activities provided above barely touches on the transformation of land and people at Ulupō, particularly in the last five years. **Little of it would have happened without the support of HTA.** Since 2016, HTA has consistently funded our stewardship and educational efforts here: from new trash cans and benches at the park entrance, to invasive tree removal, to dry-stack wall building, to native-bird habitat restoration, to Pili Mai, to Kū‘oko‘a Kūkanono, to the transcription and publication of “Makalei ka Laau Pii Ona a ka I‘a” (a Hawaiian language mo‘olelo of seminal importance to Kailua’s identity) – to the upcoming May Day 2021 Maka‘ika‘i, a virtual celebration of three storied places on O‘ahu (Ulupō,

Lanikūhonua, and Helumoa) and their potential for establishing a healthy dynamic of kama‘āina-malihini relationships.

We view the sections of HB 862, HD2, SD1, and PROPOSED SD2 that affect the mission, work, and future of HTA as an attempt to gut the agency of all that makes it valuable to us, our allies, community, and lāhui.

- HB 862, HD2, SD1, and PROPOSED SD2 would gut the HTA of its ability to support Hawaiian culture, natural resources, and community programs.
- HB 862, HD2, SD1, and PROPOSED SD2 would gut the HTA of its ability to support projects and programs that work to manage, improve, and protect of Hawaii's natural environment and other areas frequented by visitors.
- HB 862, HD2, SD1, and PROPOSED SD2 would gut the HTA of its ability to support the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture and community including the work it has done to ensure that the Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by the visitor industry, that Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as our official language of the State, that Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites are supported and nurtured, and that a native Hawaiian cultural education and training program exists for the visitor industry workforce.

We view these sections as an insidious effort to return to the “good old days” of a tourism industry intent on raking in money at all costs, one with little regard for the health of our lands, people and culture. In recent years, HTA has been the gate keeper and conscience of the industry. It has operated on the enlightened belief that a thriving lāhui must come first and always take precedence. There is no way that we can support legislation that would put an end to HTA’s brave attempt at serving something other than short-sighted greed.

‘O au nō me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Kihei de Silva

Kihei de Silva
Director, KHCC

President:	Māpuana de Silva
Vice President:	Kapalai‘ula de Silva
Treasurer:	Ka‘olu Luning
Secretary:	Puakenamu Leong
Directors:	Kihei de Silva, Momi Ramolete, Maya Saffery, Pualani Steele, Kaleo Wong

GUT & REPLACE the LEGISLATURE

STOP HB 862 HD2 SD2 !

Testimony of Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna
HB 862 HD2 SD2 – **STRONG OPPOSITION**
WAM / CPN 4.9.2021

**Backroom GUT & REPLACE and
Crooked LEGAL THIEVERY will be
the shameful legacy of the 31st
Legislature.**

***STOP blaming the pandemic for the
pilau deeds of the 31st Legislature.***

It's. All. You.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 9:44:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bernard michels	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. I represent Faculty from Hawaii Community College Electronic Department.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 9:45:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Edison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting strong support of the bill pertaining to PISCES. PISCES Hawaii has provided the state with invaluable scientific research, community service, and education by way of programs and internships to the state. Aerospace could be a lucrative and competitive way for the state to generate revenue, boost education and become a larger player in the space community. PISCES has shown through the years that it is capable of great things!

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 9:47:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyla Defore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill particularly pertaining to PISCES Hawaii. PISCES Hawaii has provided the state with invaluable scientific research, community service, and education by way of programs and internships to the state. Aerospace could be a lucrative and competitive way for the state to generate revenue, boost education and become a larger player in the space community. PISCES has shown through the years that it is capable of great things!

Statement of
NAME
Title
Company
Before the
Committee on Energy, Economic Development & Tourism
Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 9th , 2021 @ 10:30, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HB862-HD2-SD1, Proposed SD2 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

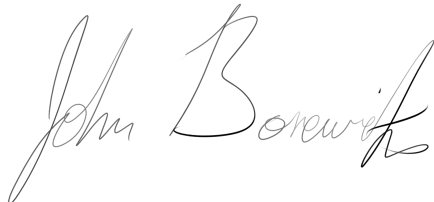
Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang and members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support of the parts in this Bill pertaining to PISCES. Transferring PISCES to be administratively attached to Imiloa under the University of Hawaii in Hilo will allow PISCES to continue developing its work in economic development related to the aerospace industry, workforce development, education outreach and applied research.

The Aerospace Industry is rapidly growing around the world and Hawaii possesses unique advantages to take a leading role in various areas of the industry. PISCES has been, and continues to be involved in developing opportunities for the state to help with its economic recovery.

As a High School Science Teacher at Kea'au High School on Hawaii island, I believe this type of development is crucial to the economic success of my community. My students need more opportunities for work in the STEM field without having to leave home. After seeing the economic impact of COVID on our tourism industry, it is more important than ever to support development in STEM fields to help diversify our economy.

John Bonewitz
Physics Teacher
Kea'au High School

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Bonewitz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 4:16:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear committe members, I am not in favor of the current draft of this bill. Certain sections of this draft are cause of concern. It would eliminate Hawai'i Tourism's ability to fund programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and help the community. The bill also eliminates key functions of HTA and restricts their ability to work towards a regenerative tourism.

Please do not pass this bill in it's current form.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.d.

Palolo, O'ahu.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 4:19:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane Horike	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Statement of

Jane Horike

Before the

Committee on Energy, Economic Development & Tourism

Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Friday, April 9th , 2021 @ 10:30, Conference Room 211

In consideration of

HB862-HD2-SD1, Proposed SD2 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang and members of the Committees:

I am writing to express strong support regarding the parts of this Bill pertaining to PISCES. Transferring PISCES to be administratively attached to Imiloa under the University of Hawaii in Hilo will allow PISCES to continue developing its work in economic development related to the aerospace industry, workforce development, education outreach and applied research.

The Aerospace Industry is rapidly growing around the world and Hawaii possesses unique advantages to take a leading role in various areas of the industry. PISCES has been, and continues to be involved in developing opportunities for the state to help with its economic recovery.

I have worked with PISCES for many years and witnessed that many students who have interned with them have gotten positions in the aerospace industry or are pursuing degrees in this field. Plus PISCES are in partnership with other organizations to encourage young children to become excited about pursuing careers in STEM.

Passage of the bill will allow PISCES to play a greater role in the development of the STEM workforce, development of an aerospace industry and continued education outreach and continued research.

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Torry Viliami Tukuafu

Thursday April 8, 2021

OPPOSITION for HB 826, HD 2, SD 2 Proposed

Over the last 10 years our small community of Hāna, Maui has been able to host transformational cultural and natural resources related projects. These projects were made possible because of tourist dollars, but they were also possible because The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) accepted the responsibility to perpetuate, support and nurture Hawaiian culture and language. By accepting this responsibility there has been a feeling of appreciation in our community for the fact that this state agency is caring for our families as much as it is caring for tourists.

My family strongly opposes this legislation as it would relinquish the HTA's responsibility to honor and perpetuate Hawaiian culture as part of the visitor experience. As written we believe this bill would diminish the HTA's capacity to support and promote the importance of a thriving host culture. In our traditional ways of thought we recognize that all relationships require balance and that we must offer before we take, we must not take so much that we harm those we take from and that we must give back when we have been blessed with abundance. While we recognize and honor the importance of tourist revenue, we also recognize that tourism takes a toll on our communities. Each day of the week in the small community of Hāna, our community, our cultural landscapes and our beaches are over-run with tourists. These tourists spend relatively little in our community, buying some fruits, maybe a plate lunch, but their transportation, housing and airfare dollars don't feed our community. One of the only ways that tourist dollars benefit our culture and our people is through HTA cultural and natural resource related projects that are funded by HTA. By ending these programs you will disrupt the fragile balance that has been struck between a host-culture that has tolerated the imbalance of tourist activities and a tourist industry that will no longer see any value in supporting, nurturing and sustaining Hawaiian culture.

We oppose this bill and recommend that the language regarding HTA's commitment to Hawaiian culture be restored so that we can continue to find a balance between the tourist industry and the host culture. We urge the committees to oppose this bill until changes to the language regarding the Hawai'i Tourism's responsibility to perpetuate and support Hawaiian culture are restored. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 8:14:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Dowd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang and members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strongest support of the parts in this Bill pertaining to PISCES. Transferring PISCES to be administratively attached to Imiloa under the University of Hawaii in Hilo will allow PISCES to continue developing its work in economic development related to the aerospace industry, workforce development, education outreach and applied research.

The Aerospace Industry is rapidly growing around the world and Hawaii possesses unique advantages to take a leading role in various areas of the industry. PISCES has been, and continues to be involved in developing opportunities for the state to help with its economic recovery.

I especially find their work in STEM with our Hawaii students compelling with programs such as STARS and WiSE Talks. Microsoft and Microsoft employees support these programs directly and without PISCES they would not exist for us to support.

Sincerely, Mark D. Dowd

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 8:44:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
paula satterthwaite	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is not in the interest of the Hawaiian people. It appears to be geared towards tourism and the money it brings. How can we keep the culture alive if this passes?! Please consider the unique opportunity to keep Hawaiian culture and language thriving. DO NOT PASS this legislation.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 11:44:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew K Lynch	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose as the proposed ammendments under Part III. Section 6 of this bill, which would allow for a return to unchecked tourism without a specific accountability mechanism to the peoples and places of Hawia'i.

We must instead turn our minds and hearts to imagining a just, equitable and resilient economy that can operate sustainably within the biophysical limits of our islands' socio-ecological systems, so that all residents of Hawai'i can thrive and flourish once more.

Director, University of Hawai'i Office of Sustainability

Testifying as private individual with relevant expertise in this arena.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 12:54:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Faye	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Regarding HB862 HD2 SD2

I am the executive director at Hui o Laka dba Kokee Natural History Museum operating in Kokee State Park. My concern with these bills is the proposed changes regarding Hawaii Tourism Authority and the ability to fund programs in the area of Natural Resources, Hawaiian Culture and Community Programs or provide money to the Counties as an extension of this work. Our resources and people, especially state parks, beaches, and conservation preserves, have been heavily impacted by tourism.

From my experience working in a State Park over the past 5 years, the Department of State Parks does not even have a systematic measure of daily park users. Tourism statistics skew the revenue and occupancy as the guide to how well we do in the industry. From a practical point of what it is doing to our resources, I will share some information we gathered prior to March 2021.

Prior to the Kokee State Park's closure last year due to Covid, Kokee Museum was seeing between 300 to 400 people daily in a small three-room museum that was open daily from 9am to 4pm. In 2019 we had just under 90,000 visitors, an all-time high in a year when we were closed unexpectedly due to an extended electrical outage and wildfires reducing the number of days to gather statistics. We gave parking attendants at Waimea Canyon Lookout handheld counters since no one thought to have them count the visitors using the lookout. Two of the attendants used them and counted between 1000 to 1200 people days they worked. The parking ticket machines provide a count of tourist cars, not those of residents or the full number of people in each car. Yet the bathrooms are only cleaned once a day. It was the same at many other heavily used areas throughout the state. So, either the money from the room tax or other forms of user fees needs to be collected and USED to improve and maintain these resources. If a park was a hotel room, it would be pristine and well taken care of because the private sector seems to understand how important good facilities are to their guests. The state has never learned this.

To charge fees, the lookouts and trails need signage and other enhancements that the state has been unable to provide consistently at high profile destinations much less smaller ones. This is where community partnership is necessary and where HTA has

been a valuable resource in the community to provide funding and the ability to improve and caretake these resources including those of cultural sensitivity.

Over many years, my organization Hui o Laka has diligently worked towards providing quality products at Kokee State Park. Since 1954, Hui o Laka, is the nonprofit organization formed to run the Kokee Natural History Museum which opened in 1953 to provide interpretation for Kokee Park, in the then Territory of Hawaii. The museum was founded by then Territorial Park Superintendent Joe Souza and two Kamaaina women to establish a museum of natural history. For the next decade there was a lot of activity at Kokee and a lot of excitement working to create a tremendous resource for residents and tourists. Post statehood, the major lookouts and other improvements were made. Since then, it seems improvements could not keep up with the number of people using parks. Staff was cut and the park no longer had full time advocates. For many of our residents, these parks are a relief from the stresses and realities of living under the high cost of living. We must share them with visitors and vendors. These natural resources – our beaches, parks, and wilderness areas attract and provide free activities for tourists and it is imperative that the industry pay for the care of those resources in a substantial way. They should be treated as if they were valued and even some more exclusive and limited. Regenerative tourism is something our taxpayers want to see as a start in a more equitable and sustainable future.

Every resident in this state deplors the maintenance and services provided to keep our parks functioning. The tourist population substantially increases the burden. To make matters worse, organizations like mine, with few resources, have to take the matter in hand and write proposals to improve the various parks and state lands that we malama. Over the years, Hawaii Tourism Authority has refined its procedures to make the process and deadlines, payments and reporting very clear to all participants. For the State, the HTA proposal process leverages state money with matching private funds and in-kind services from organizations like ours. In dropping funding for regenerative tourism and natural resource improvements, the legislature is basically saying that they do not care for our environment or appreciate the services. I can see postponing support for natural resources and improvements to visitor-enhancing products for another year or even two, but not eliminating the opportunity to provide the authority from providing these. The nonprofit culture and arts and conservation programs throughout the state are stressed and their audience, many visitors, are wondering if live events and improvements will resume.

Just in the past six months, during a pandemic, Hui o Laka renovated an interpretive trail from the ground up and developed and installed five interpretive signs at Kokee with only half the promised funding. With \$20k in state funding, half the staff, a handful of volunteers, and a decline of more than 90% of our own earned income from the museum, we managed. The four major lookouts have just received their first interpretive signs since the park opened because of our perseverance and support from Hawaii Tourism Authority staff. Even though the project is done, Hui o Laka is still taking care of the trail and thinking of ways to enhance the visitor experience at Kokee.

If the legislature is seriously interested in slashing funds from HTA, perhaps a chunk of the marketing money allocated to HTA, should be used for infrastructure improvement that is sorely needed statewide and would benefit visitors and residents. We already have enough tourists and need to think strategically instead of continuing to cast a wide net. We do not have enough funding to take care of our human and natural resources and the programs that enhance them.

Sincerely,

Chris Faye

Kekaha, Kauai 96752

April 8, 2021

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Daniel Nahoopii

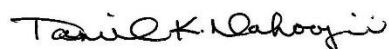
Opposition to SB862 HD2 SD2, Relating to State Government

To Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, I urge you to oppose the elimination of the certain duties and activities of the Tourism Authority as specified in this bill.

I have over 25 years of experience in tourism policy development and am currently the president of the Travel and Tourism Research Association, an international body of tourism research academics and practitioners. I fear that this bill forces the Tourism Authority to be merely a Destination Marketing Organization. However, this runs opposite from most globally competitive destinations who are comprehensively managed by Destination Management Organizations (DMO) following the duties that are being stripped by this bill.

DMO focus on stewardship: marketing to highly quality visitors while weighing the benefits against all impact. The DMO must proactively develop product and infrastructure in concert with residents instead of passively waiting for some private entity to step forward and create visitor experiences and enhance the tax base. The DMO must be able to conduct confidential market research and provide critical technical assistance to engage industry and community towards mutually benefiting economic development. The DMO must support efforts to ensure the culture of the community remains authentic and sustainable and benefits directly from tourism.

With the duties and activities being eliminated from Section 201B, the Hawaii Tourism Authority can do none of these crucial management task. This bill would actually create a government organization whose sole goal is to drive even more visitors to Hawaii, further compounding the over tourism plight beyond our experiences of 2019. Again, I urge you to oppose the language of this bill that changes the duties and activities of the Tourism Authority.



Daniel Nahoopii
District 20-1

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 2:35:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amber Imai-Hong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang and members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support of the parts in this Bill pertaining to PISCES. Transferring PISCES to be administratively attached to Imiloa under the University of Hawaii in Hilo will allow PISCES to continue developing its work in economic development related to the aerospace industry, workforce development, education outreach and applied research.

The Aerospace Industry is rapidly growing around the world and Hawaii possesses unique advantages to take a leading role in various areas of the industry. PISCES has been, and continues to be involved in developing opportunities for the state to help with its economic recovery. As a member of Hawaii's Aerospace Engineering community, I ask that you help us to grow the aerospace industry in Hawaii, as it is a viable way to expand our economy with high tech jobs that have the potential to bring in a significant amount of money to our state.

Mahalo,

Amber Imai-Hong

Avionics Engineer and Outreach Specialist

Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 6:28:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mikhail Ponce	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill because it would eliminate the HTA's ability to fund programs and activities that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and support community-based tourism projects that improve and enrich the residents' quality of life and Hawai'i's product offerings.

There are countless programs that perpetuate the appropriate practice of Hawaiian language and culture that would lose funding if this bill is passed. Not only is supporting the preservation of authentic Hawaiian cultural practices the right thing to do, it is of vital importance to our economy.

Hawaiian culture is the State's most unique and valuable asset. The aloha spirit differentiates this land from everywhere else in the world, and that differentiation provides critical economic leverage. The HTA plays a vital role in funding and supporting programs that perpetuate Hawaiian culture, thereby preserving this most valuable asset.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 6:34:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noelani Puniwai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the restrictions placed on the Hawaii Tourism Authority. We need HTA to be progressive and responsive in this time of change. We need to create a regenerative model of tourism that integrates the tourism sector with the local culture and economics. We do not need them to be restricted to spend on administrative duties alone.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 7:25:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faylene Mahina Duarte	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs,

It is with tremendous concern for cultural equity that I submit this testimony in absolute opposition to HB862, HD2, SD2. As a contributor to the 'Äēina Aloha Econmic Futures movement we saw a great appetite to reshape tourism as a model for regenerative tourism, one that recognizes that ho'okipa (hospitality) requires that the mea ho'okipa (host) have access to adequate space, place, and resource to truly fulfill the role and function of ho'okipa. As such, ensure that we as a local community have the means to fulfill our kuleana to our 'Ä• ina and each other before fully assuming the kuleana of mea ho'okipa.

Furthermore, this bill as written will cause harm to the forward progress made by HTA as a partner supporting innovatve community programming and solution-making towards the care of natural and cultural environments and Hawaiian language revitalization. Additionally, by passing this bill, other intended impacts will be generated, including:

- Prevents HTA from supporting Hawaiian culture, natural resources, and community programs.
- It dispenses with the HTA's new strategic plan by eliminating three of the four pillars outlined.
- Sports, culture, health and wellness, education, technology, agriculture, and nature tourism will no longer be included in the development of new products at the county level or with people in the public and private sector.
- The HTA will no longer be able to support educational, training, and career counseling programs leaving the community with no opportunity to gain critical knowledge and skills to advance in the visitor industry.
- The HTA will no longer be able to support the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture and community including the work we've done to ensure that the Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by the visitor industry, that Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as our official language of the State, that Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites are supported and nurtured, and that a native Hawaiian cultural education and training program exists for the visitor industry workforce.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

Mahina Paishon-Duarte

‘Ā€ina Aloha Economic Futures Contributor

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 7:26:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 862 HD2 and proposed SD2.

During the COVID Pause we observed the regeneration of our ahupua'a on Hawai'i Island. From the mountains to the sea tourists are enjoying this abundance of life. However, with this abundance of life comes an ethical responsibility to maintain this balance of biodiversity with economic recovery. This bill would amend HTA's statutory mandate to remove important functions of:

- thoughtful development of tourism policy
- coordination of public and private entities
- work to develop new tourism products that keep us competitive as a destination
- protect our cultural and natural resources

We worked thoughtfully on the Hawai'i Island Destination Management Action Plan and visualized a post-pandemic visitor industry that is more responsive to community needs while maintaining a robust economy. We are looking forward to engaging our tourists to be a part of our solutions.

Mahalo

Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 7:29:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John W. Kaohelaulii	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **oppose** this bill.

The Elimination of HTA's key function will cripple Hawai'i's future in moving towards a regenerative tourism model.

Hawai'i's current tourism business model is unsustainable and we cannot continue to exploit both our natural and human resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 7:44:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shelly Preza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

After examining the proposed changes within the bill, I have serious concerns regarding the sections that may be removed. The proposed removal of the following section items: Section 7 (14) (22) (23), Section 8 (5A-D), Section 10 (2), in particular, are very disheartening. Tourism in Hawaii should be moving towards a regenerative model that works for local communities, not just tourists. It would be unwise to remove wording that aims to mitigate the negative impacts of tourism on our natural/cultural resources and on our communities. The State also has a responsibility to ensure that Hawaiian culture, our places, and our people are supported and respected.

I am ancestrally tied to the island of Lanai and returned home after college to work in cultural preservation. I manage programs at the Lanai Culture & Heritage Center, a community-based non-profit organization. Through the current programs facilitated by Hawaii Tourism Authority (such as the Kukulu Ola, Aloha Aina, and Community Enrichment Programs) are of great benefit to local communities, Lanai included. These opportunities, which are made possible by the Transient Accommodation Tax, support local non-profits and their communities. If the proposed changes go forward as is, these HTA initiatives would be adversely affected, and in turn, many organizations who depend on these opportunities.

The State has a responsibility to ensure our aina and our communities are taken care of as a priority. We should not value tourists and the perpetuation of a false, paradisaal tourist image of Hawaii over the people of Hawaii. Please consider ensuring this bill places priority on protecting our bio-cultural landscape, cultures, and community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Shelly Preza

Harvard College '17

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:00:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ty P. Kawika Tengan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The proposed ammendmwnts to this bill strips HTA of its ability to care for the very same natural and cultural resources that the tourism industry depends upon and represents a total failure of the state to live up to its motto of perpetuating the life of the land. This is hewa (excessively wrong).

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:03:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Carlson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:04:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane Au	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

We need to stop doing things just for visitors. Think about the people that live here. Invest in things for us.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:05:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naomi Tachera	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace version** of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committees on Ways and Means, and Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawai'i State Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony on HB 862, HD2, SD1, Proposed SD2 – Relating to State Government

Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Robbie Ann Kane and I am writing in opposition to some of the changes proposed in the subject bill, in particular, some of the deletions proposed as they relate to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA).

As background, I worked for HTA from 2002 to 2011 as Product Development Coordinator with primary responsibilities to grow and enrich Hawai'i's inventory of tourism product offerings. I also oversaw the creation of the *Hawai'i Tourism Strategic Plan: 2005-2015*. Through that work, we heard from many community members, the private sector, and government. I believe many of the challenges and opportunities we identified then still hold true today.

One of the most important changes that occurred in how HTA viewed the visitor industry and the community was how much more important the "product" became as we budgeted and planned our work. While I recognize that some of this is covered in other sections of the bill, I implore you to ensure that the focus on our environment, our culture, our communities and our people is not lost through these changes.

Initiatives that support our cultures and the Hawaiian culture in particular (including the accurate portrayal of our cultures) and our natural resources are crucial to our continued success as a unique destination. The partnership with the counties to support community events and programs allowed HTA to reach across the state and gave each county the opportunity to have a voice in what they identified as critical for their own success. The program provided our local communities with a chance to have a say in how the industry could interact with and benefit them.

For HTA to do the work they were created for, it needs to continue to look beyond marketing and market research. It needs to look at the industry as a whole and plan for the long term.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:08:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Wilson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:09:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelley Uyeoka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:14:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Punihei Lipe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB862 as the proposed amendments under Part III are especially problematic. Please kill this bill.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:14:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bruce watson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:15:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marie Alohalani Brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:15:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leahi Hall	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:23:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Preza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not remove wording that attempts to mitigate the negative impacts of tourism on our natural/cultural resources and on our communities. The State should ensure that Hawaiian culture, our places, and our people are supported and respected. This bill will hurt our LÄ• na'i community. We would like to make sure that tourism doesn't hurt LÄ• na'i's cultural and natural resources.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:24:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Breea Souza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose amendments under Part III. Section 6 of this bill would unjustly limit HTA's ability to work towards operating sustainably and regeneratively. It would also eliminate their responsibility to address any issues dealing with impacts to Hawai'i's people and place, and restrict their capacity to fund community and cultural programs that uplift Hawaiian

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:25:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources. Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:28:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Douglas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stripping references and funding to the Hawaii culture and programs in this bill is despicable and frankly an insult steeped in racism against the host culture. What would Hawaii tourism be without the Hawaiian culture? I strongly support removing any edits that erases the Native Hawaiian culture and funding from HRS 201B-7. When will this assault on the Hawaiian culture and people cease?

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:30:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Moana Ching	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB862, HD2, SD2 with its current revisions puts local residents, 'Ä• ina and Hawaiian revitalization efforts in an extremely vulnerable state. 'Ä• ina and kupa'Ä• ina have already suffered greatly, not only in the last year of the global pandemic, but over centuries of an extractive tourism industry that must evolve in order for it to thrive. If this bill passes, we run the risk of returning to an unchecked tourism industry with no formal accountability mechanisms in place. The HTA is not perfect, but with increased community and additional sector engagement, it can and must become an entity that can help the tourism industry be pono in this changing world. This bill must not be passed.

Mahalo.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:31:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emma Broderick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:34:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jillian Paulino	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:41:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paola Vidulich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax.

During these unprecedented times when the white majority across the United States is taking further steps towards ownership and accountability for past actions, and at a time when the needle on deep reconciliation should be inching further in the direction of progress, I find it unconscionable that the erasure's in this bill are even been recommended. This form of continued colonization and appropriation of culture - because undoubtedly Hawaiian heritage and culture is one of the most unique differentiators of Hawaii tourism has to offer - is unethical, lacks integrity, and does not honour both current and form people of this island. We can do better than this.

I can appreciate the challenges and struggles the tourism industry is facing at this time. Wiping out these taxes specifically is not the answer - not for Hawaiian culture, not for local Hawaiians, not for the long term benefit of any local residents regardless of color or heritage.

While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill further exacerbates the strains on all local communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.”

I implore leaders to think more ethically, more critically and more creatively about solutions that can meet the needs of local Hawaii and other communities. I challenge you to honour your deeper integrity and knowing of what will serve, uplift and inspire us all.

Please defer HB862.

In community,

Paola Vidulich

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:45:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
francine Aarona	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose the Gut & Replace version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian Culture from HRS 201 B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the TAT collections. Communities demand a better model of tourism that balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment. The bill provides no solutions. How dare you delete the language that would provide revenues to our communities. The language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian Culture. One example would be Merrie Monarch, if this measure is passed, HTA would no longer provide funding to this function. We expect better from our "Leaders." Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:46:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Kawika McKeague	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite.

The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

Na'u me ka pono,

Kawika McKeague

I strongly oppose the Gut & Replace version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

Susan Browne, P.O. Box 1002, Haiku, HI 96708

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:48:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaiah	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha

As a Kanaka Maoli, I am still in shock about this bill and wondering where is the respect and ALOHA for our Kanaka Maoli and our local residents? By passing this bill where the Hawaiian culture and language is HIDDEN in the Hawaii Tourism Authority section and further HIDDEN in the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration systems, I believe you are:

1. perpetuating racism towards Kanaka Maoli,
2. moving Hawai`i and Kanaka Maoli back to the early to mid-20th century,
3. disrespecting the language and culture. Many of our Kanaka Maoli have made large strides in perpetuating the language and culture. Many businesses have included Hawaiian culture in their business practices because many visitors are searching for authentic activities.

I humbly ask that you reconsider and not pass this bill. Me ka mahalo nui

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:52:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Namaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker; Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang and members of Senate Committee On Ways and Means and Senate Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I strongly **oppose** HB862 HD2 **SD2 Proposed** which eliminates Hawai'i Tourism Authority's ability to support the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture and community including the work to ensure that the Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by the visitor industry, that Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as our official language of the State, that Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites are supported and nurtured, and that a native Hawaiian cultural education and training program exists for the visitor industry workforce.

Mahalo

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:53:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Haley Lytle	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates a problem that has been identified over and over again. Native Hawaiian culture and the land have already been significantly impacted by the tourism industry and it is our responsibility to ensure that the culture and natural environment are protected. The tourism industry cannot continue as it has. We need to take steps forward in restoring Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources, erasing stereotypes, and not retracting promises that were made in previous legislation.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:55:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
SEAN K. SPENCER	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:55:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alapaki Luke	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:57:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kuuipo Kumukahi	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kā• kou

I OPPOSE HB862 HD2 SD1, an EGREGIOUS ATTEMPT to UNDERMINE and DECONSTRUCT decades of *important revitalization* and IMPORTANCE of our 'Ā• *lelo makuahine (Hawaiian language)*, our *Hawaiian Natural Resources*, fortifying our *communities* and *educating* our children with Hawaiian values of Aloha and MĀ• lama, growing the knowledge base of Hawai'i's people though the poetry set forth by native Hawaiian ancestors - this bill completely UNDERMINES the balance in our communities and the IMPORTANCE and UNIQUENESS of our HAWAIIAN ISLANDS. I REPEAT, THAT DECADES OF EFFORTS TO RECONSTRUCT HAWAI'I, OUR SOCIETY, WILL BE TAKEN AWAY - and should this bill pass - it will set a precedence for more EGREGIOUS ATTEMPTS TO DECONSTRUCT AND UNDERMINE.....OUR HOME! HAWAI'I

UA MAU KE EA O KA 'Ā•ĒINA I KA PONO

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:57:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Barzman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:58:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ian Custino	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan Dela Cruz

House of Representatives

Thirty-First Legislature, 2021

April 8, 2021

RE: HB 862

Mr. Chair & Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am strongly OPPOSED to HB 862. This bill eliminates HTA's ability to address issues dealing with impacts to Hawai'i's natural resources due to tourism. It would also eliminate HTA's ability to fund programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and help the community. This bill essentially eliminates key functions of HTA and will restrict the agency's ability to work towards a regenerative tourism model.

Ian Keali'i Custino

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:06:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

Two things are not clear to me with this bill and its' revisions.

#1 Why are the statements about Hawaiian culture, language etc. crossed out? It seems strange as we live in Hawai'i and it is the land of the Kanaka by law. Why would this be erased from this bill? Seems a continuation of erasure? Any company, entity in Hawai'i should by that fact alone support, perpetuate and honor Hawaiian culture. #14 Section 7 says" Have a permanent, strong focus on Hawaii brand management. What does that mean? Catch phrase? Stick aloha or pono on a package or Tshirt? Hawai'i is not a brand.. it's a living people.

#2 Though the bill seems to be about the "state" government, this has become a gut bill for specific interest groups. While the education part of this entity seems to be doing positive work, one can't but be maka`ala that certain astronomy groups are testifying and have an interest in this new edition of the bill. During these tough times, downsizing seems prudent and giving the Challenger Center to the DOE **with funding** seems appropriate. A question that arises is why are we the tax payers paying for private corporations, foreign governments and the military ?

Though there are many good things about education and learning, completing that at the expense of the people and place is never a good idea.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:08:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kiana Rivera	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this are being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:16:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Lockhart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:18:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Max Castanera	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

My name is Max Pono Castanera, I am a kanaka maoli born and raised in Mokapu, Kailua, O'ahu, and I am a few short weeks away from graduating from JABSOM and going on to practice medicine to serve this community. The gut and replace version of HB 862 does our community a great injustice. It is hewa (wrong) that this bill was modified as such so that it could do the opposite of what it was intended to do and the opposite of what the community wants and needs!

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is **unacceptable** and we demand better from our community representatives. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:18:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dorinna Cortez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Unchecked tourism without accountability mechanisms will exacerbate the inequities inherent in an extractive economy and Hawai'i's dependence on tourism. We must align towards a more just, equitable and resilient economy that is firmly rooted and committed to Native Hawaiian cultural practices and resource sustainability. HB862 eliminates HTA's ability to address issues dealing with impacts to Hawai'i's natural resources and its ability to fund programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and help the community. The bill essentially eliminates key functions of HTA and will restrict the agency's ability to work towards a regenerative tourism model.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:20:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MICAH KAIMANA PACATANG	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I, MICAH KAIMANA PACATANG, hereby oppose HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:21:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sonya Zabala	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

Mahalo,

Sonya Zabala

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:24:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Solemsaas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We oppose HB862, HD2, SD2 proposed because of the effects it would have on Hawai'i's tourism industry and the next generation of hospitality workers. Under this proposal, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority will no longer have the statutory authority to encourage the development of tourism educational, training, and career counseling programs – and that would also affect our students in the Hospitality and Tourism program at Hawai'i Community College.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:25:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Kā• kou,

I strongly oppose HB862 and see it was an attempt to further erode the rights and ability for Kanaka Maoli to practice, perpetuate, preserve, and share their culture. Hawaiian culture is an integral part of Hawai'i's allure to tourists and contributes to the positive experience of tourist is a way that is wholly unique. More importantly, this bill would essentially make it more difficult for Native Hawaiian organizations to recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19 by limiting their eligibility to receive funds from HTA. The decline of Native Hawaiian organizations will have a dramatic impact on tourism and the experience of tourists. This could be detrimental to the industry as more and more tourists are looking for experiences that allow them to connect with and contribute to Hawai'i's rich cultural and natural resources. I have personally been in contact with two responsible volunteer-based tourism organizations who are shifting their programs from international trips to domestic trips to places like Hawai'i and Puerto Rico. These groups are craving cultural experiences and are having a difficult time finding Native Hawaiian organizations to work with to provide these experiences. Most significantly, this bill would deepen the state's exploitation of Native Hawaiian people, land, and culture for corporate profit. As the world is becoming more "woke", travelers and tourists are hungry for ways to enjoy Hawai'i while providing active good for the people and places that make Hawai'i such a significant destination. Moving forward, in order to remain competitive in the tourist market, Hawai'i needs to support Native Hawaiians and Native Hawaiian organizations in providing place-based experiences for these new types of tourists.

Mahalo,

Jess

**Statement of
Sandy Ryan**

Before the

Committee on Energy, Economic Development & Tourism
Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, April 9th , 2021 @ 10:30, Conference Room 211

In consideration of

HB862-HD2-SD1, Proposed SD2 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang and members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support of the parts in this Bill pertaining to PISCES. As a member of the **Hawaii Aerospace Advisory Committee**, I have had the privilege of working closely with the **PISCES Program** on initiatives that promote **Hawaii's Aerospace Sector** through applied research, workforce development, and awareness building activities, and I understand the vital role the sector plays in providing relevant economic development solutions that can help Hawaii with its economic recovery.

On Maui, examples include the annual **AMOS Conference**, lauded by Gen. John Hyten, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as the "premier technical gathering related to space situational awareness in the world," which has served to showcase Maui's optics and astronomy assets internationally. The companion **EMER-GEN Program** designed for students and young professionals pursuing careers in space, draws half its annual cohort from Hawaii-based universities and aerospace companies.

And as was recently reported by local media, the **United States Space Force** has inducted 6 Maui-based members into its cadre of **Space Force Guardians**, one, a Maui-born Native Hawaiian, whose work is to "lead the discovery and development of critical space technologies for our nation."

The **aerospace sector, nationally, has demonstrated resilience throughout the pandemic** and Hawaii cannot afford to lose momentum at this critical juncture in its economic recovery. Transferring PISCES to be administratively attached to Imiloa under the University of Hawaii in Hilo will allow PISCES to continue developing its work in economic development related to the aerospace industry, workforce development, education outreach and applied research. Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Sincerely,

Sandy Ryan

1071 Ulele Street, Makawao, Hawaii 96768, E. sryanmaui@gmail.com, Ph. 808-283-1267

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:29:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hersh Singer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a professional marketing research organization we recognize that one of the accepted standards in the industry is to assure survey respondents of the confidentiality of their responses. The deletion of the the following section will jepordize the accurate and representative survey data collection and analysis. Such data is critical to ensure future strategic planning.

Please do not delete....(d) on page 20. "Where public disclosure etc...."

Thank you for your consideration

Hersh Singer

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Hearing: Friday, April 9, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB862, H.D.2 S.D. 2

Aloha,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB862, H.D.2 S.D.2. In its original form, the bill proposed to abolish the Office of Aerospace Development, the Aerospace Advisory Committee, and the Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test site advisory board. However, what has now emerged recently is HB862, HD2, SD1 that now contains provisions harmful, and it seems targeted, to the Native Hawaiian community. Few, if any of us, realized that was happening...just look at the testimonies given thus far, all of them addressing the transfer of administration of the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) to UH Hilo.

A friend informed me of the provisions of this bill this morning. It was not among those that I normally track at the legislature.

As currently drafted, the legislation would eliminate HTA's ability to address issues dealing with Hawaii's natural resources and eliminate HTA's ability to fund programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and help the community. The bill essentially eliminates key functions of HTA and will restrict the agency's ability to work towards a regenerative tourism model. I am sure that HTA can articulate this point better than me given their experiences.

Other considerations are: For years, legislators, HTA, and others have boasted that Hawaii is different than other tourism destinations because of Hawaii's unique host culture, their traditions, and practices. Too, all of us speak to the importance of

malama ‘aina. HTA has funded programs to care for our ‘aina; again, they can provide you with the specific examples.

Bottomline: I am writing you to kindly ask that this measure not pass out of committee, or that it be amended to reinstate the proposed deletions in the following sections:

- Part III especially Part III, Section 7(a) (14);
- Section 8, 201B-7, Tourism-related activities (b)(5) on page 19, “Perpetuating the uniqueness of the native Hawaiian culture and community, and their importance to the quality of the visitor experience, by ensuring that (A) The Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by Hawaii’s visitor industry; (B) Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as both an official language of the State as well as the foundation of the host culture that draws visitors to Hawaii; (C) Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites that give value to Hawaii’s heritage are supported, nurtured, and engaged in sustaining the visitor industry; and (D) A native Hawaiian cultural education and training program is provided for the visitor industry workforce having direct contact with visitors.
- Section 10, page 21, “At least \$1000000 shall be made available to support efforts to manage, improve, and protect Hawaii’s natural environment and areas frequented by visitors;
- Section 11 at page 23, “Programs for the management, improvements, and protection of Hawaii’s natural environment and other areas frequented by visitors and Programs to perpetuate the cultures of Hawaii and engage local communities to sustain and preserve the native Hawaiian culture;
- Section 12, page 25, \$1,000,000 shall be allocated for the operation of a Hawaiian center and the museum of Hawaiian music and dance.
- and any other sections that delete funding for programs for Native Hawaiian culture and Hawaii’s natural environment.

Respectfully,

Leimomi Khan

March 8, 2021

TO: Hon. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Hon. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hon. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Hon. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

CC: Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

FROM: Monte McComber
momccomb@gmail.com

HEARING DATE: March 9, 2021

SUBJECT: Testimony in OPPOSITION to Proposed SD2, HB 862, HD2, SD1

Aloha kākou. I am employed in the tourism industry, but I am not representing my company or employer.

Further, I am only speaking in opposition to relevant portions of Section 8. that concern land and culture; notably, the newly numbered Paragraph 8. (b) (5) (A) through (D).

Hodge podge bills of this sort have always been a political contrivance in our system. They are a clear sign that the game of intrigue is alive and well. Additionally, such bills seek to confuse, maneuver, position, misdirect, and in many cases set the energy and efforts of good people and good institutions at odds with one another.

I digress.

Tourism is a simple linear equation. We don't have tourism, if we don't have a destination worth coming to visit. The items listed (A) through (D) are not fluff. They are the reason we have a mature and robust tourism industry. They should not be deleted from statute.

Promoting and marketing Hawai'i while choosing not to nurture and invest in Hawai'i is grade school mathematics gone awry.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:37:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monica Stitt-Bergh	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

If HB862, HD2, SD2 passes, local residents, 'Ä• ina and Hawaiian revitalization efforts will suffer a massive loss. And instead of moving closer to a more pono regenerative model, we will return to unchecked tourism without a specific accountability mechanism. We are in economic warfare and we are losing. If we don't align towards a more just, equitable and resilient economy, kanaka Hawai'i and other people of color will continue to bear the impacts of racist systems of oppression.

Thus, I **strongly oppose as the proposed amendments under Part III. Section 6 of this bill**, which would allow for a return to unchecked tourism without a specific accountability mechanism to the peoples and places of Hawia'i. We must instead turn our minds and hearts to imagining a just, equitable and resilient economy that can operate sustainably within the biophysical limits of our islands' socio-ecological systems, so that all residents of Hawai'i can thrive and flourish once more.

Please help us and the islands by putting the aina first because it is the aina that sustains us and nourishes us. To put the aina first is to also recognize the need to learn from and support Native Hawaiian people and practices. We need responsible, regenerative tourism and we need HTA's ability to fund programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and help the community.

Thank you.

Monica Stitt-Bergh, resident of Kahalu'u

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:40:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kawena Elkington	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources. Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:40:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C. Vierra	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill and urge you to do the same. Erasing decades of progress made by the Native Hawaiian community who have fought to receive some semblance of recognition as a core contributor to the success of the tourism industry in Hawai'i is appalling.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:42:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Austen Drake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang and members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support of the parts in this Bill pertaining to PISCES. Transferring PISCES to be administratively attached to Imiloa under the University of Hawaii in Hilo will allow PISCES to continue developing its work in economic development related to the aerospace industry, workforce development, education outreach and applied research.

The Aerospace Industry is rapidly growing around the world and Hawaii possesses unique advantages to take a leading role in various areas of the industry. PISCES has been, and continues to be involved in developing opportunities for the state to help with its economic recovery.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Austen Drake, P.E.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:43:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frederick Reppun	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As someone who works in environmental education and perpetuation of Indigenous natural resource management, I am strongly opposed to HB862, HD2, SD2. As currently drafted, it would eliminate HTA's ability to address issues dealing with impacts to Hawai'i's natural resources. It would also eliminate HTA's ability to fund programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and help the community. These are key functions of HTA, that help to ensure that the core drivers of Hawai'i's tourism, our unique culture and natural resources, are not eroded by the industry itself. Coral reefs, to name one example, are worth hundreds of millions of dollars to the State, in large part due to the tourism that they attract. HTA must continue to have a role in developing, coordinating, and implementing policies that perpetuate this and other valuable resources. Eliminating these functions would undercut HTA's ability to engage with the many community-driven efforts in the Kā• ne'ohē Bay area (where I live and work) to protect such resources and promote sustainable tourism. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:50:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan King	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:51:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamana Beamer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My Name is Dr Kamana Beamer and I wanted to offer testimony on HB862 HD2 SD1

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:52:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olan Leimomi Fisher	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please **defer** HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:53:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim L. Kalama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Delacruz, Chair Baker and Committee Members.

I am writing in opposition to HB862 as it is currently written and edited. The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic created an opportunity to re-think tourism in our state. In this bill, rather than a re-set, you are gutting the heart and soul of what the tourism industry should represent, the Native Hawaiian people. As this bill stands, our host culture is being omitted from consideration while seeking to elevate the needs of the business and science communities. We should all be working together to create an industry that will benefit our economy, our health and environment but it cannot be done without considering the Native Hawaiian community's mana'o. We deserve a seat at the table and deserve to be a part of the HTA policies and planning.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:55:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Takeno	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a voting citizen, community member and advocate for the long-term future of our keiki, I strongly oppose this bill because it will essentially eliminate the HTA's ability to fund programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and help the community. The bill will eliminate key functions of HTA and will restrict the agency's ability to work towards a regenerative tourism model for the good of all of Hawai'i residents. It will remove the checks and balances needed to ensure tourism does not devastate our ecosystems that have long-term impact on the generations to come. We will move backward and not forward with the passing of this bill. Aloha.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:58:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamuela Werner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha:

I strongly OPPOSE this gut and replace bill that would permanently end the use of hotel tax for investment in Native Hawaiian cultural, natural resource, and community programs.

Me ke aloha,

Kamuela Werner

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:00:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Matsuda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agran, Chair Baker and Vice-Chair Chang,

Mahalo for the opportunity to voice my **opposition** to the gut & replace version of HB862. My opposition to the current version of this bill is specific to the changes proposed that would limit HTA's ability to execute on managing tourism responsibly and supporting Hawaiian cultural resources - two absolutely critical components of what I believe to be HTA's responsibility to our community and our home as they market us as a destination to the rest of the world.

I believe that HTA's most recent strategic plan indicates that the authority is responding appropriately to the demands of the current situation - with or without COVID-19 - that the visitor industry engage more responsibly in preserving and perpetuating what makes Hawai'i a home our residents cherish and a destination international travelers continue to seek out. Now as we look to tourism as an essential driver of economic recover post-pandemic, we cannot afford to dismiss the opportunity to restart in a way that is pono and prioritizes the principles that we as community members agree are essential to the tourism industry fulfilling its responsibility back to Hawaii.

Implementing structural changes that make it impossible for HTA to support for cultural programs and handicapp the HTA's ability to perform responsible destination management is ill-timed at best, and could have dangerousl long-term implications. Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

With aloha,

Christine Matsuda

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:08:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

Please accept this testimony in opposition to HB862, SD2 which is proposed to be heard on April 9th. This version proposes to drastically change the focus of Hawai'i Tourism Authority by removing the most important kuleana of the agency to moderate the effects of the overwhelming tourism industry by ensuring the sustainability of our Hawaiian culture, health of Hawaiian language, and natural environment. In addition, this draft removes the portion of the TAT from HTA and redirects it to the General Fund thereby removing the ability for the agency to support the myriad of programs throughout the communities which strengthen our identity and sense of overall well-being. Some of our iconic community programs like the Merrie Monarch and Downtown Hilo festivals are supported through the programs funded by HTA and managed through the Counties. In one broad stroke, this proposed draft erases decades of work that the HTA and community have worked toward in developing in their Strategic Plan to maintain a healthy tourist industry while protecting and nurturing those very elements that attract people to Hawai'i in the first place. Why would you do that?

I urge you to remove any portion of this draft which refers to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

Mahalo nui,

Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:08:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7. This version of the bill deletes language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach Native Hawaiian communities and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:09:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kauahi Perez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Committees on Ways & Means and Commers & Consumer Protection,

I strongly oppose HB862, HD2, SD2 because as currently drafted I fear it would eliminate HTA's ability to address issues dealing with impacts to Hawai'i's natural resources. It would also eliminate HTA's ability to fund programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and help the community. The bill essentially eliminates key functions of HTA and will restrict the agency's ability to work towards a regenerative tourism model.

If HB862, HD2, SD2 passes, local residents, 'Ä•ina and Hawaiian revitalization efforts will suffer a massive loss. And instead of moving closer to a more pono regenerative model, we will return to unchecked tourism without a specific accountability mechanism. We are in economic warfare and we are losing. If we don't align towards a more just, equitable and resilient economy, kanaka Hawai'i and other people of color will continue to bear the impacts of racist systems of oppression. I urge you to take a stand with me, evoke the change that is much needed for the future of Hawaii and its children and its culture, and decline this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Kauahi Perez

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:12:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kahea Faria	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

I strongly opposing HB862 HD2, SD1 and/or HB862 HD2, SD2 as it would eliminate HTA's ability to address issues dealing with impacts to Hawai'i's natural resources, and their ability to fund programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and help the community. This bill essentially eliminates key functions of HTA and will restrict the agency's ability to work towards a regenerative tourism model.

In closing, I highly recommend that you not pass HB862 HD2, SD1 and/or HB862 HD2, SD2.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:13:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Naalehu Anthony	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I write to strongly oppose HB862, HD2, Proposed SD2. I have served in past years as a reviewer for the HTA Kukulu Ola grant program so have first-hand knowledge of its importance and impact. I have had direct access to proof of the significant positive effect these dollars have on Culture and Language in our community each year and cumulatively over time. The current version of the proposed legislation disregards the many meaningful conversations about the urgent need better engage the visitor industry, which is critical to this program. Advancing that progress is more important than ever as we walk the razor thin balance of reopening our visitor economy and maintaining the safety and security of our community and 'ohana. It is critical that these programs are funded so that they can be a part of the community conversation to better inform the visitor industry as reopening occurs.

As a Native Hawaiian, I recognize that it has taken years of hard work by HTA staff both past and present to bring value to the topics of Hawaiian Culture and Language into that institution. I'm personally tired of seeing Hawaiian programs on the chopping block in the name of balancing a budget. This entire community is reeling from the pandemic. But if Hawaiian Culture and language isn't supported and practiced in Hawaii, then where will it be?

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Na'alehu Anthony

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:15:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kainalu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:17:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noa Lincoln	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:17:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Kalili	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:20:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimaile Barrett	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the Gut & Replace version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources. Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:20:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Makanalani Gomes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Makanalani Gomes, I strongly oppose the proposed amendments under Part III. Section 6 of this bill, which would allow for a return to unchecked tourism without a specific accountability mechanism to the peoples and places of Hawai'i. We must instead turn our minds and hearts to imagine a just, equitable and resilient economy that can operate sustainably within the biophysical limits of our islands' socio-ecological systems, so that all residents of Hawai'i can thrive and flourish once more.

Mahalo Nui

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:21:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaulani Shintani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Kā«pono 'Ole! AuÄ“!

E mÄ• lama iÄ• Hawai'i me ko Hawai'i no ko mua aku!

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:22:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapuaonaona	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:24:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John N. Kittinger	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear distinguished legislators,

Please accept my written testimony opposing specific elements of this bill, which would remove Hawaii Tourism Authority's ability to support key elements of its strategic mission, including its goal to "strategically manage Hawaii tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires, and visitor industry needs."

Specifically, this bill will restrict HTA's ability to maintain Hawaii's position as a premier, world-class destination and in particular, to protect and deliver on the Hawaii brand - our Hawaiian culture, diversity (culture, people, and nature), natural beauty, and aloha spirit (connection).

As tourism recovers it is imperative that we build back with a strong focus on maintaining the nature and culture that our visitors enjoy and our residents depend on. Preventing HTA from working on building community and private sector partnerships to address tourism related issues in natural resources, Hawaiian culture, and community would not serve this critical need. The HTA programs in Kukula Ola and Aloha Aina have been critical in achieving these goals.

Additionally, it is not appropriate to legislate HTA's strategy and eliminating three of the four pillars in the current strategy would hamper the agency's role at a key time when a more broadly expansive and community-focused role is so critical to rebuilding in the right way - economically, culturally, and with respect to natural and cultural resources.

For these reasons, I oppose this bill.

Warm regards,

John N. (Jack) Kittinger, PhD

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:26:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the Gut & Replace version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:27:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kehaunani Abad	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Agaran,

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION to the proposed SD2 amendments affecting the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. The amendments run counter to the vital changes that have made over the years to transition Hawai'i's tourism industry to a more regenerative model.

The amendments would strip the HTA of being able to conduct some of its most vital roles, ones that will help to distinguish Hawai'i from other beautiful destinations around the world and that will ensure that Hawai'i remains a place rich in its cultural heritage and environmental vibrancy. It's these two traits that draw visitors to Hawai'i. Disabling the HTA from safeguarding and supporting these most precious aspects of Hawai'i is a huge mistake.

Mahalo nui for considering my testimony.

Ke aloha,

Kehau Abad

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:27:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon Barlow	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha House Committee: How can you justify not committing some portion of Hotel tax to benefit Hawai'i? Fact that the lands were taken illegally...there's never been restitution offered for the people. Sure Kakaako was surrendered, but that after it's been dumped on and the homeless making encampments. If it weren't for tourist...rather the FIT's buying up the lands for their vacation rental or foreign corporations building hotels and businesses without compensating for the Hawaiian lands they violated we wouldn't have the amount of islanders homeless. It's bad enough money is spent toward those vagrants that come from the Mainland who taken advantage of programs and entitlements due for island family in hardship...you can just take away the only other money resource from the island people. Shame on You!!

Who ever it was who introduced this bill should be exiled.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:28:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mondy Jamshidi Kent, MA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

In consideration of

HB862-HD1 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Honorable Chairs Wakai & Mercado, Vice Chairs Misalucha and Kidani and members of the Committee:

I am writing today in opposition of **HB862-HD1**.

As the non-profit organizations I support are beneficiaries of Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) community programs funds, adopting this bill as proposed would directly harm our already limited operations, ability to deliver mission and the Hawaiian cultural preservation and land management opportunities we represent and for organizations like ours.

As it stands, environmental and State organizations are already underfunded supporting restoration from impacts left by tourism. With gutted amendments supporting corporate social responsibility, I am gravely concerned that this bill would amend HTA's statutory mandate to remove the important overall functions of:

1. Coordination of public and private entities
2. Work to develop new tourism products that keep us competitive as a destination
3. Developing career pipelines to our state's largest industry
4. Protecting the cultural and natural resources that are our differentiators
5. Thoughtful development of tourism policy proportional to impact

This bill severely compromises HTA's ability to deliver on its 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, as well as the current Destination Management Action Plans. This bill as proposed would remove all functions from HTA except marketing and statistics – nothing to manage or mitigate the impacts of tourism on our communities.

Why would the Senate want to impede the progress of Native Hawaiian cultural preservation and environmental conservation activities supported with direct accountability?

As we consider a post-pandemic visitor industry that is more responsive to community needs while maintaining a robust economy, these proposed changes to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority remind one of the earliest days of tourism promotion with no destination management.

For many years we've seen both the detrimental impacts but also the opportunity for positive impact that tourism can have if there is focused financial support to operate mindfully, with stewardship. Respect for the accurate preservation of Hawaiian culture is paramount to preserving that which makes us a unique destination. It starts with keeping that emphasis written into policy like this. We cannot have a prime destination without the care of the land that feeds us and our guests.

While I applaud some recent initiatives to care for our island home in *messaging*, now is the time for an increased *positive action*. This means calling for budget to operationalize efforts to protect them, not to neglect or diminish by striking them from this bill.

Senators, respectfully, now is the time to take a historic step forward not a step back.

Oppose HB862-HD1 and please only support any future iterative terms of the bill that would preserve and protect that which is Hawaiian.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mondy Jamshidi Kent, MA Sustainability

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:29:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang, and Committee Members,

I hope you are well. I am writing testimony in opposition to HB862, HD2, SD2 because it ultimately prohibits HTA from fulfilling its mission – “to strategically manage Hawai'i tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires, and visitor industry needs.”

Furthermore,

- It restricts HTA's ability to maintain Hawai'i's position as a premier, world-class destination and protect and deliver on the Hawai'i brand – our Hawaiian culture, diversity of culture and people), natural beauty of this place, and aloha spirit which deepens our connection. We need to provide a quality visitor experience in addition to supporting our residents' lifestyles and values.
- It does not allow HTA to actively address broad tourism issues through destination management and working with other agencies to strengthen natural and cultural assets valued by both Hawai'i residents and visitors.
- It dispenses with the HTA's new strategic plan by eliminating three of the four pillars outlined.
- It prevents HTA from supporting Hawaiian culture, natural resources, and community programs, all of which are critical pieces to understanding the complex relationship between our land, sea, residents and visitors.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Molly Mamaril

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:30:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

String Opposition to the gut and replace features of this proposed amended bill which would affect Tourism taxes. Not good and sneaky.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:30:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanoelani Steward	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha nui,

I am writing this testimony in OPPOSITION of HB862 HD2 SD1. It will eliminate HTA's ability to address critical issues that are impacted by tourism, such as Hawai'i's natural resources. Our 'Ā• ina is of utmost importance to the people of Hawai'i, and tourism in Hawai'i impacts those resources. HTA needs to continue to be able to address those impacts. This bill will also take away funding that is used to continue our Hawaiian culture and contribute to Hawai'i's communities. This bill will restrict many aspects of HTA to work towards a just regenerative tourism model. Please think of our Hawai'i residents and our 'Ā• ina, and OPPOSE this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Kanoelani

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:31:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelsey Dickson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Senate Committee on WAYS AND MEANS and COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFIARS

Friday, April, 9, 2021, CR211 & Videoconference 10:30 a.m.

Re: HB862 SD2 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz and Chair Baker and members of the committees,

I Chelsey Dickson, **OPPOSE HB862, SD2 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT.**

This measure will have a negative impact on programs that are supported through the Office of Aerospace. Most concerning is, this bill proposes to eliminate key education programs as well as support for Hawaii Tourism Authority that provide avenues for Hawaiian cultural programs such as the Merrie Monarch and many other activities that bridge the Native Hawaiian culture and the visitor industry.

Hawaii residents should not be marginalized by such measures. I urge this committee to **OPPOSE HB862,SD2**, and really look at the impacts. Our economy is at stake and our leaders should be looking at avenues that build our economic sectors and support cultural and natural resources. Please align with a more just, equitable and resilient economy.

Mahalo nui,

Chelsey K. Dickson

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:32:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aubrey Yee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this. This bill essentially removes HTA's non-marketing/branding activities, such as:

- It prohibits HTA from fulfilling its mission – “to strategically manage Hawai'i tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires, and visitor industry needs.”
- It restricts HTA's ability to maintain Hawai'i's position as a premier, world-class destination and protect and deliver on the Hawai'i brand – our Hawaiian culture, diversity (culture and people), natural beauty (place), and aloha spirit (connection). We need to provide a quality visitor experience in addition to supporting our residents' lifestyles and values.
- It does not allow HTA to actively address broad tourism issues through destination management and working with other agencies to strengthen natural and cultural assets valued by both Hawai'i residents and visitors.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:33:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maka Casson-Fisher	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:38:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emalia Keohokalole	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chairs and Committees:

My testimony is in opposition to the plan to repeal the authorization for an Advisory Group to the HTA. Moreover, the deletion of all references to the Hawaiian language, culture, opportunities for practitioner expertise to work with the HTA is an unbelievable lack of good judgment and logical consideration.

If visitors come to Hawaii, they search for places that promote the Hawaiian culture, they can go to any big sports arena on the mainland for sporting events. Further, is tourism now reduced to only caring for the beaches? Isn't that the job of DLNR.

Please reconsider your intent here. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:48:43 AM
Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nate Gytoku	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the Gut & Replace version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources. Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:49:33 AM
Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Sukup	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources. Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:50:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Christine Cordero Leis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the Gut & Replace version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

Sincerely,
Anna Christine Cordero Leis

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:52:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LESLIE A SHERMAN	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose the proposed bill HB862 HD2 SD2 which impacts the important, critical work the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) has been doing in the areas of Hawaiian Culture, Aloha Aina, Community Enrichment Projects, Destination Management Action Plan (DMAP), etc. that have all made a significant difference for our island, as well as our neighbor islands. To lose any future funding/work in these areas will not only hurt the destination, it will impact the resident sentiment toward tourism. Recovering from a pandemic that has devastated our economy, and my business specifically, is not the time to gut HTA.

Mahalo,

Leslie Sherman-Aoun

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:52:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittney Hedlund	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this are being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 11:21:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalai Hanohano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 12:01:34 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Hadway Spain	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Committee Members,

Although I am **supportive of the portion of HB862 HD2 SD1 that transfer PISCES to UH Hilo (Section 1)**, I am **in strong opposition to Section III of the bill** that removes the ability of the HTA to support Native Hawaiian integration and advancement, natural resource management and preservation, and sustainable and regenerative tourism. The HTA needs to continue to play a critical role in elevating our natural and cultural resources to the forefront of our tourism industry. I respectfully request that you remove Section III of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Lisa Hadway Spain

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 12:03:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Domingo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 12:05:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samson Malani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

Stop stealing from Hawaiians.

Aloha,

Samson Malani

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 12:16:26 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlene Luning	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While the global pandemic has caused us all to reevaluate the essential things in our lives, we are reminded of what makes Hawai’i unique and special and how important that is for folks who live here -- as well as those who visit. Communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities face by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities, and in fact, protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources. This version of HB862 is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 12:27:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable, and as a leader of Hawaii you know better, so do better. Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 12:28:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christina Kaleiwahea	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please include Native Hawaiian cultural clauses. Thank you.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 12:30:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Pettinger	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in opposition to HB862. HB862, HD2, SD2 Proposed, as currently drafted, would eliminate HTA's ability to address issues dealing with impacts to Hawai'i's natural resources. It would also eliminate the organization's ability to fund programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and help the community. The bill essentially eliminates key functions of HTA and will restrict its ability to work towards a regenerative tourism model. Please refer to the attached PDF of the bill and pay attention to the words that are crossed out.

Specifically the following parts of HRS Section 201B should be removed:

- P19 line 11-12, the ability to provide “technical or other assistance to other agencies and private industry upon request”
- P20 line 19 through P21 line 7, the ability to keep tourism data confidential, including completed survey forms, coding sheets, and database records of information.
- P22 lines 12 through P22 line 22, removes our ability to receive assistance from state and county agencies or advisory groups.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Best,
David Pettinger

Statement of

LANI MA'A LAPILIO
Aukahi Cultural Consulting

LATE

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Friday, April 9, 2021
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room #211 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 862, HD2, SD1: PROPOSED SD2
RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Chairs Dela Cruz and Baker, Vice Chairs Keith-Agaran and Chang, members of the Committee on Ways and Means and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

As a member of the Native Hawaiian community, a native Hawaiian attorney and Principal of Aukahi Cultural Consulting, the Hawai'i advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, advisor to the Historic Hawaii Foundation, board member of the non-profit organizations, Hika'alani, Hawai'i Heritage Center and the Hawai'i Heptaclor Foundation. I **strongly oppose** the Proposed SD2 for House Bill 862, HD2, SD1, specifically the sections affecting the future and current work of HTA.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) is the state's lead agency supporting tourism. This proposed legislation would severely erode the ability of HTA to conduct its mission. Over the years, a great deal of work has been done to ensure the Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by the visitor industry, that Hawaiian language is supported as our official language of the State, that Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites are supported and that a native Hawaiian cultural education and training program exists for the visitor industry workforce.

With the proposed revisions in this draft, the HTA would no longer be able to serve as a valued business and community resource, collaborator with partners and assist organizations and businesses through their cultural training programs, festivals and events workshops, agritourism webinars, and nonprofit financial management webinars.

If we want tourists to continue to come to Hawai'i, we must **STRENGTHEN**, not weaken the entity that is responsible to lead, manage, improve and protect the proper growth of this industry. Government is responsible for promoting the Hawaiian language and culture, this proposed legislation would have the opposite effect. Mahalo nui for your consideration.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 1:02:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nohea Santimer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 1:07:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **GUT & REPLACE** (!!!) version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. Please defer HB862.

Sincerely,

Nathan Leo Braulick

2333 Kapiolani Blvd.

Honolulu, HI 96826

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 1:08:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Greene	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB862 JUST ANOTHER ILLEGAL WAY TO STEAL AND DO WHATEVER THE STATE WANTS TO DO TO WE THE NATIVE PEOPLES/ OWNERS OF THESE LANDS HELD ILLEGALLY.

SHOW ME THE PAPERWORK OF YOUR OWNERSHIP !

Patricia Greene- Keahole Kona

938-0676

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 1:10:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Paul Shaffer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha kÄ• kou--

As a long-time resident of the state of Hawai'i, an educator, and a supporter of all cultures, I am appalled and ashamed to see such a blatant attempt to ignore Hawaiian history, culture, and values. This move is strongly reminiscent of consistent attempts of a ruling class to again cancel the validity of the people who were first to live on these islands.

I spend a good deal of time teaching my students to reflect on, respect, and use 'Äœlelo Hawai'i accurately, effectively, and frequently in their writing about the place we all call home. This shameless bill contradicts and attempts to invalidate my teaching and the ongoing progress of recognizing the validity of Hawaiian culture, language, and values and undercuts the growing sense of value all residents exhibit concerning the first peoples of these islands.

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax.

While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities.

Furthermore, the language was originally included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources. Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

Please show respect for Hawaiian culture, language, and values and reject this insulting and divisive bit of political maneuvering.

A hui hou,

Dr. Eric Paul Shaffer, Professor

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 1:13:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Bishop	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Daniel Bishop

I am a native Hawaiian and live in the Koolau Poko district of Oahu.

I am in VERY STRONG OPPOSITION to HB862 as it is written, AND AM ALSO STRONGLY OPPOSED to the intent of the bill.

Every ethnic group that resides in Hawaii talks about OR IDENTIFIES TO parts of our Hawaiian Culture. Especially if a BUCK can be Made.

The Very word HAWAII has been marketed, as well as very special words like ALOHA!

OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN VICTIMS LONG ENOUGH. THE FAKE STATE AS WELL AS THE FEDERAL THIEVES WISH THAT WE WOULD GO AWAY!!! AINT GONA HAPPEN...

EVERY INSTITUTION IN HAWAII SHOULD START TO ACKNOLEDGE THE THEFT OF HAWAII AND THE COST TO THE HAWAIIANS, AS WELL AS THE HAWAIIAN NATIONALS THAT WERE PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE THEFT.

PAYMENT IS THE LEAST THAT CAN BE DONE TO START THE PROCESS OF RESTITUTION THAT PRESIDENT CLINTON MENTIONS IN HIS CONFESSION ABOUT THE US INVOLVEMENT OF THE THEFT OF OUR NATION....

SINCERLY

DANIEL BISHOP

OPPOSE HB862
Submitted by Kris Kanani Aton
Kapuahii LLC, a private consulting company



To those who preside over HB862, it might be super important to consider the source language and culture of the word **aloha**. This word is known globally as a positive sense of generosity, well-being, and all things naturally beautiful and rejuvenating. When the word **aloha** is heard or used, it most often invokes a sense of going to a place that automatically fills one's cup with all the good things life brings. This is because aloha originates from a **people** who speak the Hawaiian language. People who **live** the Hawaiian culture today and **keep** that connection going since time immemorial. It is so important to remember the origins of goodness, of enduring learning, and of the places that we return to over and over again in order to remember who we are, where we come from and why we continue to meet each day of life each new morning...aloha is about all of this. It is also about being gentle on oneself when the inner dialogue gets too harsh and condemning. It is also high level executing of hard lessons that cause true transformation. This is aloha too...and, our legislation and existing policies need true transformation.

If you, as one who presides over and makes policy and direction for Hawaii as we collectively navigate into Hawaii's future, take out the origin sources of aloha and you set up a forgetting that moves our state and our people off course from the things that keep us original, unique, desired, and needed by the rest of our world. Do not make this mistake. The exploitation of Hawaii in order to keep up with economic growth models that never rest or stop...this is the old models that now known as unsustainable. This bill is of old models and old thinking. Come to the edge of true growth and enduring economic models of a better future. Rethink this piece of legislation and come up with something better for all us, especially the teachers of aloha in the first place.

...I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable, and we demand better from our "leaders." Defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 1:32:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Penny Atcheson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Auwe...What a shame that this bill is being edited to the point of destroying so many efforts to maintain the uniqueness and aloha culture of Hawaii. When I reread this based on AlohaAina's call for testimony, I felt like it was written by someone who's never lived here and believes in only one culture, that of economic gains over all else. In particular those items stricken in the SD2 draft basically eliminate the Hawaiian ethos; the very means of what sets Hawaii apart from the other generic tropical travel destinations. Especially now, after seeing so many forms of negative impact from previous tourist activities, how short sighted this bill is reflecting pure values and pono. Listen to your constituents, use your higher level critical thinking skills and have some foresight outside of the short term monetary gains before we lose the true value of Hawaii tourism for those who call Hawaii home rather than a resource to be trashed and forgotten.

Respectfully submitted and with hopeful aloha,

Penny Atcheson

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 1:34:45 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Kau'i Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax.

While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite.

The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better. People from all over the world visit Hawai'i to become familiar with Hawaiian culture, our indigenous people, and our wahi pana. We cannot sustain the health and authenticity of either without financial support, and financial support is the least that our Native Hawaiian communities can expect in exchange for the appropriation of our culture and our home in order to draw in revenue from the tourism industry. Aloha is about reciprocation, not gross appropriation. Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 1:35:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LOUISE D ROSS	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 1:46:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerri A. Inglis	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the Gut & Replace version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 1:59:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aurora Kagawa-Viviani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides **no** solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This measure is backwards, regressive, and unacceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 2:04:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Hannahs	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The current draft of this bill eliminates language in HRS 201B-7 that enables use of hotel tax for investment in native Hawaiian cultural, natural resource and community programs. This proposal will erode financial support of initiatives that contribute to Hawai'i's cultural vibrance, environmental health and social wellbeing. This is an ill-conceived move for three reasons. 1) It is regressive policy that walks back decades of progress in ensuring just recognition of the host culture of this land. 2) It fails to recognize the beneficial impact of a thriving Hawai'i on our competitiveness as a destination for a global market of tourists. 3) It is tone deaf to the demands of Hawai'i's citizens to strengthen connectivity and synergy of our efforts to create economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life. I urge rejection of this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 2:26:14 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqui Hoover	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference (HLPC) was incorporated in 1974 by forward looking business and community leaders on Hawaii Island committed to sound planning decisions in Hawaii. We support the original intent and directives laid out for the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) and consolidation of Hawaii State aerospace initiatives.

However, we are very concerned about proposed changes to HB862 which would have severe negative impact on the Hawaii Tourism Authority and its ability to respond to, rebuild, and recover from the severe hardship inflicted on our community, economy, and visitor industry. Please do NOT integrate and approve ill-conceived additions related to HTA into HB262.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 2:31:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gabrielle Sedore	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose bill HB862. We all know that Hawai'i economy relies a lot on tourism, but if we stop the tax on tourism, hotels, etc then the native Hawaiians don't receive any benefits to keep our culture alive. The people have had so much taken from them that we cannot let this bill pass. We must use that tax for future investments in native Hawaiian culture, natural resources, and community programs. We already give up so much to have tourists enjoy their vacation and in the end we are ones that's left to clean up after them.

LATE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and other members of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and other members of the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Please accept my testimony in opposition to HB 862 HD2 SD2-Proposed as it currently is worded. It is unconscionable that the originators of this revised bill have inserted amendments to HRS 201B-7 into proposed legislation whose primary subject is a Pacific International Space Center for Explorations Systems. How shameful that the host culture and language of Hawai'i's indigenous people are being stripped from the work and activities of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, an agency that derives its very value from the host culture and language! There are other places in the world that also have beautiful beaches and scenic mountains. It is the language and culture of the indigenous people of Hawai'i that imbue this place with its special appeal to visitors. Stop continuing to just take, take, take from us and not give back! Defer action on this piece of pala naio!

Julian Keikilani Ako

I, Dayna Beamer, strongly oppose the Gut & Replace version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources. Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

LATE

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 4:22:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Kaliko Santos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a Native Hawaiian from Kauai and I OPPOSE HB862 SD2.

I believe this measure will negatively impact many programs supported through the Office of Aerospace. I am concerned that this bill proposes to eliminate key educational programs as well as support for the Hawaii Tourism Authority that provide avenues for Hawaiian cultural activities that bridge the Native Hawaiian community and the visitor industry.

I urge this Committee to OPPOSE HB862, SD2 and consider the impacts. Our economy is at stake and we should be building our economic sectors as well as supporting cultural and natural resources.

Mahalo piha,

Donna Kaliko Santos

Lihue, Kauai

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 4:22:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erik Meade	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources. Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 4:28:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Farden	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this are being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. **The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities.** Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.



Hookipa Specialists, LLC

1650 Ala Moana #907, Honolulu, HI 96815 Email: pristexeira@outlook.com Tel: 808 3819391

April 8, 2021

LATE

Aloha,

I strongly oppose House Bill 862, HD2, Proposed SD2, because I believe this is unnecessary and detrimental to our hospitality industry and residents of the Hawaiian Islands.

Cutting HTA by removing critical functions and responsibilities will do nothing to move the economic needle in the right direction. Hobbling HTA and its programs by eliminating funding from the TAT will only push the economic recovery needle in the wrong direction and does nothing to solve Hawai'i's tourism challenges. HTA has a significant task ahead in supporting the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through the revitalization of the visitor industry.

While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities.

Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

I strongly urge you all to do the right thing and defer passage of this bill.

Mahalo,

Priscilla Texeira, Founder & President

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 4:40:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Miyahira	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please don't cut funding that helps perpetuate Hawaii's unique culture.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 5:34:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Buck	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I firmly oppose the gut & replace version of HB862, which permanently ends authorization for cultural, natural resources, and other community programs to receive funding via Transient Accommodation Taxes.

As a citizen, it fills me with rage to see a bill like this up for consideration after the HTA has given so much messaging over the last year around reimagining tourism. This is NOT what I had in mind. Tourism needs to do much, much more to support Kā• naka Maoli people, the 'Ā• ina, and local people and residents. Taking away these tax dollars from community organizations -- who are the ones doing the real work to help the community, not tourism and certainly not the government as it stands -- undermines the already struggling support systems for 'Ā• ina and community.

I would like to join my voice to that of 'Ā• ina Aloha Economic Futures and any others who stand in opposition to this version of HB862. Mahalo nui for your time and consideration.



415 South Street, #903 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
guitarmaster@hawaii.rr.com (808) 285-4767

LATE

April 8, 2021

RE: HB862

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Kapono Beamer

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 7:09:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Estigoy-Kahoonei	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources. Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

To remove the significance of the Hawaiian culture in any small way is absolutely insulting. Shame on those who even consider this as it turns a blind eye to history and gives rise to eradication of a people. Disgusting and unforgiveable!

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:14:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Allen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the gut and replace version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7. This bill would delete language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach Hawaiian communities. We meet visitors from the continent that come for the tropical location. They return and bring their families for the spirit of Aloha that we all learn from the Hawaiian culture. Please defer HB 862. Do not erase support of the Hawaiian culture.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:23:34 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Reid Yokote	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Reid Yokote and I currently live in 'Ewa. I strongly oppose HB862 and the strike-through, elimination of language pertaining to Hawaiian language and culture in Section 201B-7 of the Hawaii Revised Statute regarding tourism-related activities. Eliminating point 5 - *Perpetuating the uniqueness of the native Hawaiian culture and community, and their importance to the quality of the visitor experience* - in its entirety is blasphemy. As a resident of Hawai'i, Hawaiian cultural practitioner, and a teacher, I must say that there is nowhere else in the world that is Hawai'i. Yes, you can learn about Hawai'i elsewhere, however, you will not get the same insight and understanding unless you come here to Hawai'i to experience the language and culture. Therefore, all language pertaining to the perpetuation of Hawaiian language and culture in Section 201B-7 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes must remain. The State of Hawai'i has the utmost responsibility to perpetuate and assert all things native Hawaiian. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:58:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lucinda K Aina Lau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the contents of this bill due to the deleting the statues and iliminating the topics in Part Three in relation to Native Hawaiian culture, language, cultural events, practitioners, environment and all areas that take care of and perpetuate Native Hawaiians.

Thank you

Lucinda L Aina Lau

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:25:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Lim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill. Mahalo.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:35:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Maile Pokipala Resurrection	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Joanna Resurrection. I oppose HB862.

This bill is **not** about accountability or reform of HTA, the bill does not change HTA's obligation to conduct marketing for Hawai'i's tourism industry, neither does it change HTA's ability to receive TAT monies collected from hotels.

This bill **does however**, gut decades of progress made by the Native Hawaiian community who have fought to receive some semblance of recognition as a core contributor to the success of the multi-billion dollar tourism industry in Hawai'i. The bill deletes all references to Native Hawaiian culture and natural resource management, which effectively erases these community funding programs from HTA's budget permanently. These programs represent just a small fraction of the millions of dollars the state collects from hotel fees. The bill does not identify other means to direct these funds to community and 'Ä• ina-based programs.

While everyone knows the tourism industry experienced immense losses this past year, this measure provides no solutions to the immediate issues and punishes a community that already survives on the crumbs left by this industry. The proposed measure only exacerbates a problem that has existed for decades, continued exploitation of Native Hawaiian people, land, and culture for one purpose, corporate profit.

While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. This is not acceptable and **we demand better from our "leaders."**

Na'u,

Joanna Resurrection

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 9:44:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miki'ala Lidstone	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

Miki'ala Lidstone

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:08:18 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christine Maii Sakuda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Baker and Vice-Chair Chang,
I oppose HB862 HD2 Proposed SD2.

This bill essentially removes HTA’s non-marketing/branding activities, such as:

- It prohibits HTA from fulfilling its mission – “to strategically manage Hawai’i tourism in a sustainable manner consistent with economic goals, cultural values, preservation of natural resources, community desires, and visitor industry needs.”
- It restricts HTA’s ability to maintain Hawai’i’s position as a premier, world-class destination and protect and deliver on the Hawai’i brand – our Hawaiian culture, diversity (culture and people), natural beauty (place), and aloha spirit (connection). We need to provide a quality visitor experience in addition to supporting our residents’ lifestyles and values.
- It does not allow HTA to actively address broad tourism issues through destination management and working with other agencies to strengthen natural and cultural assets valued by both Hawai’i residents and visitors.
- The HTA will no longer be able to support educational, training, and career counseling programs leaving the community with no opportunity to gain critical knowledge and skills to advance in the visitor industry. All of HTA’s workforce development efforts and programs will be forced to cease.
- The HTA will no longer be available as a resource to provide technical assistance or other assistance. In past years, we have been able to collaborate with partners and assist organizations and businesses through our cultural training programs, festivals and events workshops, agritourism webinars, and nonprofit financial management webinars.
- HTA will no longer be able to support projects and programs that work to manage, improve, and protect of Hawaii's natural environment and other areas frequented by visitors.
- HTA will no longer be able to support the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture and community including the work we have done to ensure that the Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by the visitor industry, that Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as our official language of the State, that Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites are supported and nurtured, and that a

native Hawaiian cultural education and training program exists for the visitor industry workforce.

- HTA will no longer have the ability to keep information private that may provide a competitive advantage to other destinations. Reports, data, information, and private information shared with the HTA will now become public and may be used by other destinations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Sakuda

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:19:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keoua Nelsen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 10:23:01 PM
Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Ziegler-Chong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources. Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

April 8, 2021

Aloha e Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; members of the Committee on Ways and Means; Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair; Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair; members of the Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to HB 862, HD2, SD1 Proposed SD2 as it relates to state government.

This gut and replace measure is precisely the sort of **shameful legislation** that cynical and skeptical citizens expect. While unsurprising, it is also introduced at exactly the worst time for a community and economy struggling to regain its footing after a global pandemic.

The changes proposed to the Hawaii Tourism Authority are **egregious, unconscionable, and ultimately dangerous**. The new Part III of this revised bill, shoved into administrative shuffling of the beleaguered PISCES program, should be struck in its entirety.

Section 201B-3, Subsection B, Hawaii Revised Statutes represents some of the most important recent legislation passed in Hawaii. It bears singling out:

(b) The authority shall be responsible for:

(5) Perpetuating the uniqueness of the native Hawaiian culture and community, and their importance to the quality of the visitor experience, by ensuring that:

(A) The Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by Hawaii's visitor industry;

(B) Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as both an official language of the State as well as the foundation of the host culture that draws visitors to Hawaii;

(C) Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites that give value to Hawaii's heritage are supported, nurtured, and engaged in sustaining the visitor industry; and

(D) A native Hawaiian cultural education and training program is provided for the visitor industry workforce having direct contact with visitors.

If the state will continue to single-mindedly prioritize the visitor industry over any other, then the state should at least be smart about it. Hawaii's unique indigenous culture is the oft-abused, exploited heart of our tourism economy.

As visitor-starved destinations worldwide hungrily court post-COVID travelers, differentiation is vital. Native Hawaiian culture is the only and best draw we have. It must both be promoted and protected.

I must point out that HB 862, HD2, SD1 Proposed SD2 erases native Hawaiian culture from HTA's mandate, but leaves sports in place. This, in a state that can't even maintain a football stadium.

Finally, I implore you to consider this: the greatest threat to Hawaii's visitor industry is **local resident attitudes towards tourists**. The latest HTA survey by Omnitrak found the most negative sentiment ever, and the legendary "aloha spirit" of our islands can evaporate in an instant.

The HTA's focus on native Hawaiian culture and values, and support of related programs, help to mitigate negative local perceptions of tourism. This is something we direly need. While allowing Hawaiian values to be smothered by an extractive, exploitive industry would be tragic, it would only take a handful of "anti-tourist" headlines to kill the entire industry – and Hawaii's economy with it.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 11:06:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Camille Kanoa-Wong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. A scary version of dystopian Hawai'i is when the very culture (Hawaiian culture) that attracts millions of visitors yearly is then slashed from the budget. More scary is when it is imbedded under the guise of another bill. The State of Hawai'i as it currently operates should be funding more Hawaiian Cultural Programming, not defunding programs.

UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO!

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 4:23:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy Shaver	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

Mahalo,

Christy

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 5:09:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Dooley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

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HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 7:18:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hooululahui Erika Perry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to HB862, it ends the authorization for Native Hawaiian cultural, natural resource and other community based programs to receive Transient Accommodation Tax (hotel tax) dollars distributed by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA.). This change in language guts decades of progress made by the Native Hawaiian community who have fought to receive some semblance of recognition as a core contributor to the success of the multi-billion dollar tourism industry in Hawai'i. The bill deletes all references to Native Hawaiian culture and natural resource management, which effectively erases these community funding programs from HTA's budget permanently. Please do not pass HB862!

Mahalo.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 7:19:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannette Gurung	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders."

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 7:37:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lana Vali	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai’i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 7:45:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Josh Stanbro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

STRONG OPPOSITION to a gut and replace maneuver to take away the one good thing that HTA does (Natural Resources and Cultural Preservation grant program) for community. PLEASE don't do this...

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 7:54:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caree	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not remove responsibility to perpetuate Hawaiian culture and natural/cultural resource management from the tourism industry. Native Hawaiians will always be the original island hosts to the many visitors coming here and should be respected as such. This Bill would further cause a growing divide and hostile feelings between Native Hawaiians and the tourism industry, also tourists themselves, endangering not just an entire culture, but also the industry and people you look to serve.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 7:55:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Uyehara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I am a faculty educator within the College of Education at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. Specifically, I am the Principal Investigator for two US Department of Education grants supporting diverse students (Native Hawaiian and students with disabilities). I hold a Juris Doctor, a Master's degree in Indigenous Politics, and have over 20 years of experience in secondary and postsecondary education teaching. My colleagues and I have worked extremely hard for ten years + in gaining advancement for Native Hawaiian culture and students through place-based, strength-based, and culture-based teaching and learning. Much of the success has been due to championing traditional Native Hawaiian practices and knowledge. Momentum was gained through connecting place-based learning through STEM, 'Ā• Ielo Hawai'i, and the Hawaii Department of Education adopting the framework of HĀ€ and Na Hopena A'o. HB862 denies the value and uniqueness of Hawaii and its history; it seeks to once again bury Hawaii's history of colonization, land-grabbing, and oppressing Native Hawaiian people in exchange for short-sighted business interests. In short, HB862 seeks to remove the interests of the people who live in Hawaii in favor of the oligarchy seeking to maximize selfish gain. I am opposed to HB862 because it does not balance the interests of the people of Hawaii, the future of Hawaii - including environmental interests, and safeguarding traditional Native Hawaiian culture and language. I am writing this opposition opinion purely in my capacity as a private citizen.

Lisa Uyehara

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 8:02:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am in opposition to this Bill and ask that you defer it. As a Kanaka Maoli, the indigenous peoples of this 'aina and host culture, I take offense that the current governmental leaders are treating me as if I am "NOTHING"! I am part of a living culture! This is our one hÄ• nau! We have no other place to move to. If anything, you need to be passing legislation to protect and perpetuate our culture for the sake of our future and our history.

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 8:04:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Serafina Gajate	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE LANGUAGE SUPPORTING NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL PROGRAMS IN THE HAWAIIAN TOURISM AUTHORITY!! NO GUT AND REPLACE!!!

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 8:22:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Chang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I find this approach to law making which appears as if someone -through a backdoor process- would pass detrimental laws arguably contrary to our community needs at this challenging time through shameful.

Kevin

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 8:33:23 AM
Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeannine Johnson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB862 HD2 SD1. Shame on the Senate for trying a shady gut and replace maneuver to permanently remove Native Hawaiian cultural, natural resource and other community based programs from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. Native Hawaiians see what you've done and will remember. Aue!

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 8:39:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert J Conlan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of all Hawaii citizens I support focusing the agency and its funds on its original marketing and branding functions. How tourism should be managed here in Hawaii should be left to other agencies.

It took the caronavirus to make us aware that we are being overrun by visitors and like other destinations we have to manage visitors better or risk destroying our quality of life. This is a first step. Thank you.

Robert J. Conlan

520 Pine Street, Wahiawa, HI

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 8:40:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret L Kahoilua	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that removes Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of regenerative tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

I personally perceive this gut and replace version as one of many tactics imposed by the occupier throughout the "silent state of war" that has been raging for over 128 years. Hawai'i State is aware of the current legal status... We the people of Hawai'i demand better of those choosing to hold positions of authority throughout the State. Please defer HB862.

Regards,

Margaret

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 8:58:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall John Francisco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

While I understand the legislative intent, I do not understand why this legislation "conjoins" the positive benefits of the aerospace industry and is contraction to the mission & goals of the HTA. Both as economic and workforce industries will continue to contribute to the state. However, HTA should NOT be included in this bill. In fact, HTA should continue to be generously supported as clearly demonstrated in the recent daily count of visitors since March. Most of all, I am in alignment with HTA's overall mission and commitment to efforts to support our Hawaiian host and other cultures in addition to vehicles which support towns, communities and even our history. Thus I am in opposition. I am from Hanapepe, Kauai and the town which continues its last stages of historic preservation in renovation and rehabilitation of the townscape; member of Kauai's Filipino community and related cultural, ethnic and historic organizations such as the Lawai International Center. Mahalo for your consideration

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 9:09:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aja Grande	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines “Tourism Activities” supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai‘i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our “leaders.” Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 9:12:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

The **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources. Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862

Mahalo,

Forest Frizzell

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 10:15:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann Sullivan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Gut & Replace version of HB862 erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources. Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

Mahalo, Ann Sullivan

LATE

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 11:50:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liana Honda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I **strongly oppose** the **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 that erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7, which outlines "Tourism Activities" supported through the collection of the Transient Accommodation Tax.

You will, undoubtedly, be receiving testimony opposing this bill as it relates to our global pandemic. I am here to submit testimony because I am sick and tired of the continued bastardization of our Hawaiian culture. Think cellophane skirts and fake tattoos. The continued passing on of false history and touristy hulas, fake relics.

Thanks to HTA, I have heard from many many friends and family who have benefitted from events, workshops, classes, videos related to Hawaiian language, culture, history that was supported by HTA. At first I was rather surprised when I participated in a workshop that was funded by HTA. I thought it was a bit ironic. But as time went on I noticed more and more of these authentic learning opportunities arising. Some from real grass root organizations.

This bill is just another attempt to kill the true spirit of the islands and its people. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 1:38:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kauanoë Kamana	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Why is the promotion and perpetuation of Hawai'i's unique culture and language being eliminated? What kind of leadership would decide that, especially now, when the world needs roots, stability and a culture of aloha. We are the example to the world.....the people of Hawai'i believe it and so should you. E ala mai 'oukou! Wake up!

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 1:52:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Rehmert	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed the removal of:

(5) Perpetuating the uniqueness of the native Hawaiian culture and community, and their importance to the quality of the visitor experience, by ensuring that:

Why was this removed? I now oppose this.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 1:53:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Johanna Stone	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The **Gut & Replace** version of HB862 erases Native Hawaiian culture from HRS 201B-7. While facing a global pandemic for over a year, communities across Hawai'i are demanding a new model of tourism that better balances the interests of all communities and our natural environment, a gut and replace measure like this is being presented at the eleventh hour to do the exact opposite. The bill provides no solutions and further exacerbates the strains our communities are facing by deleting language that was included in this statute to ensure that some portion of the hotel tax revenues collected would reach our communities. Furthermore, the language was included to protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and our natural resources.

Ironically, during what is supposed to be Merrie Monarch week, this measure would effectively stop HTA from funding Merrie Monarch in the future. This is not acceptable and we demand better from our "leaders." Please defer HB862.

HB-862-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/9/2021 2:03:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/9/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keely Rivera	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong opposition of HB862. Please consider all those that will be negatively affected by the change in the current verbiage.

Mahalo,

Keely Rivera