

**SB 271**

## AIRLINES COMMITTEE OF HAWAII



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February 27, 2009

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
The Honorable Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee of Ways and Means

Re: **SB 271 SD1 – RELATING TO TOURISM EMERGENCY – Support**  
**Committee on Ways & Means, Conference Room 211, 9AM**

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

The Airlines Committee of Hawaii\*, which is made up of 20 signatory air carriers that underwrite the Hawaii State Airport System, supports SB 271 SD1, Relating to Tourism Emergency.

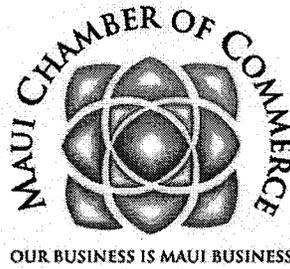
The purpose of this bill is to ensure that tourism-related industries are able to appropriately respond to a national or global economic crisis that adversely impacts the tourism industry.

The Airlines Committee of Hawaii supports this legislation because it provides clarity and flexibility for the State to respond to national or global significant economic crisis, similar to the one we are experiencing today.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 271 SD1. We respectfully urge the committee to support this bill by moving it forward for further consideration.

*\*ACH members are Air Canada, Air New Zealand, Air Pacific, Alaska Airlines, All Nippon Airways, American Airlines, China Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Federal Express, go!, Hawaiian Airlines, Japan Airlines, Korean Air, Northwest Airlines, Philippine Airlines, Qantas Airways, United Airlines, United Parcel Service, US Airways, and Westjet.*

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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Conference Room 211, State Capitol  
Friday, February 27, 2009; 9:00 a.m.

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 271 SDI, RELATING TO TOURISM EMERGENCY**

Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

The Maui Chamber of Commerce, a business organization whose mission it is to advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics, supports SB 271 SD1, relating to Tourism Emergency.

We are a membership driven organization comprised of over 900 members, 88% of which are small businesses with fewer than 25 employees, representing nearly 21,000 employees. We support this bill as it adds a national or global economic crisis to situations considered a tourism emergency and requires, in addition to the governor's declaration of the existence of a tourism emergency, the governor's express approval and direction before action may be taken.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce understands the value and significance of the visitor industry and believes that more support and appreciation is needed for this industry which greatly contributes to our economy. We are in favor of measures that help to sustain and grow the visitor industry and enhance visitor experiences.

Any decline in this sector harms all businesses, including small businesses that solely rely on tourism.

Therefore, we believe it is critical for the visitor industry to be able to quickly respond to emergency situations to best position the industry. This bill provides a mechanism to do just that and will help us mitigate potential negative outcomes in the future.

For these reasons, the Maui Chamber of Commerce urges your support of SB 271, SD1.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President