



TESTIMONY OF  
**Caroline Anderson**  
**Interim President & CEO**  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEES ON**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM**  
**AND**  
**TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Thursday, April 10, 2025  
1:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 229 and Videoconference

In consideration of  
**HCR 142**

**URGING THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY AND DEPARTMENT OF**  
**TRANSPORTATION TO EXPAND THE KĀHEA AIRPORT GREETINGS PROGRAM TO**  
**DISPLAY KEIKI ART IN ALL NEIGHBOR ISLAND AIRPORTS.**

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and Lee, Vice Chairs Wakai and Inouye, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) offers comments on HCR 142, urging the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and Department of Transportation (DOT) to expand the Kāheha Airport Greetings program to display keiki art in all neighbor island airports.

HTA agrees that the Kaheha Airport Greetings Program plays a valuable role in enhancing the visitor experience. The program offers free, year-round Hawaiian entertainment and cultural enrichment while also supporting young artists by showcasing student artwork at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. HTA recognizes the importance of preserving and promoting Hawai'i's rich cultural resources.

The HTA has supported Hawai'i's young artists through the Kaheha Airport Greetings program at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, facilitated by a Memorandum of Understanding with the DOT. Expanding the Kaheha Airport Greetings program to include keiki art in all neighboring island airports aligns with HTA's commitment to cultural preservation, education, and community engagement in Destination Stewardship.

As stated in this resolution, funding for the Kahea Airport Greetings program was cut in the fiscal year 2025. The HTA has requested \$888,889 in funding for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to continue this significant program. However, if the Legislature wishes for this program to be permanent, we request additional funding to successfully implement a keiki art program throughout the state. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the DOT and the Kahea Greetings Program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our comments.

**LATE**

**HCR-142**

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 6:23:50 AM

Testimony for EDT on 4/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angela Young	Testifying for CARES Community Advocacy Research Education Services	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Support