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DEPT. COMM. NO. 140

David Y. Ige Governor

George D. Szigeti
President and Chief Executive Officer

December 24, 2015

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President And Members of the Senate Hawai'i State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street Room 409 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki Speaker And Members of the House of Representatives Hawai'i State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street Room 431 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi and Speaker Souki,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) continues to make long term commitments towards supporting Hawai'i's indigenous culture into the future. As an agency it is a very important part of our mission and is a focus within our strategic plan, demonstrated throughout our programs. Hawaiian culture permeates within all initiatives. We have a fully dedicated position that executes these programs supported by our overall team who work together to ensure that Hawai'i's visitor industry supports the State and people of Hawai'i. The Hawaiian cultural program and funds invested has grown significantly since its inception and HTA is committed to continuing in this direction.

Pursuant to <u>Act 119</u>, <u>Section 135</u> the HTA is submitting a listing of Hawaiian cultural programs and funds which were expended during FY 2014-2015 including program names, execution entities and invested amounts. Please note that this list includes programs, projects and events that are primarily of cultural focus and scope and does not include cultural budgets within our brand management contracts where additional funds are spent on cultural programming within our marketing initiatives.

We look forward to providing you with this report on an annual basis to keep you informed on our activities as it relates to continued support of Hawaiian culture within our agency.

If you have questions or need further clarification on any of our programs, please let me know. Mahalo for your continued support.

With Aloha,

George D. Szigeti

President and Chief Executive Office

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