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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 HOUSING**

February 1, 2023  
9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 312 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 84**  
**RELATING TO COUNTIES**

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Aloha Chair Hashimoto, Vice Chair Aiu, and members of the Committee on Housing,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments in support of the intent of HB84, which makes explicit the counties' authority to manage short-term vacation rentals.

While the number of visitors to Hawai'i has increased over the years, there have been no major increases to the number of traditional units which include hotel, condo hotel and timeshare units in the past decade. From 2009 to 2019, the state experienced an increase in visitor arrivals from 6 million to over 10 million, a 59.5% increase in arrivals without a corresponding increase in accommodations. We believe these additional visitors likely stayed in non-traditional units, including short-term vacation rentals.

Our community-driven Destination Management Action Plans across Hawai'i clearly articulate a desire to manage visitor accommodations – specifically, taking steps to limit and regulate short-term vacation rentals in neighborhoods and other sensitive areas in our communities. We are supportive of state and county efforts to advance that priority, and we support the intent of this measure to make explicit the counties' authority to consider and implement management actions of short-term vacation rentals.

HTA stands ready to assist the counties in their efforts to manage short-term vacation rentals, and we appreciate this opportunity to provide these comments in support of the intent of HB84. Mahalo.