



**HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM**

**ASSOCIATION**

2270 Kalakaua Ave., Suite 1506  
Honolulu, HI 96815  
Phone: (808) 923-0407  
Fax: (808) 924-3843  
E-Mail: [hlla@hawaiihotels.org](mailto:hlla@hawaiihotels.org)  
Website: [www.hawaiihotels.org](http://www.hawaiihotels.org)



**A Tradition of Kokua for 35 Years  
Are You Walking???**  
[www.charitywalkhawaii.org](http://www.charitywalkhawaii.org)

**TESTIMONY OF GEORGE SZIGETI  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM ASSOCIATION**

**February 4, 2013**

**RE: SB 1360 Relating to the General Excise Tax**

Good afternoon Chairperson Galuteria & Chairperson Baker and members of the Senate Committees on Tourism & Hawaiian Affairs, and Commerce & Consumer Affairs. I am George Szigeti, President & CEO of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association is a statewide association of hotels, condominiums, timeshare companies, management firms, suppliers, and other related firms and individuals. Our membership includes over 150 lodging properties representing over 48,000 rooms. Our lodging members range from the 3,499 rooms of the Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort to the 4 rooms of the Bougainvillea Bed & Breakfast on the Big Island.

The Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association supports SB 1360 Relating to the General Excise Tax. This measure provides a GET exemption, otherwise called a "pass-thru", of employees wages and benefits.

This measure provides the same management opportunities to the timeshare and condo-tel sectors of our industry that the full service hotels currently have, as well as providing opportunities for local management companies, especially small ones.

I appreciate this opportunity to testify.