



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM  
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of

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

Committee on  
Judiciary and Labor

House Bill 2122 HD2: Relating to Employment Security

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association (HLTA) is a statewide association of hotels, condominiums, timeshare companies, management firms, suppliers, and other related firms that benefit from and strengthen Hawai'i's visitor industry. Today our membership consists of over 700 members representing the state's leading industry, 165 of which are lodging properties representing almost 50,000 rooms. The visitor industry was responsible for generating \$15.2 billion in visitor spending in 2015 and supported 181,500 jobs statewide, representing a vital sector of the economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments regarding House Bill 2122 HD2, which would increase the maximum potential unemployment benefits for employees separated from service.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging and Tourism Association, we recognize the amendments made in this bill's HD1 that serves to aid those who were terminated or laid off by Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company and that we all have an obligation to attempt to help those in our community who are in these type of predicaments

Generally speaking we have concerns in regards to raising the maximum potential benefits of an individual in a benefit year from twenty-six to thirty-nine times the individual's weekly benefit amount. By increasing the aforementioned benefit you are placing a heavier tax burden on employers and potentially giving some of those who are unemployed, and receiving benefits, an incentive to remain unemployed.

Mahalo.