



January 4, 2023

Josh Green
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor,

The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR) and our members congratulate you on your recent election to the state's highest elected office and the beginning of your term ahead. ORR is comprised of over 40 organizations representing over 110,000 businesses across the outdoor recreation economy – which generates \$862 billion in economic output and 4.5 million jobs, comprising 1.9% of the nation's GDP and 3% of all employees in the country according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. This important sector grew three times as fast as the overall economy in 2021.

The outdoor recreation economy is also a major contributor in Hawaii. In 2021, Hawaii's outdoor recreation economy [contributed](#) \$4.4 billion in value added (4.8% of GDP) and 46,414 jobs, growing a stunning 47.3% from 2020-2021. Hawaii can attribute this success to outstanding recreation opportunities in Boating/Fishing, RVing, Climbing/Hiking/Tent Camping, Hunting/Shooting/Trapping, and Motorcycling/ATVing, among other activities. And outdoor recreation contributes much more, including increased rural prosperity, improved public health, recruitment and retention of talented employees across sectors, and environmental stewardship and responsible resource development.

To bolster their outdoor recreation economies, 18 states across the political spectrum (most recently Massachusetts, Arkansas, and Maryland) have created offices of outdoor recreation, which serve as central champions for the outdoor recreation economy. Their efforts include economic development initiatives, stakeholder outreach, conservation and stewardship of public lands and waters, youth engagement, and unifying the business voice to engage diverse public and private stakeholders. OREC offices are also integral to forming Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans, which serve as guides for all public outdoor recreation in urban and rural neighborhoods, cities, and regions, and are required to receive funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

We would appreciate a meeting with you and your staff to further discuss your state's fast-growing outdoor recreation economy and ways we might support your efforts. ORR stands ready to help grow this essential part of the economy and contribute to the well-being of your residents and visitors alike.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association
Association of Marina Industries
Boat Owners Association of the United States
CHM Government Services
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Association of RV Parks and
Campgrounds

National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
Outdoor Writers Association of America
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
RV Industry Association
Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
VF Corporation