



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

January 31, 2018

1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 225

RE: RELATING TO AN AIRPORTS CORPORATION – SB 2996

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Espero and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gary Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable. The Hawaii Business Roundtable supports Senate Bill 2996, relating to the establishment of an Airports Corporation.

The Hawaii Business Roundtable supports our Visitor Industry and believes that a world class airport system is a necessary and vital element of our visitor infrastructure. We concur with the legislation that “coordinated planning and development of the State's air transportation system and infrastructure would be achieved more effectively by establishing and giving a separate state entity overall jurisdiction and responsibility for aeronautics and the State's airports.”

The Visitor Industry continues to contribute to the creation of jobs and economic growth. It is a vital component of Hawaii's economy and we must all do what we can to protect it from increasing competition on a global level. An Airports Corporation will be able deliver timely improvements and innovations that will be required in our rapidly changing world. World class airports deliver ever changing customer experiences and comfort while maintaining a high level of efficiency, necessary to maintain costs at a reasonable level for all.

Having an Airports Corporation with a Board and Staff, focused on its customers, will provide us all with the world class airport system we all need and deserve.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Gary K. Kai, Executive Director
Hawaii Business Roundtable