



TESTIMONY OF DANIEL NĀHO'OPI'I
INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO, HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 2:00 p.m.
In consideration of
GM 595
NOMINATION OF JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members,

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer our support for the nomination of experienced hospitality executive and veteran public servant James Kunane Tokioka to lead the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT).

With over two decades of experience in the hospitality industry preceding nearly a quarter century in public service, Mr. Tokioka is uniquely qualified to serve in the role of DBEDT Director overseeing the state's economic development activities and entities, including the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

Our experience with Mr. Tokioka has shown him to be a strong leader who is fair and cool under pressure. Perhaps the most consequential example of these qualities is Mr. Tokioka's exemplary leadership in the immediate response and longer term economic recovery efforts in the wake of the 2023 Maui wildfires.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority has valued a productive working relationship with Mr. Tokioka. We support this next step in his honorable career of public service, and appreciate this opportunity to express that support before this committee.

Mahalo.