



TESTIMONY OF DANIEL NĀHO'OPI'I
INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO, HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Wednesday, March 20, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.
In consideration of
HB 1800 HD1
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

Aloha Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer our support for HB1800 HD1. We appreciate the House's inclusion of the administration's \$60 million request with 25 positions in this budget. This appropriation will allow us to operate our basic essential programs with limited implementation of destination management and stewardship activities.

We also appreciate the inclusion of an expenditure ceiling for the Convention Center Enterprise Special Fund as well as the appropriation of \$64 million in general obligation bonds to repair the Hawai'i Convention Center rooftop - re-appropriating funds that were appropriated in Act 164, SLH 2023 and subsequently transferred to B&F for 2023 Wildfires per Executive Memo 23-08. Both are important to our effective stewardship of this important state asset through repair, maintenance, and replacements.

HTA is poised and eager to continue our work, and we appreciate the appropriations in HB1800 HD1 toward that end. Mahalo for the opportunity to express this support.