



## Testimony to the House Committee on Tourism

Representative Adrian K. Tam, Chair

Representative Shirley Ann Templo, Vice Chair

## Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Chair Gregggor Ilagan

Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey

**Wednesday, February 5, 2026, at 9:30AM**

**Conference Room 423 & Videoconference**

### RE: HB2602 Relating to Sustainable Tourism Infrastructure

Aloha e Chair Tam, Vice Chair Templo, Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports House Bill 2602 (HB2602), which establishes the sustainable tourism infrastructure matching grant program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to support one-time capital investments that advance measurable sustainability and climate resilience outcomes within the State's visitor industry.

HB 2602 directly advances the Travel & Tourism pillar of the Chamber's 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii, which calls for tourism strategies that protect and enhance Hawaii's natural resources, improve the quality of visitor experiences, and build long-term industry resilience. The Travel & Tourism pillar recognizes the need for innovations that strengthen environmental stewardship — a core foundation of Hawaii's brand and economic vitality. Protecting our resources and preserving the State's natural beauty is essential to ensuring long term viability of a visitor industry that supports thousands of jobs across the state.

Strong public support in the Green Fee has highlighted the market demand for efforts aimed at sustainable tourism. With such high demand, it is evident that not all proposals may be able to be supported by limited Green Fee funding. This bill builds from the momentum of the Green Fee by continuing to encourage capital projects with clear sustainability outcomes that safeguarding the natural assets that are integral to our economy, culture, and environment. HB 2602's matching grant approach leverages local and private participation, encouraging collaboration and greater collective investment in infrastructure that benefits tourism and community alike.

We respectfully ask to pass House Bill 2602 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII



foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.