



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 465: Consideration and Confirmation of Jacqueline Rossetti

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Jacqueline Rossetti.

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 93rd 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 Jacqueline Rossetti. Also known as Skylark, she has been an integral fixture in the Hawaiian music scene. I look forward to her expertise and passion for nā mea Hawai'i.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Adrian K. Kamali'i, Chairman

King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



RUSS K. SAITO
Comptroller

Barbara A. Annis
Deputy Comptroller

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119**

TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION
ON
March 25, 2008

RELATING TO CONFIRMATION TO THE KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION
COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JACQUELINE LEILANI
ROSSETTI

Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on the confirmation to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission (the Commission), gubernatorial nominee, Jacqueline Leilani Rossetti. The Department of Accounting and General Services recommends that Ms. Rosetti be recommended for confirmation.

HRS Section 8-5 requires that the Commission have a member from the island of Hawaii. Ms. Rosetti is from the island of Hawaii. Her appointment fulfills the statutory requirement for representation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Ellen J. Pelissero

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March 12, 2008

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair and Members
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 216
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hawaii Island Commissioner Selection for the Governors' King Kamehameha
Celebration Commission for 2008 – 2009: (GM) Number 465

Dear Chair Fukunaga and Members:

It has been my privilege to have known and worked with Jacqueline "Skylark" Rossetti for nearly 30 years. A woman of many accomplishments, I list below only a few:

As a co-founder of the 31-year-old Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards and the Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts, Skylark helped guide the ceremonies from a simple radio station promotion in 1978 into the economic engine for the Hawai'i music industry that it has become. And, as a member of the Board of Governors of the Academy since its inception, she assisted in one of the Academy's greatest achievements: securing recognition of Hawaiian music from the Grammy Awards.

Sensing the importance of documenting as much of the Hawaiian cultural experience as possible, while at KCCN, Skylark Rossetti produced the Heritage Series – recorded interviews with the likes of Gabby Pahinui, the Farden Family, Moe Keale, Aunty Genoa Keawe, Uncle Sol K. Bright, and so many more voices now stilled – extensive, in depth interviews of cultural icons that we will have forever because of her impetus. A complete set of those interviews is today archived in the Smithsonian Institution's Folk-Life Museum.

Skylark Rossetti was also the first to broadcast live from Hilo's Merrie Monarch Festival – prepping her broadcasts with research we undertook collaboratively to provide background information on the dances, kumu hula, costumes, flowers, judging and traditions that enhanced the audience experience. That concept is now utilized each year by the broadcasters who have followed.

Jacqueline "Skylark" Rossetti knows her culture and knows how to put on a show. I can think of no better qualified representative of the Island of Hawai'i for the Governor's King Kamehameha Celebration Commission 2008-2009 than Skylark Rossetti.

Respectfully, I request your committee's kind consideration of Skylark Rossetti for this important commission.

Mahalo piha,

/s/

Ellen Pelissero

Terry Plunkett
554 Keolu Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

March 11, 2008

Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Economic Development and Taxation
Hawai'i State Capitol Building, Room 216
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Reference # (GM) Number 465

Aloha mai,

This letter of reference, in support of Jacquelyn "Skylark" Rosetti is submitted to endorse her candidacy as a member of the King Kamehameha Commission. I do this with the knowledge that her education, skills and experience provide her with credentials far above the requirements for this position.

Strong language, I agree, however this comes from having been affiliated with her for over fifteen years while I lived in Hilo, Hawaii. It was there that I became aware of her achievements as an active member and Board of Directors of the Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association, East Hawaii Region. I served as the chairman of the King Kamehameha Statue Committee. She was our cultural advisor and provided leadership as the public relations committee chair and the fund raising chair for the \$134,000 project. In addition she was instrumental in coordinating the King Kamehameha Statue Celebration Ceremonies for the past seven years. She secured the participants and performers and emceed the event.

Previous to our close working relationship, she was known to me as a Kamehameha Schools graduate, a radio personality, a popular mistress of ceremonies, a hawaiian culture educator with the Department of Education (East Hawaii Division),

She is steeped in Hawaiian education and culture. Highly respected in the Hawaiian Community and is noted for the sound of her gentle voice and the many leadership roles with the Na Hoku Hanohano organization. She continues to volunteer and fill the needs of others. She would do well as a contributor the leadership role of the commission for she works well with others, has the patience that's needed for working with Hawaiian organizations and the many personalities and agendas of the members with whom she would serve.

She has, in addition to all of the events and activities in her life, raised her two boys and her daughter as single parent. She has prevailed.