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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 TOURISM

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

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 1238
RELATING TO TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS HOSTING PLATFORMS

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 in support of the intent of HB1238, which is to allow the counties to regulate transient accommodation hosting platforms.

While the number of visitors to Hawai'i has increased over the years, there have been no major increases to the number of traditional units which include hotel, condo hotel and timeshare units in the past decade. From 2009 to 2019, the state experienced an increase in visitor arrivals from 6 million to over 10 million, a 59.5% increase in arrivals without a corresponding increase in accommodations. We believe these additional visitors likely stayed in non-traditional units, including short-term vacation rentals.

Our community-driven Destination Management Action Plans across Hawai'i clearly articulate a desire to manage visitor accommodations – specifically, taking steps to limit and regulate short-term vacation rentals in neighborhoods and other sensitive areas in our communities. We are supportive of state and county efforts to advance that priority, and we support the intent of this measure to provide counties the tools needed to effectively regulate short-term vacation rentals through the hosting platforms that provide booking services.

HTA has worked closely with the counties in their efforts to manage short-term vacation rentals, and we will continue to do so. We appreciate this opportunity to provide these comments in support of the intent of HB1238. Mahalo.