

Pacific Business News (Honolulu) - July 12, 2002

<http://pacific.bizjournals.com/pacific/stories/2002/07/08/daily59.html>

## PACIFIC BUSINESS NEWS

### LATEST NEWS

July 12, 2002

#### China tourism waits for action in Washington

Howard Dicus

While it's promising that charter flights will soon fly to Hawaii from Beijing and Shanghai, true Chinese tourism must wait for action that is out of Hawaii's control, leaders of Hawaii's Chinese community have been told.

Shen Huirong, who is in charge of international liaison for the China National Tourism Administration, and Shen Jianxiang, the executive GM of China Merchants International Travel Co., briefed local business people at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel on prospects for China tourism and what it will take to get it.

"A destination country agreement must be in place," Johnson Choi, executive director of the Hong Kong China Hawaii Chamber of Commerce said the 60 attendees were told. "There are 20 countries, most of them in Southeast Asia, that have agreements with China. United States of America does not."

Choi reported that the Shens told the briefing, sponsored by the China Hawaii Investment Corp., LWK Enterprises LLC, and Hawaii Chinese Tourism Association, that reports about Chinese airlines coming to Hawaii are premature until Beijing and Washington strike such an agreement.

"Hawaii cannot cut a separate agreement with China," Choi said. "Travel agents are not allowed to promote a destination like Hawaii that China does not have an agreement with."

The Chinese officials have told their Hawaii counterparts that the most popular outbound travel destinations so far are Hong Kong, Macau and Thailand. "Travel package cost is a major factor," Choi said. "But on the hand, after reaching their destinations, they outspent any tourist groups including the Japanese and the Americans."

It is thought that the administration in Washington is not averse to a travel agreement with Beijing provided it is fully reciprocal. President Bush lived in China when his father was ambassador to Beijing years before his own presidency.

© 2002 American City Business Journals Inc.

→ [Web reprint information](#)

All contents of this site © American City Business Journals Inc. All rights reserved.