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President and Chief Executive Officer

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## **Statement by George D. Szigeti, President and CEO, Hawai'i Tourism Authority**

### **RE: Hawai'i's Visitor Statistics Results for April 2018**

**HONOLULU** – George D. Szigeti, president and CEO of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), issued the following statement commenting on Hawai'i's visitor statistics results for April 2018.

"Hawai'i tourism continued to enjoy the benefits of increased air seat capacity and strong travel demand during the shoulder month of April, as visitor spending grew by 13.4 percent to \$1.42 billion. Hawai'i's key visitors markets in the mainland U.S., Japan and Canada all produced admirable results, but it was the combined performance of the other international markets, with a 34.7 percent increase in visitor spending, that helped solidify April's success.

"Hawai'i's four island counties each generated excellent visitor spending totals in April, with O'ahu leading the way with an increase of 15.9 percent. It was especially heartening to see Kaua'i produce such strong results after enduring the record-setting rainfall and destructive flooding that shut down the north shore beyond Wainiha, including the popular Hā'ena State Park and Kalalau Trail.

"April's visitor spending elevated the tax revenue that tourism has generated for the State of Hawai'i so far in 2018 to \$728.5 million, which is an increase of 10.8 percent, or \$71.3 million more than last year.

"A third of the year is now in the books and the tourism industry has turned in strong results. The credit is shared by the thousands of tourism professionals who are committed to excellence in service and making a vacation in the Hawaiian Islands a memorable event for our visitors. On behalf of the HTA, we extend our warmest mahalo to all of those employed in our state's largest and leading industry for their hard work and dedication to sharing the aloha spirit every day."

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