TESTIMONY ON H.B. NO. 1233

Submitted by:

Dr. Daniel M. Spencer, Professor School of Travel Industry Management University of Hawaii at Manoa

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> > January 31, 2023

I am a Professor in the School of Travel Industry Management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, a position I have held for over 12 years. Over the entire course of my career I have accumulated 35 years of experience conducting studies on tourism, including research on tourism-related social carrying capacity.

As the researcher who would be tasked with conducting this study, I support this bill. I have already been studying the carrying capacity issue and a possible design for the study, and I have colleagues and students who are eager to work with me on the project. However, I need funding in order to make it happen. I think the amount appropriated by this bill would be sufficient, and I will promptly return any amount left unused to the General Fund.

Finally, for the sake of clarity, I suggest that Section 2 (b) (2) of the bill be revised to read, "Consult with the Department of Health to determine how the volume of tourist visitation on each of the islands of Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai affects the health systems of these islands, including the availability of hospital beds, medical supplies, and health personnel." For the same reason, I also suggest that Section 2 (b) (3) be revised to read, "Consult with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to determine how the volume of tourist visitation on each of the islands of Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai affects the state parks, hiking trails, and beaches of these islands."





Hawai'i Convention Center 1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815 kelepona tel 808 973 2255 kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253 kahua pa'a web hawaiitourismauthority.org

John De Fries President and Chief Executive Officer

Governor

Statement of JOHN DE FRIES Hawai'i Tourism Authority before the COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

February 2, 2023 10:00 a.m. State Capitol Conference Room 423 & Videoconference

> In consideration of HOUSE BILL NO. 1233 RELATING TO TOURISM

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hussey-Burdick, and members of the Committee on Tourism,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on HB1233, which would require the School of Travel Industry Management of the University of Hawai'i to conduct a study that assesses the tourism social carrying capacity for each of the islands of O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i, and Kaua'i.

Understanding capacity limits is important an important element of destination management. For example, we have seen improved experiences and reduced impacts to natural environments and facilities at state parks that have implemented reservations systems to manage capacity: Wai'ānapanapa on Maui, Lē'ahi (Diamond Head) on O'ahu, and Hā'ena on Kaua'i.

While we ultimately defer to the School of Travel Industry Management on matters related to the implementation of this measure, we offer two recommendations:

Islands To Be Studied. While the islands of Oʻahu, Maui, Hawaiʻi, and Kauaʻi are named in this measure to be studied, the effects of large numbers of visitors are often most pronounced on our less populated islands. Kamaʻāina on Molokaʻi in particular, through our community engagement there, have articulated a desire to study this issue on their island. We recommend including the islands of Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi in this study.

Timeline. For an issue as nuanced as carrying capacity that will require extensive community input, the timeline contemplated in this measure – just shy of six months – may not allow for as thorough of a study as would be useful to decision makers and destination managers. We recommend considering a longer timeline for this study.

Should this measure be adopted, HTA stands ready to assist with its implementation, including utilizing the steering committees, task forces, and working groups convened as part of the Destination Management Action Plan process to assist in finding stakeholders to participate in this study.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments on HB1233.

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:46:19 PM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Young MD	Chair of Maui Sustainable Tourism Committee	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support understanding the carrying capacity as the first step in getting control of what is already over tourism particularly on Maui as reported by fodor in its recent survey ranking Maui as one of the worst destinations for tourists to come to now as we all know experiencing the over tourism on our island. We must decrease the number of tourists visiting as we have exceeded our capacity that are damaging our resource and that will lead to destruction of the tourism industry has already seen now. I would suggest that also looking at the limits of acceptable change as a method of assessing rather than pure carrying capacity might be a good addition to the request of the university in this study.

The philosophy of the LAC is that change is an inevitable consequence of resource use, and that a framework is required to tackle resource management problems from the perspective of the extent to which change is acceptable. The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) model was developed for managing protected landscapes by determining what environmental impacts from "desirable" social activities are acceptable, and then determining management actions to ensure that the activities remain constrained with in the LAC. (This shifts the focus from the 'level of use and impact' idea to the more proactive approach of identifying desirable conditions for visitor activity to occur in the first place, followed by management actions needed to protect or achieve the conditions (Clarke and Stankey 1979; Stankey et al. 1985).

Unlike the carrying capacity and ROS frameworks, the LAC process emphasises the use of a series of different but integrated planning processes to determine quantitative indicators that can assist in the formulation of an overall management plan. It concentrates on establishing measurable limits to human-induced changes in the natural and social settings of protected landscapes, and on identifying appropriate management strategies (Ceballos-Lascurain, 1996). It offers a far more modern approach to planning in protected areas as it allows for public participation (as we saw above, a pre-requisite of sustainable tourism)

There are four major components of the LAC process:

- the specification of acceptable and achievable social and resource conditions
- an understanding of the relationship between existing conditions and those judged acceptable
- identification of management actions which will assist in achieving these conditions
- a monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness programme (Stankey et. al., 1985)

Ceballos-Lascuráin, Héctor (2002) Tourism, ecotourism and protected areas IUCN <u>Section 9.</u> <u>Assessment, monitoring and management techniques</u>

Cooper, C., Fletcher, J., Fyall, A., Gilbert, D. & Wanhill, S. (2008) Tourism: Principles and Practice. Prentice Hall. Read pages 221-232

Pedersen A (2002) <u>Managing Tourism at World Heritage Sites a Practical Manual for World</u> <u>Heritage Site Managers</u> UNESCO World Heritage Centre

<u>HB-1233</u> Submitted on: 1/30/2023 7:02:56 PM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Doherty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1233 because the social carrying capacity for each island has likely changed since any previous studies due to the impact of COVID world wide and rising inflation. The State must be informed of visitor impact and be proactive in combatting the negative effects of tourism on Hawai'i's water supply, the aina and the community. Failing to conduct updated studies shows lack of consideration for Native Hawaiians, land-use, and the commodification of Hawaiian culture in general.

HB-1233 Submitted on: 1/30/2023 9:20:16 PM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-1233 Submitted on: 1/31/2023 12:09:38 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

This bill is decades overdue! Please move it forward!

mahalo, Cory

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 8:28:53 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barryn Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to stop unrestrained tourism without any regard for the impacts it has on Hawai`i, as well as make transparent what percentage of the business income that tourism supposedly generates actually gets returned to the people of Hawai`i, what percentage exits, and to whom. This is at least, a necessary first step to all of this, so I am in support.

HB-1233 Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:07:47 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom a Kanaka Maoli.

I'm writing SUPPORT of HB1233.

We as the people need to make informed decisions about the future of tourism on our islands, we need to know our limits. Excessive tourism can easily result in long-term damage to our environment, our economy and the quality of life for our residents.

Pass HB1233.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo

<u>HB-1233</u> Submitted on: 1/31/2023 10:32:39 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill.

I think this is long overdue and needed and will find that Oahu and Maui are heavily over carrying capacities for tourism and thus "overtoured."

I do recommend amending the bill to also include a Section 2,b,4 to read "consult with University of Hawaii environmental engineers to assess infrastructure requirements (water, sewer, roads) and its effects on social carrying capacity."

I also recommend amending the bill to include an additional section following the above (proposed Section 2,b,4) to read "consult with agriculture and land management experts to assess food production in Hawaii to understand its effects on the social carrying capacity."

Thank you for your consideration.

<u>HB-1233</u> Submitted on: 1/31/2023 5:59:38 PM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carissa Cabrera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB1233

Committee on Tourism

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hussey-Burdick, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carissa Cabrera and I am an ocean conservation who has been working locally on wildlife, restoration, and community solutions for the past six years. I am testifying in strong support of HB1233 today and urging legislative leadership to listen to community voices asking for tourism management solutions.

We cannot effectively manage what we don't understand. During the height of the pandemic, our communities watched cherished places recover as overtourism took a sharp halt. It has never been more clear that the impacts of overtourism in Hawai'i affect us on a social, economic, and environmental level.

Carrying capacity as a concept is essential to understanding an ecosystem. The same is true for social carrying capacity. As tourism management and sustainable tourism solutions take center stage in Hawai'i, we must have the proper information to inform management decisions. For that reason, I urge legislative leadership to expand the dedicated priorities of the study outlined in Section 2 to include popular tourism hotspots around the island that fall outside of state park and DLNR management. Some examples would include Sharks Cove and Manoa Falls on O'ahu, hikes along the road to Hana on Maui, and other determined by the local communities.

Thank you for considering my testimony today.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Carissa Cabrera

HB-1233 Submitted on: 1/31/2023 6:10:02 PM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanne Herbert	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A question: once the study has been completed, what is done with it? We already know that Hawaii is experiencing over tourism. Do we need to spend \$\$ to know that we have too many visitors? How would the study lead to any changes or legislation? Is that even possible?

HB-1233 Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:06:00 PM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Policymakers at popular tourist destinations around the world increasingly are seeking estimates of tourism social carrying capacity to allow action to be taken to control visitation before over-tourism occurs. Here in Hawai'i, the school of travel industry management at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa has proposed to conduct a study to provide policymakers and destination managers with estimates of the tourism social carrying capacity for each of the islands of O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i, and Kaua'i. Please support HB1233.

HB-1233 Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:58:13 PM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johanna Stone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to hold tourists accountable for the damages and desecration their presence results in upon our 'āina. This is just a first step of many standards to be reimplemented in our territory.

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 10:38:57 PM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doorae Shin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Doorae Shin and I am the community organizer for the Hawai'i Green Fee coalition. I am testifying in support of this measure.

Mahalo, Doorae Shin

HB-1233 Submitted on: 2/1/2023 7:58:28 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB1233.

Thank you.

<u>HB-1233</u> Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:21:45 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hussey-Burdick, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kalae Lopes and I care deeply about sustainable use and protection of Hawaii's natural resources. The information we would get from this study would be very helpful in understanding not just how many high rises we can build to accommodate Hawaii's growing population and visitors, but also hopefully take into consideration how much people can fit before there are negative impacts on the ecosystem. Being aware of such limitations can help us plan for a better future.

I want to thank the committee for hearing this bill and my testimony today. This study is a tool we need to successfully protect, restore, and enhance Hawai'i for our local communities and the visitors we share it with.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Kalae Lopes

<u>HB-1233</u> Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:01:10 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bobbie Patnode	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I am a Maui Island Crater Road resident and have been directly affected by the number of tourists visiting Haleakala Park. This includes those who visit with cars, bicycle tours, unguided bicycles and buses. I am also affected along with all other Maui residents when using our county beach parks. It would be very helpful to know what the carrying capacity is for our island so we can put in place reasonable limits to ensure residents' lives are not adversely affected and that the tourist experience continues to be enjoyable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

I strongly support the passage of HB1233 Relating to Tourism. I live in Waikapu on Maui, and according to the Maui Island General Plan for 2030, tourism numbers are supposed to be no more than 33% of Maui's resident population at any given time. However, according to the Hawaii Tourism Authority data the actual tourism numbers regularly exceed this level and peak at around 50% of the population levels during the busy summer season. Moreover, the 33% tourism cap may itself be too high. Maui's high tourism numbers are not sustainable and is bad for our island's coral reefs, endangered species, and its people due to high traffic congestion, scarce freshwater resources, scarce affordable housing being used by visitors for rentals, crowded beaches and parks, and passage of HB1233 would enable a much-needed study on the social carrying capacity of the 4 most populous Hawaiian Islands.

Barry Solomon

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:05:25 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise E Antolini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha TOU Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hussey-Burdick, and Committee Members,

I write in support of HB1233.

This bill presents an important and unique opportunity for a statewide study of carrying capacity related to tourism. I would urge the Committee to add **Sea Grant College of SOEST** and **Kamakūokalani** as UHM collaborative units with **TIMS.** The ecological and cultural impacts are as important as the "visitor experience," and these need to be approached synergistically, not separately.

Please pass this bill as amended.

Sincerely,

Denise Antolini

Pūpūkea Resident, Professor of Law

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:23:10 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members,

Please support this. During COVID we all became abundantly aware of the need to diversify away from tourism and when the tourists came flooding back in we all said we wanted to see things move forward differently. This is a step towards making certain we consider what the actual carrying capacity of tourism and what effect its impacts have on our environment, residents, and economy.

Mahalo,

Shannon Matson

Hawai'i Island Resident

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:09:55 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Ostroski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1233 and the Green Fee. This is simple math and nature needs our help. Conservation needs funding and there are huge gaps in current resources and commitments. We need to adapt to climate change, clean up the messes of overuse, and maintain the trails, coastlines and special cultural and recreational site and locations for our own residents and the habitat and species, which all rely on them for their health and for beauty. Let's stop making nature suffer for our lack of decision making and progress. Tourists unload a ton of money to be here and the fee is not going to impact their decisions to travel here.

Thank you,

Carrie Ostroski

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 11:19:32 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry McElheny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly support HB1233.

Plese help stop overtourism--never ending growth of tourist numbers is not sustainable.

Sustainability implies limits and equilibrium. Never end growth is not sustainable--especially on an island.

Mahalo

Larry McElheny

(808) 237-9354

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:22:30 PM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ingrid Peterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Committee Members!

Please support HB 1233 so we can get the info we need to deal with a problem that is on so many residents minds: overtourism. In the words of my zero. Natalia Hussey Burdick:

"In order to make informed decisions about the future of tourism on our islands, we need to know our limits. Excessive tourism can easily result in long-term damage to our environment, our economy and the quality of life for our residents."

I whole heartedly agree! We need this bill passed!

Mahalo,

Ingrid Peterson

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:50:56 PM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katrina Ahia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1233. It is important for our residents, visitors, and decision makers to have an understanding of the tourism social carrying capacity for each island. In order to make informed decisions, this kind of study is crucial. I feel that this study is of the utmost importance and long overdue. Mahalo

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 2:17:17 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Lennard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am very supportive of this study.

I believe that the examination of the social ecology impacts of tourism and at what point the carrying capacity is exceeded in each jurisdiction in Hawai'i will allow effective methodology to be considered to prevent and mitigate over-tourism impacts.

I hope this study is able to quantify the impacts and utilize historical data, survey data, commerce data, ecological data and any other available data-sets to provide a thourough understanding of this increasing problem.

The study will need to include analysis of the seasonality components / contribution to overtourism; as these factors are discernable impacts. The travel patterns and seasonality confluence quantified in different parts of the state will help in evolving mitigation solutions.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

Alan Lennard

P.O. Box 818 Haleiwa, HI 96712-0818

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:03:47 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melinda Healani Sonoda- Pale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha no!

Currently there are no controls for tourism and there has been no real study non the impacts of Tourism on Hawai'i lands, water, resources and people most especially the Kanaka Maoli people.

Everywhere in Hawai'i communities are rising up to protect beaches, marine life, and sacred spaces that are being trampled on. The many tourists who ignore "keep out" or "no lifeguard" on duty signs are also not only a danger themselves but to residents who put themselves on the line to rescue them many times with little or no thanks.

Thank you for this bill it's a good first step to understanding the real impacts of tourism.

I would like to see an environmental impact study for tourism done.

Me ka oiai'o,

Healani Sonoda-Pale

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:15:31 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Marquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Feel free to copy and paste:

Aloha no!

Currently there are no controls for tourism and there has been no real study on the impacts of Tourism on Hawai'i lands, water, resources and people most especially the Kanaka Maoli people.

Everywhere in Hawai'i, communities are rising up to protect beaches, marine life, and sacred spaces that are being trampled on. The many tourists who ignore "keep out" or "no lifeguard" on duty signs are not only a danger themselves but to residents who put themselves on the line to rescue them many times with little or no thanks.

Thank you for this bill it's a good first step to understanding the real impacts of tourism.

I would like to see an real in-depth environmental impact study for tourism done.

I strongly support HB1233. Mahalo.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Malia Marquez

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.



Eric W. Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Cade Watanabe, Senior Vice-President

February 2, 2023

Committee on Tourism Rep. Sean Quinlan, Chair Rep. Natalia Hussey-Burdick, Vice Chair

Testimony regarding HB 1233

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Hussey-Burdick and Members of the Committee:

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents working people throughout Hawaii's hotel, food service and health care industries. Beyond working in the visitor and health care industries, our members reside in communities across the state and are impacted by tourism inside and outside of work. UNITE HERE Local 5 enthusiastically supports the intent of HB 1233, as the future of Hawaii tourism must be carefully planned and guided to ensure that the visitor industry can continue to sustain Hawaii's economy without deteriorating living conditions for the local community. The question of how much tourism is too much, how to balance the economic benefits of tourism with the wellbeing of Hawaii's people, is one of the most important issues our community must face and resolve.

Local 5 conditionally supports HB 1233 with certain amendments. To comprehensively examine the issues related to overtourism, the study requires a better balance of stakeholders. If the UH School of Travel Industry Management is one of the drivers of the study, then a co-equal driver should be the UH Center for Labor Education and Research ("CLEAR"). Otherwise we feel it could inadvertently overlook key impacts of tourism such as those mentioned below. It should also seek input from all visitor industry unions. There are other agencies whose involvement would be instrumental as well. If the study is designed too narrowly, the results will not be useful or accurate for policy and planning.

Additionally, we suggest the following amendments to ensure a comprehensive analysis:

- 1. It should assess visitor industry employment; not just the number of jobs, but the quality, the benefits, and the changes in each over time. Coming out of the pandemic, many hotels have less staff and less cumulative work hours than in 2019, even after adjusting for occupancy. Nor did this start with COVID it is part of a long-term nationwide trend. What the industry provides in good, quality jobs impacts the financial benefit of tourism to our communities and our state both in terms of wages and tax income. It impacts quality of life for residents. It impacts residents' ability to afford housing, food, and other necessities. It impacts whether people need to have second and third jobs to survive, which in turn impacts childcare costs, healthcare costs, etc. To the extent tourism as an industry fails to provide for workers and residents, we would argue that it leads to outmigration, increased homelessness, and the inability to staff the visitor industry itself as well as a variety of other industries critical to our lives and futures.
- 2. It should examine the capacity of resources that residents and visitors alike rely on, and the limits and costs on scaling them up. This includes clean drinking water, ability to import food and other goods and necessities, power generation, wastewater treatment, solid waste disposal, roadways and other transportation infrastructure, public services, and more. These impacts feed into one another as well, and this should be taken into account to the extent possible. For instance, increased traffic doesn't just mean taking longer to get to and from work; it also impacts the cost of childcare, the

ability for people to hold multiple jobs, emergency response times, actual access to recreational and cultural resources, etc.

3. It should study other locales facing overtourism. It would be useful to know what interventions may have been tried in other places, and their results.

Thank you for your consideration.

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 8:44:47 AM Testimony for TOU on 2/2/2023 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapua Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee members,

Currently there are no controls for tourism and there has been no real study on the impacts of Tourism on Hawai'i lands, water, resources and people most especially the Kanaka Maoli people.

Everywhere in Hawai'i, communities are rising up to protect beaches, marine life, and sacred spaces that are being trampled on. The many tourists who ignore "keep out" or "no lifeguard" on duty signs are not only a danger to themselves but to residents who put themselves at risk to rescue them many times with little or no thanks.

Thank you for this bill it's a good first step to understanding the real impacts of tourism.

I would like to see a complete and in-depth environmental impact study for tourism done.

Me ke Aloha,

Kapua Medeiros Waimānalo Resident kapua40@gmail.com