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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:006afile04:kmat

Attachment

Resolution

No. _____

URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH IMPACT FEES FOR TOURISTS

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, visitor arrivals are setting records; and

WHEREAS, according to statistics compiled by the Hawaii Tourism Authority, 9,954,548 visitors came to the Hawaiian Islands in 2018, a 5.9 percent increase from 2017; and

WHEREAS, visitor arrivals are up 5.2 percent for the first eight months of 2019, as compared to the same period in 2018; and

WHEREAS, although visitors contribute to the local economy, they can also have a serious impact on the State's physical infrastructure, natural resources, traffic, society, and culture; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's natural environment is being damaged from serious overuse; and

WHEREAS, it is important for residents and visitors alike that Hawaii's precious natural environment is preserved and protected for future generations; and

WHEREAS, travel destinations around the world have established tourism impact fees to maintain infrastructure, fund visitor services, and protect the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes the cost of maintaining infrastructure, providing visitor services, and preserving the natural environment should be the shared responsibility of both residents and the nearly ten million tourists who visit the Hawaiian Islands every year; now, therefore,

Resolution No. _____

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

1. That it urges the Hawaii State Legislature to enact legislation to:
 - a. establish impact fees for non-Hawaii residents;
 - b. add an impact fee to the cost of each airline ticket for non-Hawaii residents and cruise ship ticket purchased by visitors to Hawaii; and
 - c. share a pro rata portion of the proceeds generated from impact fees with the counties to supplement the county budgets of departments to address impacts by tourism, such as those dealing with parks and recreation, fire protection and rescue, ocean safety, emergency services, and law enforcement; and
2. That 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.