



LATE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

2010 FEB 17 A 9:25

February 17, 2010

Testimony of Representative Faye P. Hanohano before the Committee on Finance in
opposition to HB 2598 Relating to Transient Accommodations Tax.

I wish to express my opposition to **HB 2598 Relating to Transient Accommodations Tax**, which suspends the distribution of transient accommodation tax revenues to the counties for three years. It is not only unfair but unwise to suspend payments to the county from the TAT. I know that Hawai'i county depend on these funds to provide needed services to the island's population. Suspending these funds would jeopardize the counties' solvency in this time of fiscal difficulty.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Faye P. Hanohano".

Faye P. Hanohano
State Representative, District 4



LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
25th LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION of 2010

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair

2/16/10
10:00 AM – Room 308

HB 2598
Relating to Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT)

My name is Max J Sword, here on behalf of Outrigger Hotels, to speak in opposition to this bill.

The original intent of the counties receiving a portion of the TAT was to help offset the impact of the tourism industry on the county infrastructure.

If the amount of TAT is taken away from the counties, where will they get the funds to balance off what they have lost? There is only one revenue source available for the counties, property taxes.

Do you think the respective counties will increase the property taxes of the residents to compensate? I doubt it. The only option then available will be the commercial or resort category.

All one has to do is to read the headlines in the newspaper to see that the industry cannot absorb any further financial burdens. While occupancy has increased, room rates have remained the same. In other words, while the cost of servicing the rooms has increased, we have to do it with the same amount revenue.

Mahalo for considering my testimony!

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
At: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 12:50 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: leinaalacondo@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2598 on 2/17/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/17/2010 10:00:00 AM HB2598

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paula McLane
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: leinaalacondo@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

FINTestimony

m: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
it: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 12:51 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: billmclane@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2598 on 2/17/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/17/2010 10:00:00 AM HB2598

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bill McLane
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: billmclane@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/17/2010

Comments:

CHARMAINE TAVARES
Mayor



JEFFREY K. ENG
Director

ERIC H. YAMASHIGE, P.E., L.S.
Deputy Director

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793-2155
www.mauiwater.org

February 17, 2010

VIA FAX AND MAIL

Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

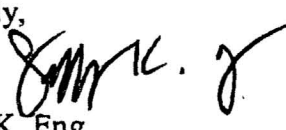
Dear Chair Oshiro and Members:

Re: Testimony of the Maui County Department of Water Supply
Opposing HB 2598 Relating to Transient Accommodations Tax
Committee of Finance Hearing, February 17, 2010 at 10 AM

The Maui County Department of Water Supply asks your consideration to not suspend the distribution of transient accommodations tax (TAT) revenues to the counties.

This revenue source is supporting Maui watershed partnerships operations. The partnership organizations on Maui and Molokai are already suffering reduced funding from federal and county programs, as well as the proposed cut of the conveyance tax currently supporting the land conservation fund and the natural area reserve fund. We are concerned that further loss of funding will strip these programs from performing their critical and successful work to protect our watersheds and fresh water sources. Please keep the TAT distributions to the counties intact to preserve the progress already achieved in protecting our vital watershed lands.

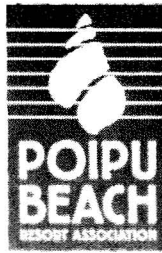
Sincerely,


Jeffrey K. Eng
Director
emb

"By Water All Things Find Life"

The Department of Water Supply is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410. Or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD)





February 17, 2010

Via Email Transmittal

To: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair

From: Poipu Beach Resort Association (PBRA)

Re: H.B. No. 2598 Relating to the Transient Accommodations Tax

Dear Representative Oshiro and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am Doug Sears, President of the Poipu Beach Resort Association (PBRA), a member-based organization of nearly 100 businesses, primarily located on the South Shore of Kauai. Our membership includes hotels, condominiums, management firms, activity operators, shopping and dining establishments, services and other related firms and individuals, ranging from small, owner-operated businesses to some of the largest employers on the island.

We are contacting you in regards to H.B. No. 2598, which propose to suspend the Counties' share of the Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) until June 30, 2013.

On Kauai, every dollar from the TAT is used to support programs and services that are essential to the public health, safety and welfare of our visitor and resident communities. More importantly, TAT funds are used for the following: (1) Public Safety (police, fire and civil defense); (2) Park & Beach Recreation (lifeguards, park caretakers, etc.); (3) Public Works and (4) Economic Development (tourism promotion).

We strongly encourage you to oppose H.B. No. 2598 in an effort to support and fund essential services needed to maintain the quality of life that our visitors and residents expect and deserve and to instead, work to find a fair and reasonable alternative for addressing our collective revenue shortfalls.

Thank you for your time and consideration and for allowing us the opportunity to testify in opposition of H.B. No. 2598.

Sincerely,

Doug Sears
President

P.O. Box 730 | Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii 96756 | 808.742.7444 | info@poipubeach.org | www.poipubeach.org