

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 25 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1571
S.D. 2
H.D. 3
C.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir and Madam:

Your Committee on Conference on the disagreeing vote of the Senate to the amendments proposed by the House of Representatives in S.B. No. 1571, S.D. 2, H.D. 3, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO TOURISM,"

having met, and after full and free discussion, has agreed to recommend and does recommend to the respective Houses the final passage of this bill in an amended form.

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Exempt all positions filled by the Hawaii Tourism Authority (Authority) within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism from the State's Civil Service Law;
- (2) Designate the Board of Directors of the Authority as an advisory board;



- (3) Make the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Authority a position appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate; and
- (4) Amend the eligibility requirements to serve on the Authority's Board of Directors by repealing the two-year waiting period for former Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau board members.

Your Committee on Conference finds that exempting all positions within the Authority from the State's Civil Service Law is necessary to support the State's commitment to the improving the visitor industry. This measure will provide the Authority with greater flexibility to recruit skilled professionals to carry out its mission.

Your Committee on Conference notes that this measure is an effort to improve and strengthen and rebuild public trust in the Authority by ensuring leadership accountability and proper oversight.

Your Committee on Conference has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language that amends the definition of "convention center facility" for the purposes of chapter 201B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to mean any combination of land, buildings, and improvements thereon acquired or developed by the State that reflects a Hawaii, rather than Hawaiian, sense of place;
- (2) Designating the Authority's Board of Directors as an advisory board, rather than a policy-making board;
- (3) Amending the composition of the Authority's Board of Directors by:
 - (A) Requiring the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to each appoint one member, rather than requiring three members to be appointed by the Governor from a list of three names submitted for each appointment by the President of the Senate, and three members to be appointed by the Governor from a list of three names submitted for each appointment by the Speaker of the House of representatives; provided that if fewer than three



names are submitted for each appointment, the Governor may disregard the list;

- (B) Repealing statutory language that prohibits more than three members to represent, be employed by, or be under contract to any sector of the industry represented on the Board;
 - (C) Repealing statutory language that requires one member to be the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, or the Director's designee;
 - (D) Inserting language that requires at least one member to represent a tourism-impacted entity;
 - (E) Clarifying that, upon the occurrence of a vacancy of a member appointed by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as appropriate, shall appoint a member to fulfill those positions, rather than submitting nominees; and
- (4) Requiring the Authority's Board of Directors to submit a nominee to the Governor, who shall:
- (A) Transmit a Governors' message with the name of the nominee to the Senate within ten days of receipt; and
 - (B) Appoint the nominee to serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Authority, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate,
- rather than requiring the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint one person to serve as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Authority;
- (5) Requiring the Authority's President and Chief Executive Officer to report to the Governor, notwithstanding any law to the contrary;
 - (6) Requiring the Authority's Board of Directors to set, pursuant to written contract, the length of the President and Chief Executive Officer's term of service;
 - (7) Making it effective upon its approval; and



- (8) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the managers of your Committee on Conference that is attached to this report, your Committee on Conference is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1571, S.D. 2, H.D. 3, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Final Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1571, S.D. 2, H.D. 3, C.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the managers:

ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE

ON THE PART OF THE SENATE



ADRIAN K. TAM
Co-Chair



LYNN DECOITE
Chair



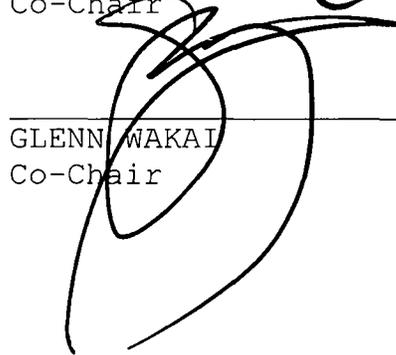
JACKSON D. BAYAMA
Co-Chair



HENRY J. AQUINO
Co-Chair



SHIRLEY ANN TEMPLO
Co-Chair



GLENN WAKAI
Co-Chair



Hawai'i State Legislature

CLR 216

Record of Votes of a Conference Committee

Bill / Concurrent Resolution No.: SB 1571, SD 2, HD 3	Date/Time: 04/25/25 5:35PM
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The recommendation of the House and Senate managers is to pass with amendments (CD).

The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision.

<input type="checkbox"/> The recommendation of the Senate Manager(s) is to AGREE to the House amendments made to the Senate Measure	<input type="checkbox"/> The recommendation of the House Manager(s) is to AGREE to the Senate amendments made to the House Measure.
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Senate Managers	A	WR	N	E	House Managers	A	WR	N	E
DECOITE, Lynn, Chr.	✓				TAM, Adrian K., Co-Chr.	✓			
AQUINO, Henry J.C., Co-Chr.	✓				SAYAMA, Jackson D., Co-Chr.				✓
WAKAI, Glenn, Co-Chr.	✓				TEMPLO, Shirley Ann, Co-Chr.	✓			
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓				MATSUMOTO, Lauren	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓								
TOTAL	5	0	0	0	TOTAL	3	0	0	1

A = Aye WR = Aye with Reservations N = Nay E = Excused

Senate Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted	House Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted
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Senate Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature: 	House Lead Chair's or Designee's Signature:
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