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TESTIMONY OF
DANIEL NĀHO'OPI'I
Interim President & CEO
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

Thursday, March 20, 2025
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

In consideration of
SB 1536 SD 2 HD 1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY

Aloha Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) supports SB 1536 SD 2 HD 1, which repeals exemptions of the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority from the State's Employees' Retirement System (ERS) and sets the effective date on July 1, 3000.

Removing these exemptions ensures that all state employees, regardless of their position, contribute to and benefit from the ERS equally. This also allows the search for the President and CEO to proceed and addresses the urgent need to fill a position that has been vacant for over a year. We prefer the language in SB 1536 SD 2, which sets the effective date upon the bill's approval, allowing us to move forward as quickly as possible.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our support of SB 1536 SD 2 HD 1.