



TESTIMONY OF DANIEL NĀHO'OPI'I
INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO, HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM
Tuesday, January 30, 2024 10:00 a.m.
In consideration of
HB 1519
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY

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

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) supports this measure, which explicitly authorizes general obligation bonds as a method to fund maintenance and improvements to the Hawai'i Convention Center and authorizes the expenditure of funds currently in the Convention Center Enterprise Fund.

Over the quarter century that the Hawai'i Convention Center has been operating, it has hosted high-profile international convenings, national and local conferences and conventions, beloved festivals and events, athletic events attracting participants locally and from abroad, and served as an important hub for the state's response to emergencies.

HTA wholeheartedly agrees with the finding in this measure that "funding for capital improvements is urgently needed to ensure that this critical piece of state infrastructure can continue to be used to its full potential."

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.