

Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii PO Box 598, Makawao, Hawaii 96768 (808)871-7947 Main (808)877-3104 Fax

Testimony to the <u>COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS</u> Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 2:50 pm Conference Room 225

RE: Support SB2673 RELATING TO TRAVEL AGENCIES

Aloha Vice Chair Senator J. Kalani English & Members of the committee;

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify, my name is Toni Marie Davis. For the last 18 years it has been my honor to serve the Activity & Attraction industry of Hawaii through my position as the Executive Director of A3H (Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii). A3H represents nearly 200 businesses statewide. Our members range in size from very large (over 300 employees) to very small (1-2 employees). **A3H SUPPORTS SB2673 as written.**

HRS468L addresses the role and requirements of a licensed Travel Agent in the state of Hawaii. This chapter involves consumer protection as it relates to the sale of Air, Room, Car, Transfers and baggage services. Over time, the role of a Hawaii Travel Agent has expanded to include booking the many fun things to do for inbound visitors. There is a requirement for obtaining an AD license when booking Hawaii's Activities & Attractions.

HRS468M is a chapter specifically addressing the relationship between the Activity Desks and Activity Providers. This chapter provides checks and balances regarding this unique situation where money is collected from the consumer and disbursed following services being rendered. The assurances in HRS468M protect the consumer and the Activity Provider. These same protections are not covered in HRS468L, therefore if a TAR licensed entity sells Activity Provider products as defined in HRS468M, they should also be required to obtain an AD license.

Sincerely,

Toni Marie Davis Executive Director