



TESTIMONY OF DANIEL NĀHO'OPI'I
INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO, HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Thursday, February 22, 2024 10:05 a.m.
In consideration of
SB 2286 SD 1
RELATING TO INTERNSHIPS

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

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) supports SB2286 SD1. Encouraging Hawai'i's high school and college-age students to take advantage of the many career opportunities in the visitor industry is an important part of HTA's mission. Paid internships are a great way to support those pursuits.

HTA's 2022 Workforce Needs Assessment found that visitor industry businesses in Hawai'i were struggling to recruit workforce at all levels, with the difficulty increasing with the seniority of the role. Only 41% of the businesses surveyed offered an internship or apprenticeship program, highlighting the importance of this measure to help grow that number.

The paid internships contemplated in this measure will complement HTA's existing workforce programs at the high school and college levels and multiply the opportunities available to those considering a career in the visitor industry.

We respectfully defer to our colleagues at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations on matters of implementation, and thank the committee for this opportunity to support SB2286 SD1.