



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
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Statement of  
**CHRIS J. SADAYASU**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Thursday, February 9, 2023  
1:03 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
**SB1198**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I TOURISM AUTHORITY.**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) offers the following comment and suggested amendment on SB1198, which prohibits holdover board members of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority from holding office beyond the commencement of the next legislative session following the expiration of the member's term of office.

DBEDT offers the following amendment to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Section 201B-2 Subsection (b) to allow thirteen members on the Hawai'i Tourism Authority board as follows:

(b) The authority shall be headed by a policy-making board of directors that shall consist of [~~twelve~~] thirteen members; provided that:

DBEDT requests this amendment to ensure that the director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, or the director's designee, who shall be an ex-officio voting member, may serve on the Hawai'i Tourism Authority board without displacing any of its current twelve members.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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Josh Green, M.D.  
*Governor*

John De Fries  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Statement of  
**JOHN DE FRIES**  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
before the  
**COMMITTEE ON TOURISM**

Thursday, February 9, 2023  
1:03 p.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SENATE BILL NO. 1198**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY**

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

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on SB1198 which limits on the length of time a holdover member may serve on the HTA board. We understand the intent of this bill to offer finality of a board member's term.

HTA's work in destination management, visitor education, and brand management is guided by our twelve-member, volunteer, Senate-confirmed board of directors. To ensure the board can meet quorum and continue conducting business, we encourage this committee to consider language in this measure that would expedite the replacement of a holdover board member.

Recruitment for volunteer service on board like HTA's board is often challenging. As of June 2022, the latest list of vacancies on the State Boards & Commissions website, 535 vacancies existed on the state's over 170 boards and commissions.

Our board members go well above and beyond the call of duty for these volunteer positions, bringing the breadth and depth of their professional experiences to the board table. Board members put in many hours of work outside of board and committee meetings, and we would like to take this opportunity to recognize and appreciate their service.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments on SB1198.

**SB-1198**

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:22:05 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/9/2023 1:03:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMENTS

How does this bill interact with the other bills and direction of completely eliminating the HTA?