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TESTIMONY OF DANIEL NĀHO'OPI'I INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO, HAWAI'I TOURISM AUTHORITY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 1:20 p.m. In consideration of

SB 2400

RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I TOURISM AUTHORITY

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on SB2400, which would reduce the number of members on the HTA Board of Directors and clarify the duration for which holdover board members could continue to serve.

We value the dedication that each of our volunteer board members brings to HTA. The breadth and diversity of their perspectives, experiences, and networks enables robust discussions at our board table.

As this bill proposes to amend HRS 201B-2, we would suggest adding the following change in subsection (b)(7):

(7) No person who has served as a member of the board of directors of the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau] a current contractor of the Hawaii tourism authority shall be eligible to sit as a member of the board of directors of the Hawaii tourism authority until at least two years have expired between the person's termination from service to the contractor and the person's appointment to the authority's board of directors.

We believe this change would retain the intent of the subsection while reflecting HTA's contractual engagement with more than one organization.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments on SB2400.