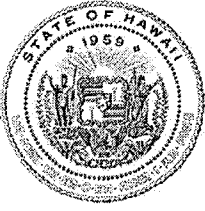


GM 231



TOURISM LIAISON

Hawai'i State Capitol, Office of the Governor, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
MARSHA WIENERT
TOURISM LIAISON

Telephone: (808) 586-2362
Fax: (808) 586-0019

Statement of
MARSHA WIENERT
Tourism Liaison
Office of the Governor
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM
Thursday, March 25, 2010
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of
GM 231
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAI'I TOURISM AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, CHARLENE "CHA" MAE KU'UPUAALA THOMPSON, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE 6-30-2014.**

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Galuteria and Members of the Senate Committee on Tourism.

We strongly support the Governor's nomination of Charlene "Cha" Thompson to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Board of Directors.

Ms. Thompson has been a major influence in Hawai'i's visitor industry for many years. Her commitment to Hawai'i's cultural heritage through music and dance has earned her the respect and appreciation of many throughout the world.

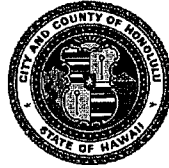
Her dedication, knowledge of the industry and her passion for Hawai'i have been an asset to the HTA and its board of directors. She has served on the Marketing and Strategic Planning Standing Committees and is a valuable member of the board.

Therefore, I urge you to support the Governor's nomination of Charlene "Cha" Thompson to the HTA Board of Directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support the nomination of Ms. Thompson.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 300 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-4141 • FAX: (808) 768-4242 • E-MAIL: mayor@honolulu.gov

MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu

Before a Hearing of the
COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

Thursday, March 25, 2010
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
**GM 231, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CHARLENE "CHA" MEA KUUPUAALA
THOMPSON,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2014**

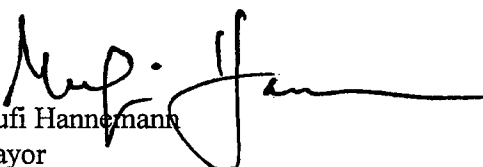
Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Galuteria, and Members of the Committee on Tourism.

I would like to express my support for the nomination of Gubernatorial Nominee, Charlene "Cha" Mea Kuupuaala Thompson, to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Her extensive business experience and success with Tihati Productions, featuring the cultural dances of Polynesia around the world, speaks for itself. From humble beginnings, it is now a thriving multi-million dollar company. Her continued service as a board member brings a lifetime of experience in the entertainment industry, highly valued within HTA's board of directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on GM 231.

Respectfully submitted,


Mufi Hannemann
Mayor



KAUAI
Chamber
of
Commerce

March 24, 2010

FAX: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office: 1-800-586-6659

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Tourism --- Thursday, March 25, 2010

Honorable Senators Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair, Brickwood Galuteria,
Vice Chair, and Committee members Senators Michelle N. Kidani,
Sam Slom and Shan S. Tsutsui

Dear Senators:

RE: Letter of Support on behalf of Mr. Kelvin Bloom and Ms. Cha Thompson

My name is Randall Francisco and I am President/CEO of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber comprises of 410 members, 650+ representatives and 6000+ employees from across 119 industry sectors. 87% of the members are small businesses. The Chamber appreciates the efforts being made by members of the Legislature in addressing the budget shortfall during this tough economy.

On behalf of the Chamber, I am writing to express support for Mr. Kelvin Bloom, President of Aston Hotels & Resorts and Ms. Cha Thompson of Tihati Productions.

They are both outstanding, successful, smart and proven business and community leaders who willingly contribute of their time. They will provide the necessary knowledge, experiences, perspectives and leadership needed at this critical time in Hawaii's number one industry. Mr. Bloom will indeed make the tough and right decisions as he has continued to demonstrate during his current term on the board. It is this experience that will help take the HTA through this continuing transition of our tourism-based economy.

Ms. Thompson whose business is a small business is a successful businesswoman and entrepreneur who will provide the knowledge, experience and common sense approach in helping to formulate key policy matters for the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at Kauai Chamber of Commerce, 245-7363. Mahalo Nui Loa and Aloha.

Randall Francisco
Kauai Chamber of Commerce



Hilton
Hawaiian Village
Beach Resort & Spa

February 22, 2010

Gerard C. Gibson
Area Vice President & Managing Director

The Honorable
Clarence Nishihara
Hawaii State Senate Room 213
415 S. Beretania
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Nishihara:

This letter is to introduce and wholeheartedly recommend Ms. Cha Thompson for a second term on the Hawaii Tourism Authority Board.

I have known Cha since 1980 when I was involved in the opening of the "world class" Hyatt Regency Maui. Tihati Productions opened and produced the longest running and most successful show Hawaii has ever experienced. There are not many entertainment successes in history that are still running after 30 years. In order to sustain any viable project, you must be creative, adaptable, business minded, and forward thinking. Ms. Thompson has all of these qualities and so many more.

In my many dealings with Cha over the years, I can tell you emphatically there is never a hidden agenda. She lives her life with honesty and openness and always looks to find the best result for any challenge.

As Executive Vice President of Tihati Productions, Cha Ku'upuaala Ortiz Thompson, has been serving Hawaii's visitor industry with Polynesian Spectaculars for more than a generation. Supplying all types of entertainment, the company employs over 900 talented professionals.

Cha has served on a variety of community organization boards including:

- Executive Board of Aloha United Way
- Palama Settlement
- Hawaii Council on Economic Education
- Vice President of the Institute of Human Services Board of Directors
- Commissioner with the Honolulu Police Commission ending her 8 years of service with her chairmanship on 2006
- Currently, she is a board member for the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA)

As we move forward together we must consider who will lead us through the present and into the future. We are fortunate to have a talented individual, such as Cha, who understands our now and our future. I am personally grateful that a person with Ms. Thompson's business credentials will be a candidate to serve on the Hawaii Tourism Board once again. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gerard C. Gibson



Official Sponsor of the U.S. Olympic Team

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Fax: 808 947 7800
email: jerry.gibson@hilton.com
Reservations: www.hilton.com or 1-800-HILTONS

FEB 23 REC'D



March 23, 2010

TO: Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

Committee on Tourism

FROM: Rob Welch

DATE: Thursday, March 25, 2010
Conference Room 229
2:45 p.m.

RE: **GM 229 and GM 231,**

Senator Nishihara and Senator Galuteria and members of the committee.

My name is Rob Welch and I am the General Manager of Marriott's Maui Ocean Club Resort. We strongly support **GM 229 Kelvin M. Bloom** and **GM231 Charlene "Cha" Mae Ku`upuaala Thompson** for their reappointment to serve on the Hawai'i Tourism Authority for another four year term.

Both individuals are well respected within the communities they live in but more importantly to the tourism industry as both individuals have extensive experience and understanding in our industry and culture.

Thank you for allowing me to offer my testimony.



March 24, 2010

Fax: Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office – 1800-586-6659

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Tourism.... Thursday, March 25, 2010

Honorable Senators Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair, Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair, and Committee members, Senators Michelle Kidani, Sam Slom and ShanTsutsui

Aloha Senators,

The reason for this letter today is in support of Mr. Kelvin Bloom and Mrs. Cha Thompson for their appointments to the Board of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

First, Mr. Kelvin Bloom – one might think that I am writing this letter on behalf of Mr. Bloom because he is our President at Aston Hotels. And they are absolutely correct. Who better would know what a great leader and man of vision he is than the people that work along side of him on a daily basis. Kelvin helps create a better way of life for our employees, owners and guests, and even with his busy schedule, he makes the time to visit each property throughout the islands to keep in contact with our employees who he treasures as the core of our business. As one of his General Managers, I consider it an honor to be on his team. Simply...proud of him!

Kelvin carried the Hawaii Tourism Board through a difficult transition and brought a person of great character and respect, not only by his former colleagues in the Legislature, but from all of us who have had the privilege of working with Mike McCartney. This demonstrates Kelvin's commitment to always search for the "best candidate" to do the job, and stand at their side along the way to help them achieve their goals and objectives.


I ask for your support of Mr. Bloom's appointment, and thank you in advance for allowing me to applaud his efforts.

And, there are no words that can describe Cha Thompson appropriately enough than to simply say, she is the most ideal person to be seated on a board that has the task of creating the path of growth for our tourism in Hawaii. Cha is Aloha, and she shares her incredible gift with visitors, tourism professionals, and everyone she works along side of to create a better way of life in our islands.

I have the pleasure of knowing "Cha" personally, as well as through the many business dealings we have shared over the years by booking her Tihati shows for our guests at our hotels in Maui, as well as on Oahu. There was never a request too small or challenging that she didn't find a way to accommodate and treat them with respect, and care. Her leadership, skills, and practical day to day management are assets she brings to every board or committee she is privileged to serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony on behalf of Mr. Bloom and Mrs. Thompson. I ask for your support with their appointment to the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Respectfully submitted,


Stephanie Iona
General Manager
Waimea Plantation Cottages
Waimea, Kauai, Hawaii



**HAWAII HOTEL & LODGING
ASSOCIATION**

2250 Kalakaua Ave., Suite 404-4
Honolulu, HI 96815
Phone: (808) 923-0407
Fax: (808) 924-3843
E-Mail: hha@hawaiihotels.org
Website: www.hawaiihotels.org



32nd Anniversary
Are You Walking???
May 15, 2010
(Always the 3rd Saturday in May)
www.charitywalkhawaii.org

**TESTIMONY OF MURRAY TOWILL
PRESIDENT
HAWAII HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION**

March 25, 2010

**RE: GM 231 Submitting for consideration & confirmation to the Board of Directors
of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee,
CHALENE "CHA" MAE KU'UPUAALA THOMPSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2014**

Good afternoon Chairman Nishihara and members of the Senate Committee on Tourism. I am Murray Towill, President of the Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association and I apologize for not being able to testify in person. I have a series of meetings on Maui today.

The Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association is a statewide association of hotels, condominiums, timeshare companies, management firms, suppliers, and other related firms and individuals. Our membership includes over 150 hotels representing over 48,000 rooms. Our hotel members range from the 2,680 rooms of the Hilton Hawaiian Village to the 4 rooms of the Bougainvillea Bed & Breakfast on the Big Island.

The Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association strongly supports the reappointment of Cha Thompson to the Hawaii Tourism Authority ("HTA") Board. Cha has been an active leader in our community and very knowledgeable about the visitor industry. We believe Cha will be an asset to the HTA with her extensive knowledge of the visitor industry, community and cultural issues.

We have had the pleasure of working with Cha on a number of occasions. Her expertise, professionalism and willingness to work to find viable solutions has made her a valuable addition to the HTA Board.

We urge your support on her reappointment. Again, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.