



Report of the 2024 Legislative PIG

August 29, 2024

Establishment

The 2024 Legislative PIG was established at the September 28, 2023 HTA Board Meeting by a unanimous vote of all members present ([minutes](#) | [recording](#) – discussion begins at 3:41). The following members were likewise appointed to the PIG by a unanimous vote:

- Jim McCully, Chair
- Sherry Menor-McNamara, Vice Chair (*board term expired June 30, 2024*)
- Stephanie Iona
- Blaine Miyasato
- Mahina Paishon
- Mike White

Activities

Ahead of the 2024 Legislative session opening, the PIG participated in meetings with staff to identify bills for close tracking and to develop more granular positions on each – building upon the broader positions outlined in Board Resolution 2023-3 ([October 26, 2023 board packet](#) – resolution on pages 276-277).

Session Outcomes

The following three bills with major implications for HTA were passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Josh Green:

[HB1800](#): Relating To The State Budget

After the cessation of HTA's direct funding from the Transient Accommodations Tax into the Tourism Special Fund in 2021, funding of HTA relied on federal pandemic recovery funds in FY2022 and FY2023, and a special provision of funds through the Governor's direction and the Department of Budget & Finance for FY2024. In contrast for FY 2025 HTA was granted a legislative appropriation of General Funds in the amount of \$63 million for FY2025. However the bill also produced a legislative earmark of \$3.5mm and included increased restrictions on HTA by adding five new program IDs. The future funding of HTA will likely be from General Funds.

Besides the \$63 million in operating funds, HB1800 appropriated a \$34 million expenditure ceiling for the Convention Center Enterprise Special Fund, and \$64 million in bond funding for repairs to the Convention Center roof.

[SB3364](#): Relating To Destination Management

Requires the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to perform destination management action plans for each county and to perform specific actions in each plan. The bill modifies the powers and duties of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. It repeals the exemption of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority from administrative supervision of boards and commissions. It requires the strategic tourism

management plan to include statewide destination management and regenerative tourism efforts and programs. It renames the tourism marketing plan as the strategic tourism management plan.

SB2659: Regenerative Tourism

Incorporates a regenerative framework into the Hawai'i State Planning Act by expanding objectives and policies for the visitor industry. Requires periodic updates to the Tourism Functional Plan, specifies elements to be included in the Tourism Functional plan, and requires an update to the Tourism Functional Plan to be submitted to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025. This bill establishes an unfunded mandate.

Recommendations

Following a debrief of the 2024 Legislative PIG's activities at an August 19, 2024 meeting the PIG discussed the need for immediately chartering the 2025 Legislative PIG so as to be best prepared for the upcoming session.

The 2024 Legislative PIG agreed that the formation of a 2025 Legislative PIG is critical to the board's better understanding of future legislation that may affect the Authority. The PIG then discussed that there is an ongoing board conversation on establishing and appointing members to various committees. It was noted that during the July agenda there was a proposal to establish an Executive Standing Committee that would include, among other things, "matters relating to legislative and governmental affairs." The PIG discussed that this committee would be subject to public meeting rules, while in contrast a PIG can provide for rapid evaluation of, and response to, legislative developments.