



**For Immediate Release: February 12, 2016**  
HTA Release (16-08)

**Statement by George D. Szigeti, President and CEO, Hawaii Tourism Authority**  
**RE: HTA Applauds State's Efforts to Prevent Mosquito Borne Illnesses**

**HONOLULU** – George D. Szigeti, president and CEO of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, issued the following statement in response to the emergency proclamation signed today by Hawaii Gov. David Ige.

"I want to emphasize to our visitor industry partners and to travelers planning a trip to Hawaii that nothing has changed from before. Today's proclamation enables the State of Hawaii to take steps to prevent an emergency from occurring and does not mean a state of emergency exists.

"Safety is always the top priority for Hawaii's visitor industry. This preventive action by Gov. David Ige gives officials the ability to increase staffing and add resources when needed to reduce the risk of illness caused by mosquitoes.

"There is no reason for travelers or business groups to cancel their travel plans to any of the Hawaiian Islands. No travel advisories have been issued for Hawaii by any health organization. We encourage travelers to have confidence in booking a trip to Hawaii and look forward to welcoming them with aloha."

Following is the link to the news release issued today by Gov. David Ige announcing the emergency proclamation: <http://governor.hawaii.gov/newsroom/governors-office-news-release-state-mobilizes-to-prevent-mosquito-borne-illnesses/>. A link to the proclamation is included at the end of the release.

**About HTA**

The [Hawaii Tourism Authority](http://hawaii tourism authority.org) (HTA) is responsible for strategically managing the State of Hawaii's marketing initiatives to support tourism. HTA's goal is to optimize tourism's benefits for Hawaii, while being attentive to the interests of travelers, the community and visitor industry. Established in 1998 to support Hawaii's leading industry and largest employer, HTA continually strives to help ensure the sustainability of tourism's success.

For more information about HTA, please visit [www.hawaii tourism authority.org](http://www.hawaii tourism authority.org). Follow updates about HTA on Facebook, Twitter (@HawaiiHTA) and its YouTube Channel.

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