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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY TO CREATE METRICS IN ORDER TO REGULARLY TRACK THE FULL IMPACTS OF TOURISM ON THE STATE'S INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMY, AND ENVIRONMENT, AND TO PRIORITIZE STAFF POSITIONS FOR ECONOMISTS AND SOCIAL SCIENTISTS.

1 WHEREAS, tourism is the activity most responsible for  
2 Hawaii's current economic growth and standard of living, and it  
3 is likely that the State's economy will continue to depend on  
4 the economic activity generated by the visitor industry for  
5 years to come; and  
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7 WHEREAS, the visitor industry has major impacts on almost  
8 every aspect of the State, including the State's physical  
9 infrastructure, economy, environment, social and cultural life,  
10 and cost of living; and  
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12 WHEREAS, according to a 2017 study by the Hawaii Tourism  
13 Authority, 8,900,000 people visited the State in 2016, spending  
14 \$15,600,000,000, a record for visitation and spending after five  
15 straight years of record visitation and spending growth; and  
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17 WHEREAS, visitors venturing out from resort areas and into  
18 residential communities can create a level of annoyance and  
19 intrusion for residents; and  
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21 WHEREAS, visitor spill-over activity into recreational and  
22 natural areas, including coastal, marine, inland hiking and  
23 scenic areas, is raising the cost of repairs and maintenance of  
24 visitor-stressed state parks and other environmentally sensitive  
25 places; and  
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27 WHEREAS, according to a 2017 resident sentiment study by  
28 the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Hawaii residents perceive the



1 visitor industry as one that increases traffic problems, creates  
2 a higher cost of living, and does not work to sustain the  
3 State's natural resources, parks, or cultural sites; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the infrastructure and natural areas of Windward  
6 Oahu, increasingly known for its beaches and popular hikes, is  
7 stressed by increased tourist inundation, particularly illegal  
8 short-term rental accommodations in residential communities; and  
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10 WHEREAS, a better balance is needed between the  
11 requirements of the growing visitor industry in the State and  
12 the quality of life for residents of the State; and  
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14 WHEREAS, State policies and practices related to the  
15 visitor industry should fully understand the true costs and  
16 benefits relating to the visitor industry, including factors  
17 such as the amount of money that visitors bring and that remains  
18 in the State and the negative impacts of the visitor industry on  
19 the State's infrastructure, economy, and environment; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Tourism Authority tracks visitor data  
22 and undertakes research relating to the visitor industry,  
23 including research on sustainable tourism and the impacts of the  
24 visitor industry on the State's infrastructure, economy,  
25 environment, and social and cultural life; now, therefore,  
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
28 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
29 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Tourism  
30 Authority is requested to develop and implement metrics to  
31 regularly track the full impacts of the visitor industry on the  
32 State's infrastructure, economy, and environment; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Tourism Authority is  
35 requested to use the new metrics to track a range of economic  
36 and environmental factors, including:  
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- 38 (1) The amount of money spent by tourists in the State  
39 that remains in the State's economy; and  
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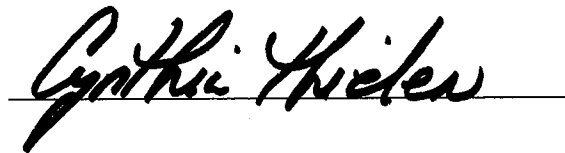


1 (2) The extent to which visitors impact the State's  
2 infrastructure, economy, and environment in both  
3 negative and positive ways; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Tourism Authority is  
6 requested to convert staff positions from tourism promoters to  
7 economists and social scientists; and  
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the  
11 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and  
12 the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism  
13 Authority.  
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OFFERED BY:



MAR - 9 2018

