



Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association, Inc.
1330 Maunakea Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Written Testimony in **SUPPORT** on
HB 1516– Relating to Regulation

February 9th, 2022

To: Representative Aaron Ling Johansson, Chair- COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair- COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Committee Members

HEARING DATE/TIME: February 11, 2022 / 2:00PM

STATEMENT FROM THE HFCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association, Inc. is a Domestic Nonprofit Corporation, comprised of 12 independent Board of Directors representing 14 mortuaries and 10 cemeteries that serve the largest majority of Hawaii's families. The HFCA is an independent association that acts in the best interest of its members and the community.

Dear Chair Johansson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members

My name is Jay Morford, President and Legislative Chair for the Hawaii Funeral and Cemetery Association, Inc. ("HFCA"). The HFCA would like to provide **SUPPORT on HB 1516** ("Bill") "Relating to Regulation".

Mahalo,

HFCA Board of Directors

SAH - Subcontractors Association of Hawaii

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February 11, 2022

Testimony To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, President

Subject: H.B. 1516 – RELATING TO REGULATION.

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, President of the Subcontractors Association of Hawaii. The SAH represents the following nine separate and distinct contracting trade organizations.

HAWAII FLOORING ASSOCIATION

ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

HAWAII WALL AND CEILING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

TILE CONTRACTORS PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

SHEETMETAL AND AIR CONDITIONING NATIONAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

PAINTING AND DECORATING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

PACIFIC INSULATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

We have comments about this bill.

As stated in the bill in subsection (a)(2), a person would be okay to advertise if they had somebody else's license to attached to their goods or services.

Under Chapter 444, HRS it is a clear violation of the law called "aiding and abetting". For that reason we believe that Subsection two (2), page one (1), line twelve (12) through fourteen (14) should be removed or provide some sort of exemption for licensed professions and occupations where running activities under someone else's license is prohibited.

Thank you.



February 11, 2022

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson
Chairman, The House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Hawaii State Capitol Room 436

Regarding: Testimony in **Support of HB 1516**

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice-Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

For more than 100 years, the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) has been the foremost representative of and advocate for the U.S. lodging industry. We advocate for our members so they can do their best at what matters most: serving guests, employees and their communities. With more than 150 members in Hawaii representing tens of thousands of employees, this is a job we take very seriously.

Please accept this testimony as our organization's support for HB 1516, relating to the advertisement of goods and services.

We appreciate your Committee's commitment to the eradication of illegal short-term rentals in Hawaii. Study after study has shown that the vast majority of short-term rentals throughout our State are owned and operated by out-of-State commercial hosts who are renting whole units. This legislation will give the State another tool in the battle against the explosion of illegal short-term rentals by making it more difficult for operators of illegal short-term rentals to list units on hosting platforms.

Illegal short term rentals damage our economy by competing unfairly with the legitimate visitor industry, by hurting local residents' ability to afford housing, by damaging the quality of our State's most valuable economic resource, our tourism product, and by further eroding the relationship between kama'aina and our guests. These law breakers who operate in many cases 20 or more illegal whole home rentals must be reigned in.



Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of Hawaii's legitimate visitor industry, our hotel owners, operators, our many valuable employees and the communities we call home. Mahalo for your consideration of this testimony in support of this important legislation.

Me ka pono,

Kekoa McClellan
Spokesperson, AHLA Hawaii

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February 11, 2022

The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson
Chairman, The House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Hawaii State Capitol Room 436

Regarding: Testimony in **Support of HB 1516**

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice-Chair Kitagawa and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on behalf of the Hawaii Hotel Alliance ("HHA") regarding your consideration of HB 1516.

Like so many industries, the pandemic was a game-changer for tourism. The COVID-19 economic recession left Hawaii's hotels the hardest hit market in the country. For a year, most hotels throughout the State were shut down and/or at occupancy levels that have left many properties operating at a significant loss. Despite the devastating impact that COVID-19 has had on Hawaii's hotels, the industry doubled down on our commitment to our island home and to the most valuable assets we have: the men and women of Hawaii who work in and around our hotels.

Throughout the pandemic, our hotels extended the health and welfare benefits for our furloughed employees and developed life-saving 'Safe Stay' protocols to protect our workers, our guests, and the communities we serve. Our hotels invested directly in community food drives, supported kupuna care, and engaged in countless acts of support for churches, schools, and relief programs. The legitimate visitor industry has worked tirelessly to keep kama'aina safe and healthy while working towards the safe reopening of our hotels. Simply put: our hotel industry will continue its generational commitment to being an integral part of the health of thriving communities across our State because the legitimate visitor industry believes that tourism is additive to support the well-being of those of us who call Hawaii home. The same cannot be said of illegal short-term rentals.

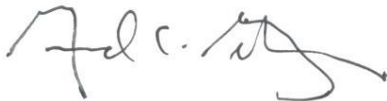
In 2009, Hawaii had 43,000 hotel rooms which ran at high occupancy with seven million visitors to our shores. In 2019, we had the same number of hotel rooms but more than 10.2 million visitors. In the last 20 years, our total hotel room count on Hawaii has actually fallen, while at the same time legal and illegal short-term rentals have exploded, effectively dropping tens of thousands of illegal, unhosted B&B's directly into the heart of some of our most coveted neighborhoods and fragile ecosystems across the State. The vast

majority of these short-term rental operators do not live in Hawaii. While we have made progress in putting tougher laws on the books to deter this criminal activity of operating illegal hotels in our neighborhoods, our hardworking partners at the county have admitted that we still lack the resources and tools to rollout effective and critical enforcement.

As written, HB 1516 will give the State another tool in the battle against the explosion of illegal short-term rentals by making it more difficult for operators of illegal short-term rentals to list units on hosting platforms. This will allow for better enforcement against the literal thousands of illegal short-term rentals that are taking housing away from local families, clogging our streets, breaking the law, not contributing to our tax base, skirting environmental compliance, non-compliant with basic health and safety regulations, lacking in community contributions, and destroying neighborhoods throughout Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of the Hawaii Hotel Alliance's support of HB 1516.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Gibson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jerry Gibson, President
Hawaii Hotel Alliance
Jerry@hawaiihotelalliance.com