



STAFF REPORT TO THE BOARD

Agenda No. 6

September 8, 2025

REQUEST: To create a CEO Search Permitted Interactive Group (PIG)

FACTS:

1. The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) has been without a permanent President & CEO since August 2023.
2. On August 9, 2024, HTA entered into a contract with Bishop & Company for the coordination and management of an executive search for the HTA President & CEO.
3. Applications were received; however, the process was halted due to final compensation and state employment benefits.
4. Governor Josh Green signed Act 132 (SLH 2025) on May 29, 2025 which makes the HTA President and CEO a position appointed by the Board, with the advice and consent of the Senate. Furthermore it provides that the HTA President and CEO's length of term of service shall be set by written contract by the Board.
5. Governor Josh Green signed Act 168 (SLH 2025) on June 3, 2025 which repealed the exemption of the President and Chief Executive Officer of the HTA from the State's Employees' Retirement System.
6. The salary of the President & CEO shall be no more than the Lt. Governor.
7. The establishment of a CEO Search PIG is necessary for the board to resume the search and hiring of HTA's President & CEO.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the CEO Search PIG is to:

1. Work with HTA's executive search firm and review qualified candidates' resumes for the position of the HTA President & CEO.
2. Conduct interviews of qualified candidates to narrow down to 2 candidates.
3. Develop the contract terms of the President & CEO.
4. Report back to the full board the top 2 candidates for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend the board approve the creation of a CEO Search PIG.