

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LAND USE COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DANIEL ORODENKER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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February 9, 2022

Statement of
Daniel E. Orodener
Executive Officer
State Land Use Commission

Before the
**Senate Committee on
Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
and
Senate Committee on
Water and Land**

Friday February 11, 2022
3:10 PM
State Capitol, Room 224 Virtual Video Conference

In consideration of
SB 2078
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY

Chairs Wakai and Inouye; Vice Chairs Misalucha and Keith-Agaran; and members of the Senate Committees on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism; and, Water and Land:

The Land Use Commission (“LUC”) strongly opposes SB 2078. This measure would add the president and chief executive officer of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (“HTA”) as an ex-officio voting member on the State Land Use Commission.

The mission of the HTA is completely distinct from that of the LUC. There is no overlap or cohesion with the HTA. The LUC oversees the district boundaries of land throughout the State and is primarily focused on petitions for developments of housing, energy, and urban growth. It is highly specialized and extremely focused. The addition of the HTA chief executive officer will not serve any function or benefit either organization. In the limited cases when petitions for development of hotels are submitted; the inclusion of a representative from the HTA on the LUC would give rise to an “air of impropriety” and the legitimacy of its decisions would be called into question under an implication of bias.

The addition of a 10th member will make quorum harder to obtain and will complicate proceedings, having the potential to result in non-decisions due to an even number of commissioners. This measure serves no legitimate purpose and is likely to frustrate economic development and the swift disposition of petitions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, February 11, 2022
3:10 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2078
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY**

Senate Bill 2078 proposes to add the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) President and Chief Executive Officer as an ex officio member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and Land Use Commission. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department shall be headed by an executive board to be known as the BLNR. The Department shall manage, administer, and exercise control over public lands, the water resources, ocean waters, navigable streams, coastal areas (excluding commercial harbor areas), and minerals and all other interests therein and exercise such powers of disposition thereof as may be authorized by law. The Department shall also manage and administer the state parks, historical sites, forests, forest reserves, aquatic life, aquatic life sanctuaries, public fishing areas, boating, ocean recreation, coastal programs, wildlife, wildlife sanctuaries, game management areas, public hunting areas, natural area reserves, and other functions assigned by law.

The BLNR convenes twice monthly to review and act on the Department's submittals, including land leases and Conservation District Use Applications (CDUAs) as well as hear testimony from the public on program actions, development plans, permit applications.

§171-7 General duties of the board. Except as provided by law the board of land and natural resources through the chairperson shall:

- (1) Maintain an accurate inventory of public lands;

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

- (2) Prevent illegal activities on, unlawful occupation of, or trespassing on public lands;
- (3) Cause all trespassers and persons unlawfully occupying public lands, and their effects, and all animals trespassing on the lands to be removed therefrom and to impound the animals according to law;
- (4) Enter on any public land in order to take possession thereof, and to resume possession of any public land in case of surrender, forfeiture, or escheat;
- (5) Enforce contracts respecting sales, leases, licenses, permits, or other disposition of public lands;
- (6) Conduct all public auctions and sales pertaining to the disposition of public lands and other property authorized by the board;
- (7) Recover money due the State for damage done to any public lands by wrongful entry and occupation or by wrongful removal therefrom or destruction of any property;
- (8) Bring such actions and proceedings as may be necessary to carry out the powers and duties of the board in the name of the State and to defend such actions brought against the State as may be authorized;
- (9) Keep a record of all official transactions, relating to public lands within the chairperson's jurisdiction and such record shall be a public record;
- (10) Administer oaths in all matters pertaining to the administration of the public lands.

The HTA mission 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.

These are two very different missions with minimal overlap. Having the HTA as an ex officio of the BLNR would not enhance the mission of either agency. The real collaboration is the work done within the Divisions of the Department and HTA. In addition, the actions of the board are not as specific as relating to HTA and therefore the necessity of having the HTA President on the BLNR would probably not benefit either agency.

Also, if the BLNR does have a submittal with subject matter related to tourism, then staff would transmit the submittal to HTA in advance of the meeting for comments and to inform HTA should they need to testify.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākāua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaii-tourism-authority.org

David Y. Ige
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES

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

AND

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

February 11, 2022
3:10 p.m.
State Capitol
via videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL NO. 2078
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY

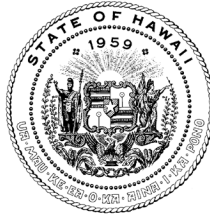
Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism and the Committee on Water and Land.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to testify in **support** of SB2078, which adds the Hawai'i Tourism Authority president and chief executive officer as an ex officio member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and Land Use Commission (LUC).

We appreciate the opportunity this measure may create for the HTA to participate, as a non-voting ex officio member, in the discussions that take place at the BLNR and LUC meetings that directly relate to the visitor industry. We would humbly ask that additional language be considered to allow for a designate to attend on behalf of the HTA president and chief executive officer. There may be situations where the HTA president and chief executive officer is unable to attend a meeting of the BLNR or LUC and this would allow the HTA to continue to have a presence.

We appreciate this opportunity to **support** SB2078 and humbly request that you consider the additional language of adding and allowing a designate. Mahalo.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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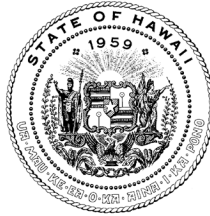
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Also, if the BLNR does have a submittal with subject matter related to tourism, then staff would transmit the submittal to HTA in advance of the meeting for comments and to inform HTA should they need to testify.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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Also, if the BLNR does have a submittal with subject matter related to tourism, then staff would transmit the submittal to HTA in advance of the meeting for comments and to inform HTA should they need to testify.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:42:14 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Kaaumoana	Testifying for Hui Hoomalu i ka Aina	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Waki and INouye and Vice Chairs Misalucha and Keith-Agaran,

I am the Vice Chair of Hui Hoomalu i ka Aina. We are a community organization of hunters, fishermen, weavers and navigators. For us the aina is ohana.

We strongly oppose allowing the HTA ED having a seat on the BLNR or the LUC.

Tourism has been the focus of too many of our land policies and decisions and the HTA influence has not benefitted the resources of Hawaii. We have been the victims of poor land management based on the influence of the tourism industry.

Tourism is over represented in government now. They need NO ADDITIONAL opportunities.

If HTA needs to learn more about how our lands and resources should be cared for, they have every opportunity to do so without assigned seats on these critical Boards and Commissions.

Mahalo, Makaala Kaaumoana

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:56:46 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa Bishop	Testifying for Friends of Hanauma Bay	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha EET Chair Wakai, WTL Chair Inouye, Vice Chairs, and EET/WTL Committee members,

We stand in **strong opposition** to SB2078. It is not appropriate for HTA to sit on the Board of Land and Natural Resources or the Land Use Commission.

Please defer this bill forever.

Mahalo,

Lisa Bishop

President

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 4:31:00 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Climate Protectors Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Senators Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair, Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land and

The Honorable Senators Glenn Wakai, Chair, Bennette Misalucha, Vice Chair, and Energy, Economic Development and Tourism Committee members

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

RE: Hearing RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY, Friday, February 11, 2022, 3:10 pm

Aloha Senators Inouye, Wakai, Keith-Agaran, Misalucha and Committee members:

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i respectfully must oppose this bill.

The bill has no statement of purpose to explain the rationale for the bill, so it is not clear why this would be appropriate. The Tourism Authority President and CEO have no expertise nor direct involvement in the land and natural resource issues under the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Land Use Commission's jurisdiction, so it does not appear to be appropriate.

Please hold this bill.

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



Hawaii's Thousand Friends

335 Hahani Street #342132 * Kailua, HI 96734 * Phone/Fax (808) 262-0682 E-Mail: hft3000@gmail.com

February 11, 2022

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

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

SB 2078 RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, a statewide non-profit water and land use planning organization, opposes SB 2078, which adds the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) president and chief executive officer as an ex officio member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and Land Use Commission (LUC).

Since the objective of each agency is significantly different it is unclear what the purpose or goal is of adding a HTA representative to the BLNR and LUC.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources is a decision-making body, which takes action on Department of Land and Natural Resources submittals, land leases, various types of permits and hears public testimony.

The purpose of the Land Use Commission is to ensure that areas of state concern are addressed and considered in the land use decision-making process.

Hawaii Tourism Authority's mission 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.

If anything, an ex officio member from BLNR and LUC should be on the HTA board so that each agency can better understand and manage the never-ending pressure on Hawaii's natural and cultural resources and communities from ever increasing tourism.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:17:58 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lauren Blickley	Testifying for Surfrider Foundation	Oppose	No

Comments:

Surfrider Foundation **strongly OPPOSES SB2078.**

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority does not belong on the BLNR - period. The suggested addition of HTA to BLNR is completely arbitrary, unnecessary, and quite frankly reeks of conflict of interest. HTA needs to stay on mission and focused on its kuleana - managing tourism in a sustainable and manageable manner. BLNR needs to stay on mission and focused on its kuleana - managing, administering, and exercising control over public lands, water resources and streams, ocean waters, coastal areas, minerals, and other natural resources of the State of Hawai'i. Tourism already dominates (and impacts) enough of our daily lives in Hawai'i - it shouldn't have a unfair and powerful advantage in how our natural resources and public lands are also managed.

VOTE TO OPPOSE SB2078.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 5:53:14 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christopher Dean	Testifying for Clean The Pacific	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

We at Clean the Pacific ask, why would you listen to the opinions of the Board of Tourism when discussing the matter of land use? We don't need any more resorts. We don't want any more resorts. We don't want any more of our precious aina going to tourism, they've taken enough already. Let them go to Waikiki or lounge in the fake waterfalls of the Hilton. Enough is enough and in this case, enough is too much already.

The commodification of nature is destroying this planet. Humanity has consumed everything. There's only one white sand beach that hasn't been developed on the island of Hawaii and I know developers are drooling over it. As it is, that beach is being loved to death by locals and tourists alike. Again, I ask you to look at Google Earth satellite. Go anywhere on the globe and zoom in, you'll see with your own eyes that humanity has ruined nature everywhere. The United States and Europe are particularly bad. We live on a sphere, it's not getting larger, unlimited growth is physically impossible. When will we wake up and see that? It's not like someday we'll run out of room, we've run out of room already! It happened decades ago. This is not our planet to use for human desires only, there are millions of other animal species that deserve to be left alone to live their lives the way they've done for millions of years.

Believe me, there's nothing relevant the Hawaii Tourism Authority has to say on issues of land use. Let them focus on making our existing facilities better and kinder to the environment, that should keep them busy.



**Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism /
Senate Committee on Water and Land**

Friday, February 11th, 2022, 3:10p.m. Conference Room 224

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action Opposes: SB2078

Aloha Chairs Wakai/Inouye, Vice Chairs Misalucha/Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB2078.

SB2078 adds the Hawai'i Tourism Authority president and chief executive officer as an ex officio member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and Land Use Commission (LUC).

What this measure proposes is in direct conflict with the mandate of both the BLNR and LUC. Despite the HTA representatives being ex-officio, SB2078 would allow the tourism industry a proximity to decision-making at the BLNR and LUC. The financial interests of the tourism industry can often be at odds with preservation of Hawaii's natural resources. The BLNR and LUC provide critical regulatory oversight to ensure that decision-making the allocations of our lands and water resources and the zoning of lands for development are aligned with the Hawaii State Constitution and statutes, and that our precious and finite resources are not depleted for future generations.

The "capture" of our regulatory bodies by industries with inherently conflicting interests ultimately erodes the impartiality of these bodies and tilts the scales towards industry profits over the well-being of our resources and the communities who depend on them. The placement of even ex-officio tourism officials on the BLNR and LUC creates a slippery slope, normalizing the presence of conflicting financial interests in the bodies that are created to regulate them and provide impartiality.

Both the BLNR and LUC provide mechanisms for HTA and tourism industry testimony. The HTA should provide agency testimony when relevant, like any other agency currently is able to do. A seat on these regulatory bodies is not unnecessary for the agency to express its viewpoint.

Tourism industry interests have an ample voice across Hawai'i decision-making bodies. Hawaii has been marketed by the industry to the point where over-tourism has created an unsustainable impact on our natural resources. Although the HTA is increasing its work to manage tourism's negative impacts, it does not need a seat on our regulatory bodies to do so.

The very purpose of the BLNR and the LUC is to regulate unsustainable uses of our lands and waters. Please do not erode the autonomy of these important regulatory bodies. Please defer SB2078.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Frederick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:15:42 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maxx Phillips	Testifying for Center for Biological Diversity	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha EET and WTL members,

The Center writes in **strong opposition to SB2078.**

Adding HTA to the BLNR and LUC is problematic given the mission of those boards/commissions is not inline with the mission of HTA.

Please vote NO on SB2078.

Mahalo,

Maxx Phillips, Esq.

Hawai'i Director and Staff Attorney

Center *for* Biological Diversity

1188 Bishop Street, Suite 2412

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

www.biologicaldiversity.org



Native Hawaiian LEGAL CORPORATION

1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1205 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Phone (808) 521-2302 • www.nativehawaiianlegalcorp.org



SB2078

RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY

SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND TOURISM and WATER AND LAND

February 11, 2022

3:10 p.m.

Conference Room 224

Aloha e Chairs Wakai and Inouye, Vice Chairs Misalucha and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees,

The Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (“NHLC”) offers the following testimony in **OPPOSITION** to SB2708, which adds the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (“HTA”) president and chief executive officer as an ex officio member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (“BLNR”) and Land Use Commission (“LUC”).

Currently, BLNR and LUC are statutorily composed of members representing each district or county, *see* Hawai'i Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §§ 171-4(a) and 205-1(a), and includes a member with expertise on Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and land usage. *See* HRS §171-4(c) and 205-1(a). The BLNR also requires a member with expertise in conservation and natural resources. *See* HRS §171-4(b). This specialized knowledge and cross section of voices from across our pae 'āina ensure that the Board and Commission can carry out their respective kuleana with a clear understanding of the issues affecting each community and the 'ike required to ensure that their constitutional duties to public trust resources and Native Hawaiian cultural practices are met. *See* Haw. Const. Art. XI, §1 and XII, §7.

Those who serve on the BLNR and the LUC are in a unique position to make significant decisions with critical and lasting impacts on Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights and natural and cultural resources, including public trust resources. However, these individuals must also discharge an affirmative duty, based in our State constitution, to preserve and protect these rights and resources. They also carry immense kuleana – that is, a responsibility and privilege – to be of service to communities and to discharge their duties with meaningful purpose and intention. Insufficient competence and appreciation for these duties and responsibilities leads to poor decision-making, and as has been seen before, irreversible and irreparable harm including damage to historic sites, changes to ecosystems, and the decline of traditional practice and culture.

The HTA should not have an ex officio membership role with BLNR and LUC, because its interests materially conflict with the kuleana to manage and protect natural resources.

Tourism is currently a significant part of Hawai'i's economy, and like many other organizations that represent economic and industrial sectors, the HTA may have opinions and knowledge relevant to BLNR and LUC's work. HTA can sufficiently provide that using mechanisms to appear before and provide testimony to BLNR and LUC, like any other organization. Membership with BLNR and LUC, and the decision-making authority that comes with it, however, must be reserved for parties that are free of conflict to discharge the critically important duties that BLNR and LUC have. The HTA can not. Though HTA's stated intention is to sustainably manage Hawai'i tourism, HTA discloses on its website that its performance is measured by "visitor satisfaction, resident sentiment, per person per day spend, and total visitor expenditures." These metrics are largely grounded in consumption and increased load on Hawai'i's resources through the lens of what will best suit *visitors first*, not the people of Hawai'i nor the long term best interests of our lands, water, and delicate ecosystem. And indeed tourism in Hawai'i does put significant load on the State's resources and infrastructure.

There is encouraging global effort across the tourism industry to make tourism more sustainable as well as more inclusive, respectful of, and equitable for indigenous peoples and communities. HTA's stated goals in these areas are important and hold promise for progress to alleviate the deleterious impacts tourism has on Hawai'i's cultural and natural resources. Nevertheless, HTA's aspirations for the future do not negate its clear conflicts of interest with the duties of BLNR and LUC.

HTA's conflict of interest is necessarily a bar to its BLNR and LUC membership. The potential consequences are too severe. Decision-making authority over our natural and cultural resources must be entrusted to parties able to discharge their constitutional duties to preserve and protect, and the HTA's conflicting interests do not allow it to fulfill that duty.

The State bears a great kuleana to protect Hawai'i's cultural and natural resources. These resources are expressly safeguarded in the constitution. These resources are critical components of our distinctive identity as Hawai'i. BLNR members and LUC commissioners must be positioned to put that kuleana first and foremost in their decision making. There can be no room for conflicts of interest in those roles. For these reasons, NHLC **opposes SB2078**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

David Kauila Kopper



Director of Litigation
Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation

Ashley K. Obrey



Staff Attorney
Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:26:14 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
cheryl B.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OPPOSE...OPPOSE

What are WAKAI, CHANG, KIM, LEE, MISALUCHA, Gabbard, Nishihara thinking of with this bill? We should be defunding HTA and looking for ways to allow tourism within the paths of sustainability. HOW would putting HTA on the BLNR help any of this? There are so many other people who would contribute positively to the BLNR. I think we're still waiting for people of this place, Native Hawaiians to be there.

OPPOSE OPPOSE HTA having seats anywhere especially the BLNR.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 2:38:38 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
mary drayer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

don't see what HTA has to do with how lands are managed - a better choice would be kanaka 'ōiwi rooted in the culture - we have become hostages of all things tourist related - the tourist industry wields an enormous amount of power - much to the detriment of common people. Majority of tourist businesses are corporate america - and the money ultimately benefits them - and their shareholders/Wall Street. Please start the trend away from being their lackey's. Hawai'i needs NO help in promoting tourism; social media; TV shows; etc all do it. Please find a way to help the actual people that are Hawai'i - "no hawaiiians,no aloha" ...mahalo for opportunity to testify.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:12:14 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strongly Oppose

One of the TOP 5 BAD IDEAS to come out of the Hawai'i Legislature this session.

Read the room, guys...

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:18:54 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sandi ioakimi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Just a really bad idea all the way around.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:33:27 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leona Leialoha	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha! I strongly oppose this as I believe the tourism industry should not have anything to do with land boards!

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:38:20 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kuulei Kualaau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This proposed bill is so hewa. There is absolutely nothing good about having this person on the LUC and BLNR. I oppose this bill.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:45:25 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Springer Kaye	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair:

The addition of the Hawaii Tourism Authority CEO to the Board of Land and Natural Resources and to the state Land Use Commission, without any explanation given in the preamble as to the public purpose this move will achieve, is outrageous. There are many competing interests that would love to have a seat at the table in land use decisions that are rightly reserved to the citizen volunteers that serve on these boards. Why not give the Carpenter's Union a seat? Why not the Hawaii Department of Agriculture? Or Honolulu Board of Water Supply? The Cattlemen's Council? When you think about it, who better than the President of the Hawaii Realtor's Association to sit on the Land Use Commission?

This is serious. These two boards are charged with stewarding a public trust, our precious land and water, and all of the native biodiversity and natural resources they hold, for the benefit of all of Hawaii's people. This trust is codified in our state constitution. Unlike the Chair of DLNR, the CEO of the Hawaii Tourism Authority swears no oath to protect the public trust--it is their job to maximize profit from a tourism industry that depletes our natural resources and distances Hawaii's people from our lands and waters, year after year after year.

Hawaii Senators do, however, swear to protect and defend the state constitution. I am afraid voting in favor of this bill would break that promise.

Please vote to defer this measure.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:52:53 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Denise E Antolini	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear EET/WTL,

I write in **strong opposition to SB2078.**

Adding HTA, even ex officio, to the BLNR and LUC **makes no sense** given the scope and mission of those boards/commissions v. the scope and mission of HTA.

The inspiration or justification for this bill is mysterious and, frankly, the implications of moving the HTA President around to these boards/commissions -- as if on a political chessboard -- are shocking.

It would also be a **complete waste** of HTA's important leadership, time, and resources to have the HTA president on BLNR and LUC. The agendas of both BLNR and LUC are very heavy, technical, and demand many hours of preparation and meeting time.

Keep HTA's time where it is best used - on its mission, focused on improving its own programs, and fulfilling the major recommendations in the new destination management plans.

Please vote NO on SB2078.

Denise Antolini

Pūpūkea, O'ahu resident

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 4:43:48 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Vice-Chairs Wakai, Inouye, Misalucha, Keith-Aragan, and EET/WTL Committee Members,

I am in strong opposition to SB2078.

HTA's president and CEO must focus on its mission to develop and successfully launch the new destination management plans on all islands. The BLNR and LUC positions are very demanding, and members must be dedicated to the scope and tasks of those commissions and boards.

Mahalo

Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 5:19:23 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Konaneakamahina de la Nux	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose adding the president of HTA to the board of DLNR.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 5:24:32 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kevin Chang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Nah. Not yet. I understand the sentiments behind this but I think it should evolve in the reverse order before HTA has a chair at the BLNR table. First include someone on the HTA Board from DLNR and OHA. From my perspective the purpose of HTA is to serve our community, culture and environment and not vice versa.

Mahalo

Kevin

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 5:50:32 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

If this bill could somehow guarantee that the tourism industry would suddenly respect and adopt the ideals of the BLNR and LUC, then I'd be all for it. But as it stands, this proposal can't promise a single step in that direction. In fact, it may exacerbate the all-too-consequential imbalance that already exists between tourism and resource management. Please oppose SB2078.

Mahalo,
Dylan Ramos
Honolulu

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 6:01:30 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joy Loo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I ADAMANTLY OPPOSE SB2078, I don't know why you would give any more power to the HTA when most people don't even know why the HTA even exists. Shameful to consider a bill like SB2078 considering Public Land Use should consider the Public-local public, the public that is taxed to death to pay for the land that the tourists treat as their playground. I am so, so opposed to this bill. A'ole SB2078. Pilau!

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 6:34:09 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Vickie Parker Kam	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members,

I am writing in opposition to SB2078 that would add the Hawaii Tourism Authority president and chief executive officer as an ex officio member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Land Use Commission. The tourism industry has many many voices. Decision of The Land Use Commission are NOT an area that tourism authority should take part at this point in time.

Mahalo,

Vickie Kam

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 6:40:04 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Why? What does a CEO of HTA know about our Natural Resources?!? All they do is exploit it and bastardize our culture! In TOTAL OPPOSITION!

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 7:04:37 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kawika Winter	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is a bad idea and it should be voted down. Members of the BLNR should speak in the best interests of our 'āina and our community, not on behalf of special interests like the tourism industry. HTA should not have a seat on the BLNR, ex officio or otherwise. If they want a voice, they can submit testimony like the rest of us.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 7:27:38 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaitlynn Felipe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the bill SB 2078.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 7:47:34 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jim Albertini	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to SB2078 putting the CEO of the Hawaii Tourism Authority on the BLNR and the Land Use Commission. Sounds like more corruption to me. Looks like a stacked deck of big money controlling land decisions. Come on legislators -- surely you can find more common people's representatives for the BLNR and LUC than the elete HTA CEO. Shame for even proposing this. How low can you go?

Jim Albertini

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 8:28:10 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mele Visser	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the appointment of an HSTA member to the DLNR board. I believe this is a conflict of interests. Our sacred land needs to be protected from the tourism industry. The influence of the HSTA should not be allowed to impact our lives and our children's futures and our native land. DLNR needs to protect our land from HSTA.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:17:10 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen J Comcowich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB2078. Hawaii Tourism Authority has pimped out the island with little regard to a what is best for residents, the environment or the land. BLNR and LUC need autonomy to serve Hawaii well, giving more power to Hawaii Tourism Authority is not in the best interest of Hawai'i. Please oppose this measure.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:18:58 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jenny Yagodich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

No. Just no. No on SB2078. HTA should NOT have a seat at BLNR. There should never be commercial interests on a decision making board that is tasked with protecting our land and natural resources. It's actually quite fishy that this is even proposed. I'm confident our Legislature will do the right thing and kill this bill immediately.
Mahalo.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 5:25:23 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mary Whispering Wind	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee(s) on EET/WTL,

I OPPOSE SB2078, RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY.

I OPPOSE installing the president and chief executive officer of the Hawaii tourism authority to serve as an ex officio member of the commission, due to conflicts in priorities and job descriptions.

I especially **OPPOSE** that the position will be exempt from the requirement that members hold no other public office. Please, don't go down that slippery slope!

Mahalo for considering OPPOSING this bill,

Mary Whispering Wind

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:27:15 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Moana Bjur	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB2078. HTA leadership, even ex officio has no place on BLNR nore the LUC. HTA leadership should remain focused on ensuring that island tourism is responsibly sustainable, programs are in alignment with the major recommendations in the new destination management plans, and fulfilling its responsibility preserving our cultural and natural resources while meeting our communities desires and visitor industry needs. This is a large undertaking that requires extremely dedicated focus.

I encourage you to vote NO on SB 2078.

Mahalo

Please vote NO on SB2078.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:39:09 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephen Loo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Having the CEO of the HTA sit on the board of BLNR and any Planning Commission is like having the fox participate on where the henhouse should be placed. This idea wreaks of the same old same old idea of exploitation of our natural resources simply for money while the residents simply have to deal with the fallout. This is perverse!

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:28:27 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Penny Lee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawaii Tourism Authority (current CEO John de Fries) has no qualifications nor is there any justification to be put into these positions. HTA represents large corporate interests like Blackstone, who are sucking the islands dry with their never ending land and power grab. You are looking into the endless abyss of corruption in Hawaii. Somebody is paying off somebody in some fashion for bills like this to even exist. Only few ever get caught.

SB2078 introduced by: WAKAI, CHANG, KIM, LEE, MISALUCHA, Gabbard, Nishihara
HB1616 introduced by: ONISHI, OKIMOTO, SAYAMA, TAKAYAMA

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:36:23 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rourk Reagan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This would allow the tourist board, which is a seperate entity to have to much influence over land use issues for our State. Please vote against,

Thank You,

Rourk Reagan

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:02:23 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Larry McElheny	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha

Please join me in STRONGLY OPPOSING this bad bill.

Mahalo

Larry McElheny

(808) 237-9354

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:52:12 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ryan Kele	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

According to the DLNR website, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, headed by an executive Board of Land and Natural Resources, is responsible for managing, administering, and exercising control over public lands, water resources, ocean waters, navigable streams, coastal areas (except commercial harbors), minerals, and all interests therein. The mission statement for the DLNR per the DLNR website is, “Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii’s unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.” It would be an understatement to say that there is a major conflict of interest and huge potential for negative bias by adding the Hawaii Tourism Authority president to the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Land use commission. The tourism industry already overextends itself in these islands and has major, often negative, impacts on our natural resources as evidenced by the rapid recovery of our natural resources when tourism was halted during the COVID pandemic. To place the president and chief executive officer of the HTA on the board of a department that is in charge of protect and conserving our resources would be an egregious error even from a simple common sense/ethical standpoint let alone a scientific and lawful one. I urge you to please reconsider this bill and vote to oppose adding the president and chief executive officer as an ex officio memeber of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Land use commission.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:15:42 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Patricia Ravarra	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Re: SB2078 -- Fox in the hen house much? Adding Hawaii Tourism "Authority" representatives to the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Land Use Commission is nothing less than handing over the keys of the kingdom to the very agency that has so over-promoted Hawai'i as the Disneyland of the Pacific, the result of which is destruction of the very environment that these entities are entrusted to preserve and protect! It shows a wanton disregard for the will of the people, and will only serve to increase distrust in the government that has been elected to serve ALL of the people of Hawai'i, not its so-called "visitors" -- or its lucrative business interests. This is simply wrong on so many levels. **Please vote NO on SB2078!**

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:20:35 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen Shishido	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We don't need to amplify the tourism industry's voice in our land and natural resource policymaking. We need to amplify the voices of conservation professionals and natural resource managers in our tourism industry.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 3:08:39 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Vicki Richards	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am against having someone who's closely affiliated with the tourism industry having an influence on the use of the public lands and natural resources in Hawaii.

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 3:33:20 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Trinette Furtado	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Mai, Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

ʻO Trinette Furtado ko`u inoa. Noho au ma Kula, ma ka moku-puni o Mauinuiakama.

I urge you to vote "NO" on this proposed legislation. The HTA does NOT need to have a seat on the Board of Land and Natural Resources NOR the Land Use Commisison in ANY capacity, especially when the only justificatoin listed within this proposed legislation is that the seat will be "ex officio". Which is no real justification at all.

An "ex officio" seat generally means that the member is there by virtue of her/his office or position. What valid positions could the HTA have that is inclusive of our island communities, that isnt ultimately, in the besty int4erests of the tourism industry?

If an ex officio seat is being offered an individual for the virtue of her/his position, a seat should go to the Offie of Hawaiian Affairs AND the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, who directly serve community that continue to be irreversibly and deeply impacted by resort expansion plans, renovations ,etc that all require CDUA permits, among other things.

Within the state Land Use Commission, we see that there are FIVE at-large positions, any one of which might already be used by tourism industry interests. The fact that this proposed legislation also seeks to exempt JUST the HTA seat from the requirement that members hold no other public office, is questionable. Especially since no rationale follows the proposal.

This is a badly written piece of legislation that only seeks to give a special interest group a stronger voice at a table other Native Hawaiian groups should already be at.

I urge you again to please vote NO SB2078, which is a badly written and ill-thought proposal that will have unintended consequences.

Mahalo for your time and attention,

Trinette Furtado

Kula, Maunuiakama

LATE

My name is Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros of Hana, Maui.

I am writing to:

Oppose SB2078, HTA should not sit on important Boards such as the Board of Land & Natural Resources or the Land Use Commission. BLNR oversees our Public Trust doctrine and no agency for Tourism should have a voice in our Resources.

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 6:33:27 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Darrell Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a bad idea.....and you all know this is a bad idea....the people know its a bad idea...the dlnr knows its a bad idea...everybody knows this is a bad idea.

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:34:31 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stacey Moniz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this legislation. There is no reason these roles should be combined. Do NOT let this pass.

Mahalo,
Stacey Moniz

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:40:04 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

No way! I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to SB2078 and putting the CEO of the Hawaii Tourism Authority on the BLNR and the Land Use Commission. The HTA should have **NOTHING** to do with and **NO SAY** in how Hawaiian lands are used. What qualifications and experience would even make their input valid? This is a clear and obvious conflict of interests.

I urge you to vote **NO** on this ridiculous idea of a bill.

Laura Ramirez and the Bettencourt family

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:43:39 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ariel Murphy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please oppose SB 2078. Yes, tourism may be the largest sector of our local economy. Yes it provides jobs and income to many. But sadly, tourism has become increasingly predatory. It negatively affects not only our environment, e.g., pollution and degradation of our land (mountains and oceans) but also our culture, e.g., emphasis on commercialism, consumerism and the unwritten tenet of unscrupulous business which is "profit at any and all cost." Until our local tourism direction has changed course towards a positive direction, the HTA must not be involved in influencing the affairs of the Land Use Commission and the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Please oppose SB 2078. Mahalo! Ariel Murphy, Puna, Big Island

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:36:38 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

aloha kākou,

While I want to believe that the intention here is to provide the HTA with an opportunity to learn more about the negative impacts of over tourism on our natural environment, I do not believe they need to be represented in this way. I would say if the HTA is someone that is considered, there should be representation from the environmental non profit world as well as others that may be identified as having real time experiences with the impacts of over tourism. I am unsure what the bill will contribute to or what risks, if any, may not be visible at this juncture. What I do not hope this does it provide the HTA with opporutnity to guide the discussions of how we provide a better visit for tourist rather than serving the protection of our resources for our people and home to thrive.

Mahalo nui for your time,

Kimeona Kane

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 6:52:10 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bonnie Kahapea Tanner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I, Bonnie Kahapea-Tanner, a native Hawaiian and resident of Hawaii, storngly oppose this measure allowing HTA to have a seat on the BLNR and the Commision. Really? Who comes up with these ideas? Please keep a division of kuleana and duities separate so that we can actully try to trust what is happening in our government.

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 7:12:08 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caren Diamond	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, strong opposition to these proposed changes. HTA already has enough representation and influence in the state and absolutely should not be given a seat on the important Board of Land and Natural Resources. Please reject these amendments.

Mahalo, Caren Diamond

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 8:16:23 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Raul Nohea Goodness	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB2078. The Hawaii Tourism Authority CEO already has large influence and budget. Adding the CEO to the BLNR is too much power over our resources.

LATE

SB-2078

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 10:19:49 AM
Testimony for EET on 2/11/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dawn Hegger-Nordblom	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB 2078. The mandates of the Board of Land and Natural Resources versus the Hawaii Tourism Agency are completely different from each other. Perhaps the Legislature can provide additional staff positions and allocate more funding to the Board of Land and Natural Resources to protect Hawaii's fragile environment on a 24/7 basis. Perhaps the Legislature can pass stronger laws with fines to protect our endangered and threatened species. Perhaps the Hawaii Tourism Agency can work with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to portray appropriate Public Service Announcements to captive plane and baggage area audiences. These ads can address illegal trespassing onto state lands, hazards, and overall what the State of Hawaii expects from tourists when they come to our home state. Tourists come to Hawaii because it is unique and special but at the cost of residents.