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Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

April 18, 2022
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73
URGING EACH COUNTY TO CURB THE
PROLIFERATION OF ILLEGAL VACATION RENTALS

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer this testimony in **support** of HCR73, which urges each county to curb the proliferation of illegal vacation rentals.

While the number of visitors to Hawai'i has increased over the years, there have been no major increases to the number of traditional units which include hotel, condo hotel and timeshare units. In 2009, there were 67,335 of these units and, in 2019, there were 65,707 units available representing a decrease in these types of accommodations of 2.4%. During the same period, the state experienced an increase in visitor arrivals from 6.4 million to 10.2 million, a 59.5% increase but without a corresponding increase in accommodations. We believe these additional visitors likely stayed in non-traditional units, including illegal vacation rentals, located throughout Hawai'i's residential neighborhoods.

HTA supports efforts at both the state and county level, such as the recently passed Bill 41 in the City & County of Honolulu, that address the proliferation of illegal, non-compliant, and potentially unsafe transient vacation rentals. We continue to reaffirm our position that illegal vacation rentals negatively impact the quality of life of our residents by taking potential rental properties off the

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market, increasing traffic in residential neighborhoods, and by placing additional burdens on infrastructure and facilities.

HTA stands ready to assist the counties in their efforts to curb the proliferation of illegal vacation rentals, and we appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HCR73. Mahalo.