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**Neil Abercrombie**  
*Governor*

**Mike McCartney**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

**Testimony of  
Mike McCartney  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
on  
H.C.R. 8 and H.R. 22  
Urging the United States Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, and  
the United States Attorney General to Ease Visa Restrictions for the  
People's Republic of China**

House Committee on Tourism  
Monday, April 8, 2013  
9:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 312

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) strongly supports H.C.R. 8 and H.R. 22, which urges the U.S. Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Attorney General to include the People's Republic of China in the Visa Waiver Program and easing of restrictions for business and leisure travel from the People's Republic of China.

The People's Republic of China represents a large, under-exploited market for Hawai'i's visitor industry. With over a billion people, Chinese visitors to Hawai'i, who spend an average of over \$350 per day, only numbered 79,531 visitors in 2011. A major reason for the low number of Chinese visitors is the difficulty in obtaining a visa to travel to the United States.

Since the passage of the Travel Promotion Act of 2007, the federal government has established the goal of increasing international travel to the United States, including making improvements to the visa program, implementing the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) and the expanding the visa waiver program.

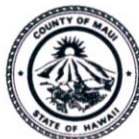
The China market represents an important potential for growth for Hawai'i's visitor industry, and including the People's Republic of China in the Visa Waiver program is a key component of that growth.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Council Chair  
Gladys C. Baisa

Vice-Chair  
Robert Carroll

Council Members  
Elle Cochran  
Donald G. Couch, Jr.  
Stacy Crivello  
Don S. Guzman, Esq.  
G. Riki Hokama  
Michael P. Victorino  
Mike White



Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.mauicounty.gov/council](http://www.mauicounty.gov/council)

April 5, 2013

TO: The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair  
And Members  
House Committee on Tourism

FROM: G. Riki Hokama, Maui County Councilmember/Lanai seat

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Hokama", is written over the name "G. Riki Hokama" in the "FROM:" line.

**SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of HCR 8 and HR 22 urging the United States Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, and the United States Attorney General to ease visa restrictions for the People's Republic of China (Public Hearing: Monday, April 08, 2013 at 9:00 am in House Conference Room 312)**

As the Lanai member on the Maui County Council, I offer testimony in support of the subject resolutions urging the United States Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, and the United States Attorney General to ease visa restrictions for the People's Republic of China.

For nearly 50 years, Maui County has participated in the Sister Cities program that fosters friendship, cultural understanding, and economic exchange with other countries. In 1998, the County entered into a Sister City relationship with Sanya County, Hainan Province, People's Republic of China and recently, hosted the Mayor of Sanya City and other dignitaries during their visit to Maui. From this experience, it was evident that there is a strong interest in travel to Hawaii, and the easing of visa restrictions would have a very beneficial impact. I urge your support of the subject resolutions.

Also, I concur with testimony in support submitted by Mel Rapozo, President of the Hawaii State Association of Counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

cc: Mel Rapozo, President, HSAC

Council Chair  
Gladys C. Baisa

Vice-Chair  
Robert Carroll

Council Members  
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Stacy Crivello  
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April 5, 2013

TO: The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair  
House Committee on Tourism

FROM: Michael P. Victorino, Treasurer  
Hawaii State Association of Counties

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF APRIL 8, 2013; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HR 22 AND HCR8,  
URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, AND THE UNITED STATES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL TO EASE VISA RESTRICTIONS FOR THE PEOPLE'S  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Victorino", is written over the "FROM:" line of the letterhead.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to urge the Federal government to ease Visa restrictions for citizens of The People's Republic of China.

I am aware that the President of the Hawaii State Association of Counties ("HSAC") has submitted testimony, on behalf of HSAC, in support these measures, which are in the HSAC Legislative Package. As the Treasurer of HSAC, I concur with the testimony submitted by the President, and urge you to support these measures.

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**HR22**

Submitted on: 4/8/2013

Testimony for TOU on Apr 8, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jared Dmello	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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