



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

CHRIS J. SADAYASU
DIRECTOR

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Thursday, February 16, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SB1522
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) offers **comments** on SB1522, which establishes an Office of Tourism and Destination Management within DBEDT and transfers the functions, duties, appropriations, and positions of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to the Office of Tourism and Destination Management and appropriates funds.

DBEDT acknowledges the positive and negative impacts of tourism and affirms its commitment to regenerative tourism, destination management, and the implementation of the destination management action plans for each island. The Department will collaborate with the Committee should it be determined that the Office of Tourism and Destination Management will be established and will participate in any discussions related to its role and responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
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GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. No. 1522, Relating to Economic Development

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism

DATE: Thursday, February 16, 2023

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

Chair DeCoite, Vice-Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation ("Department") offers the following comments regarding S.B. 1522 for your consideration.

S.B. 1522 establishes an Office of Tourism and Destination Management ("Office") within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), which encompasses regenerative tourism and best practice destination management. The bill transfers the functions, duties, appropriations, and positions of the Hawaii Tourism Authority to the Office.

Section 2 of the bill, on pages 22 to 23, exempts all revenues and receipts derived by the Office from any project or a project agreement or other agreement pertaining thereto from all state taxation. Section 10 of the bill, on pages 44 to 45, exempts from general excise tax amounts received by the operator of the Hawaii Convention Center for reimbursement of costs or advances made pursuant to a contract with the Office. Section 11 of the bill, on page 47, amends section 237D-6.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which allocates revenues from the transient accommodations tax, by referencing the new statutory provisions under which the convention center enterprise special fund and tourism emergency special fund are created.

The bill shall take effect on July 1, 2024, provided that the changes made to section 237D-6.5, HRS, shall not be repealed when that section is repealed and

Department of Taxation Testimony
S.B. No. 1522
February 16, 2023
Page 2 of 2

reenacted on June 30, 2023 pursuant to section 5 of Act 229, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021.

The Department notes that it is able to administer the tax provisions in this bill by the current effective date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



Ke'ena Kuleana Ho'okipa O Hawai'i
Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākāua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
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Josh Green, M.D.
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Thursday, February 16, 2023
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL NO. 1522
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on SB1522, which would replace HTA with an Office of Tourism and Destination Management within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

Over the past three years, Hawai'i experienced and survived a massive economic collapse thanks to a coordinated effort between the private and public sectors. In concert with our partners and stakeholders, and led by our volunteer board of directors with a wealth of industry and community experience, HTA has been guiding and supporting the recovery of our tourism industry which has helped resuscitate Hawai'i's overall economy ahead of projections.

Tourism is the largest sector of Hawai'i's economy, and therefore a major contributor of tax revenues to fund important state priorities. **In 2022, preliminary numbers show that Hawai'i topped the previous high water mark 2019 in visitor spending (\$19.3 billion, +8.9%) and state tax revenue (\$2.21 billion, +6.2%) with fewer visitor arrivals (9.25 million, -11%).**

It is important to note that this strong recovery was primarily powered by the U.S. market, where HTA has maintained continuity in our visitor education, brand management, and support services even through the contested process to procure the next contract for that market.

In addition to HTA's spending-related key performance indicators, we also track visitor satisfaction and resident sentiment. Both measures are trending in the right direction.

HTA's message to prospective visitors around the world is **Mālama Hawai'i**: an invitation for them to join kama'āina in caring for our beloved home. Setting that intention and expectation, combined with robust visitor education through all stages of the journey, is our strategy to target and welcome visitors who prioritize the environment and being mindful guests – all key to achieving our goal of a regenerative model of tourism through destination management.

We recognize that the impacts of tourism are real and require management. As Hawai'i emerges from the pandemic, HTA continues its pivot to destination management initiated just before the onset of the pandemic. The pivot started with the adoption of our current strategic plan, and was further refined in the community-generated Destination Management Action Plans for each island.

Ahead of making major structural changes to the agency responsible for managing Hawai'i's visitor industry, the completion of a study on alternative models of tourism governance – as contemplated in HB1381 – would be a valuable, prudent approach to consider.

We look forward to the vigorous debate this measure is likely to inspire before your committee, and we appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments on SB1522. Mahalo.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

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To: Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

From: Cheryl Kakazu Park, Director

Date: February 16, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 1522
Relating to Economic Development

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would repeal the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) and replace it with a new Office of Tourism and Destination Management (OTDM). The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes no position on the substance of this bill, but offers comments on the proposed confidentiality provision.

The confidentiality provision for certain OTDM information in proposed subsection 201-C(e) on page 14 is the same as an existing confidentiality provision for certain HTA information in subsection 201B-7(d), HRS. Thus, its inclusion here would not change the treatment of that information in terms of public access.

Thank you for considering OIP's testimony.



SB 1522
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

February 16, 2023

1:00 PM

Room 229 &
Videoconference

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), a member-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to enhance the cultural, economic, political, and community development of Native Hawaiians, offers **COMMENTS** on SB 1522, which proposes to dissolve the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) and transfer its functions, duties and staff to a new Office of Tourism and Destination Management within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT).

Hawai'i's tourism industry must change. The community has long expressed concerns about the impacts of tourism to our communities, the environment, and our local lifestyle and sense of place. The pandemic pushed resident sentiment past a tipping point. HTA responded with its new Strategic Plan and Destination Management Plans that collectively envisioned a new regenerative model for the visitor industry – one that embraces and supports our culture and community, and gives more than it takes. Inspired by HTA's new direction, CNHA provided submissions to HTA's two Requests For Proposals (RFP) for marketing and destination management for the U.S. market in 2021 and 2022.

While we appreciate that the intent of SB 1522 is to advance the transformation of Hawai'i's chief economic driver, we worry that overhauling the state's entire tourism support system will actually be counterproductive. We understand the concerns regarding the administration of the two previous RFPs for marketing and destination management. We agree that policy improvements are merited. However, dismantling the state entity leading the change will only slow progress at this pivotal moment for the industry. For example, HTA released two RFPs this week to support this new path of destination management. If adopted as currently drafted, SB 1522 could create confusion with the oversight of these RFPs, contracts



and funding sources, resulting in further delays in the administration of the state's support for the tourism sector.

In closing, CNHA thanks the Committee for tackling this critical issue and exploring potential solutions. We look forward to continuing to be part of the dialogue to ensure our culture, 'āina, and people are at the forefront in transforming the industry.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Respectfully,

J. Kūhiō Lewis, CEO
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement



Maui Hotel & Lodging
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of
Lisa H. Paulson
Executive Director
Maui Hotel & Lodging Association

Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism
Senate Bill 1522: Relating to Economic Development
February 16, 2023, 1:00 pm
Conference Room 229

The Maui Hotel & Lodging Association (MHLA) is the legislative arm of the visitor industry for Maui County. We represent over 180 property and allied business members and 22,000 employees. **MHLA offers comments for Senate Bill 1522**, which establishes an Office of Tourism and Destination Management within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism that encompasses regenerative tourism and best practice destination management. Transfers the functions, duties, appropriations, and positions of the Hawaii Tourism Authority to the Office of Tourism and Destination Management. Requires the Office of Tourism and Destination Management to implement certain county destination management action plans. Dissolves the Hawaii Tourism Authority and the Board of Directors for the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Rather than dismantle our existing tourism authority, we encourage completing a study on alternative tourism governance models as laid out in [HB1381](#). This would be a practical, pragmatic approach versus completely creating a new structure.

We recognize that Hawaii's tourism needs greater management coordination with private and public stakeholders. MHLA is a part of the current Destination Management Plan (DMAP) Steering Committee for Maui County and would like to see the action items set forth to be able to continue along with the many alliances already established with stakeholders and government agencies.

MHLA respectfully submits these comments for your consideration for Senate Bill 1522.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



February 13, 2023

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism
Hawaii State Legislature

Comments on SB1522

Dear Chair DeCoite, Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB1522.

During the 25 years since the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) was established in 1998, it has focused on 9 key initiatives including: destination marketing and branding worldwide, touting the unique attributes of our islands, in partnership with each island's visitors bureau chapter; the development of community product enrichment programs to introduce visitors to the traditions and programs our residents value; sporting events which attract competitors and fans from around the world; community festivals and events; Hawaiian cultural programming; natural resources programming; tourism workforce development programming; visitor safety and security; and data collection and dissemination.

Much of that work has been primarily undertaken by a broad and diverse network of non-profit and community organizations all across the state. A list of the organizations and programs supported by HTA is included in their annual report to the Legislature and can be found here - <https://www.hawaiitourismauthority.org/who-we-are/annual-report/>.

As currently written, we do not believe that bill SB1522 thoroughly addresses how the state will support:

- Global marketing in partnership with the islands' visitor bureau chapters
- Visitor safety and security through organizations like the Visitor Aloha Society of Hawaii (VASH)
- Tourism workforce development through organizations like ClimbHI
- Community product enrichment programs, festivals, sports and events

These important community organizations rely on the continuity of the funds they receive from HTA in order to deliver critical services to support the health and stability of the state's visitor industry. And the relationships between those organizations and the HTA are critically important and have taken decades to nurture and develop.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB1522.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie P. Donoho". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Donoho, Administrative Director

LATE

SB-1522

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 4:47:49 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mufi Hannemann	Testifying for Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of
Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, & Tourism
Senate Bill 1522

February 16, 2023

Chair DeCoite and members of the Committee, mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's oldest and largest private sector visitor industry organization—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers.

It is clear that members of our community desire a frank discussion regarding Hawai'i Tourism Authority, its duties, its governance, and the role it should fulfill going forward. We feel strongly that this conversation—which should encompass all of HTA's duties including destination management as well as visitor marketing—is warranted and that the legislative process should be allowed to play out. We further feel that this discussion is one that should be held as transparently as possible.

We also believe that allowing this to occur could result in increased recognition and appreciation for tourism's importance to our community and our economy. Moreover, careful consideration of the State's tourism role will only improve the quality and efficiency of the State's tourism advocacy, which must strike a fine balance between the needs of residents and travelers alike.

As an organization, HLTA has enjoyed a positive, productive, and collaborative working relationship with HTA under its current model as the State's tourism agency. However, as a former director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, & Tourism, I also believe that the framework set forth in Senate Bill 1522—which would consolidate HTA within DBEDT—merits a closer examination, weighing the pros and cons of such a move.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Malama Solomon, Ph.D.

P.O. Box 370, Kamuela, HI 96743 * Malama_Solomon@yahoo.com

February 13, 2023

To: Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism

From: Malama Solomon, Ph.D., former OHA Trustee for Island of Hawai'i and State Senator

Subject: **SB1522 - Hearing Feb. 16, 2023 - 1PM**

Aloha Kakou -

I am in strong support of Senate Bill 1522, which will establish an Office of Tourism and Destination Management within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. The focus for this legislation is based on regenerative tourism and best practice destination management. This restructuring is needed for our Homeland's economic-cultural-socio well-being.

My mother's family, the Desha Beamers, have, since the mid-1800s to the present day, have been an integral part of the development of Hawai'i as a destination through the preservation and perpetuation of the Hawaiian performing arts. Every mele or song authored by my Great Grandmother, the late Helen Desha Beamer, written in poetic verse 86 years ago, were Hawaiian cultural descriptions of a destination connected to dear family friends who welcomed you into their home - conveying the true meaning of hospitality and aloha. This connection has to be revitalized to keep our tourism industry relevant.

What we learned from the pandemic with fewer tourists is that we, the residents, were able to access our prime recreational areas, find a parking space and enjoy rest and fun with our 'Ohana and friends. E mau ka maika'i me ka maluhia (may the beauty and peace last forever). This is a Hawaiian expression for an experience such as this and is of great cultural significance and promotes positive human behavior and spiritual enlightenment, and defines a destination.

This legislation addresses the political-public policy questions related to HTA's business integrated model wherein air-hotel-ground transportation-and-destination are interwoven and heavily weighted with for-profit Corporate Tourism management strategies, with the negative cost-benefit resting on the destination which is the people of the State of Hawaii. We need better Destination Management Practices to protect the dignity of the resident population's lifestyle which is closely associated with our precious natural resources.

This legislation begs the question: Has Hawai'i just become a destination for out-of-state profit-driven businesses and institutions, and have we, the residents and our children, become labor commodities in the equation? Perhaps this accounts for the high cost of living and the large migration of residents out of the State of Hawaii seeking better-paying jobs and more affordable housing.

SB1522 - Testimony for Hearing Feb. 16, 2023 - 1PM - Continued

We need to engage in better management of the product which is our destinations, the multi-faceted cultural heritages of our residents, and a visitor experience that embraces Hawaiian sensibility from its natural ecological, historical, and cultural connections. The goal is resident satisfaction: Ho'ola 'i na malihini ame kamaaina ika nani, We are content in our beautiful surroundings.

The passage of this Bill supports the establishment of a work group that would engage in a serious exercise in the development of a Regenerative Tourism Business model which must include an integrated community-based model capable of linking producers-consumers-Hawaiian cultural practices-geographical space and time. This is a much more pragmatic model for the definition of Hawaii's destinations.

Please take into consideration my recommended amendments for SB 1522, which can be included on page 4 and after line 10:

“Regenerative Hawaiian Cultural Heritage Business Model which is community-based-culture-led development strategies with innovative creative economic development that link producers-consumers and place, Destinations within Destinations”

“Destination management service means ...the ways and means by which tourism is in a dignified and healthy relationship with natural resources, with the Hawaiian culture and its institutions and with our many communities”.

“Integrated marketing means that efforts are blended with how we portray ourselves. We need to have a renewed focus on Hawaii's people and their destinies”.

In conclusion, ongoing academic studies on marketing by leisure destinations across the world are beginning to replace or supplement corporate-integrated business models with creative community-based, culture-led tourism development.

We need the passage of this Bill SB 1522 to begin this transformation.

Me ke aloha.

Malama Solomon, Ph.D.

SB-1522

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 7:27:58 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill and ask that you not pass it. Tourism is Hawaii's #1 Economic Driver and deserves the status that it has as the Hawaii Tourism Authority. Based on performance measures, HTA is doing a good job, including their initiative on island destination plans. The contract referenced as the basis for this bill was a hiccup. As noted in the letter from Mr. McCarthy to the bidders, he felt that the contract provisions should have been split using as the basis COVID and its impact on Tourism. He didn't cite wrongdoing, purposeful violations of procurement laws. This bill seems to be retaliatory, a form of punishment. Further, if HTA under the current leadership did wrong, then shouldn't any action to address the wrong be taken by the Governor, rather than the legislature? Lastly, usually when restructuring an organization, cost factors are considered. What are the savings, if any, for relegating HTA to a lower level organization in State Government. What assurances are there that this would result in better efficiencies? Please do not pass this bill. It is not in the best interest of the State.

I am off-island. If technology is available in my hotel to allow me to participate by zoom, I will. If not, I will stand on this testimony.

Mahalo, Leimomi Khan

SB-1522

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 4:37:25 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee-Ann Choy	Testifying for Pacific Rim Concepts LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Tourism Authority, under its current leadership has been through challenging months, no one could have imagined. Covid, as bad as it was in so many ways, allowed us to pause and re-group, re-think, re-imagine, regenerate travel and tourism for our islands. The plans and strategies need time to come to fruition. A cancellation, "woke" attitude is not the answer. The organization and leadership is rebuilding. The plans have been drawn, now let them work it.

Transferring or creating another body, to find new bodies, to develop new plans.. it is not an overnight job; This delay will only further delay the changes we want to see in regenerative tourism and management. The world looks at Hawaii and are shaking their heads as our government leaders step out of bounds to try and micro-manage our industry operations.

Granted some practices are outdated and improvements can be made in how we survey our guest, protect our aina. Provide the needed funds for these upgrades, and encourage and support those we appointed into leadership.

I oppose any dissolving of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

They are our touch point to governance. Removing, putting another layer, building another body in an already over taxed department that hides behind the cement walls of downtown, not even in the 96815 zip code and connecting with the industry is NOT the answer.

Testimony of Frank Haas regarding SB 1522

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Frank Haas and I am a consultant focused on tourism marketing and management issues. I have co-authored articles on tourism governance posted on the UHERO website; authored a chapter on Hawai'i in the book "Overtourism"; spoken at tourism management conferences in Hawai'i and internationally; I was one of the contractors in the development of the HTA 2020-2025 strategic plan; and I have worked on other tourism strategic plans in the past. I have been in this business long enough to have experienced tourism management I ran the advertising agency for HVB in the mid-nineties and tourism was housed in DBEDT.

My comments about the bill are threefold. First, this is a significant change that is being proposed without fully anticipating the consequences. While I completely understand that the intent of the bill is to address legislative concerns about accountability and governance, I believe that it prematurely proposes a solution without carefully considering alternatives.

Second, as noted, I have written about improving Hawai'i's tourism governance model for some time. Many destinations in the U.S. and around the world are responding to the challenge of tourism impacts by reforming their governance models. In that light, I urge the legislature to consider understanding tourism best practices to see what successful models can be applied here. I support HB 1381, a bill requiring the legislative reference bureau to study effective systems, solicit community input, and develop alternatives for consideration. SB 1522 bill repeatedly references "best practice" destination management but provides no mechanism for researching or evaluating them. I believe this should be addressed by either adopting HB 1381 before making changes, or incorporating a requirement for DBEDT to study best practices as part of SB 1522 in the event that it goes forward.

Third, if this bill does go forward, it could be strengthened by addressing some of the current weaknesses in the existing structure. While SB 1522 dissolves HTA and moves its functions to DBEDT, the descriptions of those functions are largely taken from existing statute. The effectiveness of those functions has been limited in the past because of constraints in coordinating the work of the various agencies and jurisdictions that affect tourism. §201-F, in particular, envisions that any state agency "may" render services upon request and provides for an advisory body that "may" assist in important functions and collaboration in support of destination management. This language could be strengthened with a "shall" designation or, alternately, language could be added to require DBEDT (in this case) to report to the legislature accomplishments of this collaboration. Without teeth, there is a risk that agencies will continue to work within siloes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment. Tourism will remain a significant force in Hawai'i for the foreseeable future. We need to find a system of management that makes it a force for the betterment of our communities.

SB-1522

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 7:37:21 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Tourism needs to be better managed in our State. Hawaii Tourism Authority did a terrible job when it came to protecting our communities, natural resources, native species, and cultural sites from the impact of tourism.

If Department of Economic, Business Development, and Tourism takes charge of functions once entrusted to the Hawaii Tourism Authority, there has to be a greater emphasis on protecting and managing our natural resources. Funding has to be directed toward providing security, restricted entry, entry by reservation only, and fees for tourists for many more of our hiking trails, beaches, reefs, streams and waterfall areas, and parks. DLNR is never given enough funding to properly maintain, manage and police our natural resources, beach parks, and hiking trails. This has to be a priority before we are selling Hawaii to so many tourists. Precious places are being destroyed by overuse and abuse from visitors yet tourism numbers continue to climb and nothing is done to get things under control and protect areas tourist are flocking to.

There has to be funding right now to provide sufficient parking and restroom facilities (not porta potties) for many popular hiking trails and beaches. That is basic, but is left undone. These facilities need to be relocated outside of neighborhoods. We can't allow this tremendous influx of tourists to the islands continue to overuse and abuse our fragile resources and destroy the quality of life for many urban and rural neighborhoods. These restrooms, trails, beach parks have got to be maintained, staffed and policed because they aren't for the most part. Tourists won't be willing to pay for filthy, broken restrooms, getting their cars broken into, porta potties, and fighting for parking.

Local residents on Oahu have lost access to many of their favorite hiking trails due to closures and have lost the quality experience many hikes and beaches once offered because they have been overrun with visitors (ie. Maunawili Falls, Haiku Stairs, Mariner's Ridge, Ka Iwa Ridge Trail, Manoa Falls Trail, Makapuu Lighthouse Trail, Lanikai Beach, Kailua Beach, etc.). I don't think we are ever going to get that solitude and peace these nature trails and beaches once offered back again because the State is determined to jam as many tourists as they can onto our shores with little to no management.

In addition to facilities and management, requiring and providing environmental and cultural education needs to be a priority. Visitors need to be educated about these natural areas they continue to trample and disrespect. In some cases, it isn't just visitors. Education needs to occur before entry for locals as well as visitors. There needs to be a culture of malama the aina

encouraged everywhere. There needs to be an understanding of and a respect for the sacredness of many areas. The fragile ecosystem of our islands, the threat of invasive species, the devastation and species loss due to climate change and urbanization, the erosion and loss of beaches due to climate change needs to be acknowledged and addressed. We need to take extra care now to protect, care for, and preserve our resources. We need to work toward climate change mitigation (and this includes measures that address tourists, such as getting them out of thousands of rental cars, and supplying things like electric shuttles and buses they feel safe and comfortable on and that take them where they need to go). We need to work toward sustainability and resiliency within our islands and this includes the impact of tourists.