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John De Fries President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of JOHN DE FRIES Hawai'i Tourism Authority before the COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 16, 2023 9:15 a.m. State Capitol Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

In consideration of HOUSE BILL NO. 85 HD1 RELATING TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments in support of the intent of HB85 HD1, which prohibits lodging establishments from providing personal care products in single-use plastic bottles.

We agree with the intent of this legislation as it is in alignment with our Strategic Plan priorities in the Natural Resources pillar, as well as action items in our community-generated Destination Management Action Plans.

Additionally, we are aware of and would like to take this opportunity to recognize lodging establishments already working to eliminate the use of single-use plastic bottles for their amenities.

We support the intent of HB85 HD1, stand ready to assist in educating visitor industry stakeholders and visitors, and defer to our colleagues at the Department of Health on matters related to the implementation of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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