



## KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION



LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR  
ADRIAN K. KAMALI'I  
CHAIRPERSON

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Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation  
Hon. Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Hon. Will Espero, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 25, 2008 – 1:15pm  
Conference Room 224

Testimony in Support of GM 464: Consideration and Confirmation of Poni Elliot Kamau'u

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Espero and members of the committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Poni Kamau'u.

I apologize for not being able to be present as I am away on a business trip.

The King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, Hawai'i's longest running parade, celebrating its 93<sup>rd</sup> parade and honoring Hawai'i's first monarch, Kamehameha 'Ekahi, since 1871, continues its kuleana, responsibility, to provide a venue to honor such a leader. In order for us to be as fully effective as we need to be, our commission seats must be filled with talented and committed individuals.

It is my pleasure to lend my voice of support to ask for your consideration and confirmation of Poni Kamau'u.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adrian K. Kamali'i, Chairman

King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN  
IN SUPPORT OF

CECILIA K. AKIM, GM-463  
PONI ELLIOT KAMAUU, GM-464

FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE  
KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION  
Tuesday, March 25, 12:30 p.m., Conference Room 224, State Capitol

Chair Fukunaga and Vice Chair Espero  
Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Taxation

Aloha mai kakou

I have the privilege as a friend to come before you to testify in support of the appointments of Ms. Cecelia K. Akim and Mr. Poni Kamau'u to the position of commissioner on the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. I know both of them to be outstanding citizens and keepers of the Native Hawaiian culture.

Our relationship began at least 45 years ago, if not longer, when as young women, Cissy and I danced the hula for Poni's mother, renowned kumu hula, Aunty Hoakalei Kamau'u, eventually leading to Cissy and I being selected as na kumu hula for the Model Cities Program. Throughout the years, we have collectively influenced the lives of many by our teaching, Poni and Cissy in hula, oli, and cultural classes; me in more activist roles in advocating for our people in the community and in the legislature.

What I do know about these two dear friends is that they are committed individuals; they're not afraid to work. They have a love for our ali'i and of our culture. They know Hawaiian protocol.

Further, Poni brings a joyful spirit to whatever he is involved in. He and his family have led the Prince Kuhio Parade along Kalakaua Avenue for at least three consecutive years now and his whole family have been involved in the Aloha Week Royal Court for generations.

Along with friend, Maxeen Shea, and the others up for appointment to this same commission, they will make a great team.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony in support of both Poni Kamauu and Cissy Akim for appointment to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.