



Ke'ena Kuleana Ho'okipa O'Hawai'i
Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
[kelepona tel 808 973 2255](tel:8089732255)
[kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253](tel:8089732253)
[kahua pa'a web hawaii tourismauthority.org](http://hawaii tourismauthority.org)

[Josh Green, M.D.](#)
Governor

[John De Fries](#)
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND ARTS

Wednesday, March 29, 2023
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of
**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 122 / SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 178
REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH A 2023 ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC
COOPERATION HAWAII DELEGATION TEAM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2023 ASIA-
PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION EVENTS IN SEATTLE AND SAN FRANCISCO**

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer comments in support of the intent of SR122/SCR178, requesting the governor to establish a 2023 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Hawai'i delegation team to participate in the 2023 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Events in Seattle and San Francisco. The theme of the conference is to promote cultural and language diversity and highlight the indigenous peoples throughout the communities of the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) as a regional economic forum has been leveraging the growing interdependence of Asia-Pacific since 1989. Hawai'i was proud to host this forum in 2011. The events in Seattle and San Francisco provide a unique opportunity to continue to develop and continue to strengthen relationships with the 21 members that make up APEC.

We support the intent of SR122/SCR178 and stand ready to provide a recommendation for trade show participants from Hawai'i to be included in the APEC Hawai'i Delegation team.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments.