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OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY COUNCIL

MEMO TO: EACP-6 File

F R O M: Shane M. Sinenci, Chair



Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural Preservation Committee

SUBJECT: **TRANSMITTAL OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL RELATING TO VISITOR IMPACTS TO COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL RESOURCES** (EACP-6)

The attached legislative proposal pertains to Item 6 on the Committee's agenda.

eacp:ltr:006afile03:kmat

Attachment

# Resolution

No. \_\_\_\_\_

URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO  
REQUIRE TOUR, AIRLINE, AND CRUISE  
OPERATORS TO SHOW VISITORS AN  
INFORMATIONAL VIDEO ABOUT SAFE AND  
SUSTAINABLE TOURISM PRIOR TO ENTERING  
THE STATE

WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of the most popular travel destinations in the United States and receives millions of visitors of all ages from across the world; and

WHEREAS, many visitors are uninformed about the risks of engaging in outdoor activities, causing them to exercise poor judgment, which can lead to life-threatening situations; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2017, the Honolulu Civil Beat reported, “Nearly one tourist dies each week while engaged in common vacation activities like swimming, snorkeling, hiking, and going on scenic drives”; and

WHEREAS, visitors who are inexperienced or unfamiliar with Hawaii’s seasonal, deceptive, and unpredictable ocean conditions often overestimate their swimming abilities and find themselves in precarious situations; and

WHEREAS, State of Hawaii Department of Health records show the following:

- Over the past decade, the rate of drowning for visitors was 13 times the national average and 10 times the rate for residents, with snorkeling the leading activity associated with drowning;
- Visitors represented 55 percent of the 682 ocean drownings from 2008 to 2017;
- From 2009 to 2017, 81 percent of 362 spinal-cord injuries were incurred by visitors, with 142 of the injuries resulting from waves; and

## **Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

WHEREAS, the visitor industry has helped produce a recreational safety video, but critics have regarded it as inadequate; and

WHEREAS, a thoughtful, well-produced informational video could help visitors become more aware of the State's environment and culture, while reducing the number of accidents and fatalities, if it explained:

- the concept of the Aloha Spirit;
- the importance of preserving the environment by keeping the Islands clean and free from litter and waste;
- the importance of conserving Hawaii's precious fresh water and marine ecosystems; and
- the importance of ocean-safety practices and prevention; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the Hawaii State Legislature to enact legislation to require tour, airline, and cruise operators to show visitors a thoughtful, well-produced informational video upon entering the State or embarking on tour activities in the State; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii; the Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker of the House, State of Hawaii; the Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, Senate President, State of Hawaii; Chris Tatum, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hawaii Tourism Authority; and the Executive Committee of the Hawaii State Association of Counties.