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

RE: HTA Earns President's "E" Award for Export Service of Tourism

HONOLULU – George D. Szigeti, president and CEO of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), issued the following statement commenting on today's presentation of the President's "E" Award to HTA by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker for Export Service of Tourism.

"We are thrilled to receive such a distinguished award for the recognition this brings to the success of exporting tourism and how it benefits Hawai'i's residents and businesses statewide. All of Hawai'i's tourism industry shares in the earning of the President's 'E' Award, as everyone's collaborative efforts contributed to making this honor possible.

"For each of the past four years, more than 40 percent of Hawai'i's total visitor expenditures have been generated by international visitors. HTA is committed to deepening and strengthening Hawai'i's tourism base by continuing to expand Hawai'i's reach to travelers worldwide."

Background

HTA received the President's "E" Award from U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker today at a special ceremony in Washington, DC. U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard joined Secretary Pritzker in making the presentation to George D. Szigeti, HTA president and CEO, and Charlene Chan, HTA director of communications.

HTA was one of 123 U.S. companies to receive the President's "E" Award this year. The "E" Awards are the highest recognition any U.S. entity may receive for making a significant contribution to the expansion of U.S. exports. Criteria for the award is based on four years of successive export growth and case studies which demonstrate valuable support to exporters resulting in increased exports for the company's clients.

President Kennedy revived the World War II "E" symbol of excellence to honor and provide recognition to America's exporters. The "E" Award Program was established by Executive Order 10978 on December 5, 1961. U.S. companies are nominated for the "E" Award for Export Service through the Department of Commerce's U.S. Commercial Service office network, located within the Department's International Trade Administration, which has offices in 108 U.S. cities and more than 70 countries to help U.S. exporters.

About the Hawai'i Tourism Authority

The [Hawai'i Tourism Authority](http://hawaii-tourism-authority.org) is responsible for strategically managing the State of Hawai'i's marketing initiatives to support tourism. HTA's goal is to optimize tourism's benefits for Hawai'i, while being attentive to the interests of travelers, the community and visitor industry. Established in 1998 to support Hawai'i'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. Follow updates about HTA on Facebook, Twitter (@HawaiiHTA) and its YouTube Channel.

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