

GM 409

GM 410

EDT



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 2, 2010

Kaleiahiahi K. Fermantez
98-862 B Iho Place
Aiea, HI 96701

Re: Renomination to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Dear Ms. Fermantez,

Congratulations on being renominated by Governor Linda Lingle to serve on the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. To assist the Senate with its confirmation process, I would like to request that you submit the following information to my office by Friday, April 9, 2010.

- (1) A current resume with a list of references; and
- (2) A written statement that addresses the following:
 - (a) Why you wish to continue serving as a member of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission;
 - (b) Your perception of the role and responsibilities of a member of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission;
 - (c) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, provide an explanation of your qualifications for the position. Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would specifically aid you in decision-making as a member of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.
 - (d) Describe your accomplishments during your term of service thus far, and what you hope to accomplish during this new term?
 - (e) Name three qualities that best describe you and you believe set you apart from other potential candidates. How would the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission benefit from having a member with those qualities?

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CHIEF CLERK
CAROL TANIGUCHI

- (f) Describe your previous experience that you believe would make you an asset to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.
- (g) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

We have scheduled your confirmation hearing for Monday, April 12, 2010, at 1:15 p.m., in Conference Room 016, at the State Capitol, therefore, your prompt response in providing the requested information will ensure that the Senate confirmation process can proceed in a timely manner.

Mahalo for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Aloha Senator Fukunaga and committee members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to be considered as a nominee for the King Kamehameha Celebrations Commission. Thank you also for the opportunity to share my thoughts and experience as a testimony for my nomination process.

Growing up in Hawai'i, I have been very fortunate to be surrounded by the richness of our Hawaiian culture. The importance of family and working together, with our community, was instilled at a very early age, in which we often gathered to cater luau(s). The door to our home was always open to visitors and it was a welcomed chance to share our food, music, and aloha. The strumming of 'ukulele, guitar, base, and autoharp with the sweet sounds of piano and melodic voices warmed our family homes. Gatherings were a time to talk story of the olden days while enjoying the comforts of 'ono foods. It was a time to learn new things such as preparing and cooking, making crafts, or learning a hula or *mele*. This initiated my joy for hula before formally taking lessons on the grounds of Queen Emma's Summer Palace with Auntie Emma DeFrias. Here, I also learned to hike, pick flowers, and make lei. My appreciation for hula, our language, our 'ali'i and my Hawaiian values were further nurtured in my early years at Kamehameha Schools and later with my Auntie Emma Sharpe, Halau Hula 'o Maiki and other Hawaiian societies/clubs. Over the past 20 years, my cultural knowledge and love has been enriched through service, whether professionally in promotions and public relations, or personally, in volunteer work and as a mother. All that I have learned about our culture and about myself, as a Hawaiian, has become a treasure to me that I now, share with my children. Being a part of the King Kamehameha Celebrations Commission enables me to also share this gift of love with our community and beyond.

The King Kamehameha Celebrations Commission is comprised of representatives from the Hawaiian community therefore the responsibility of each commissioner to best represent and embody the ideas, thoughts, needs, and talents of our people is fundamental. Each commissioner gives a voice to each of our islands, our royal benevolent societies and Hawaiian neighborhoods, in commemorating our 'ali'i, King Kamehameha and his legacy for our people and all of Hawai'i. It also enables us to preserve traditions, perpetuate our culture and move forward in uplifting the values of Hawai'i. It is also vital for each commissioner to gather volunteers and resources to fulfill the needs of our festivities. As a commissioner, I pledge to fulfill all of these duties to the best of my ability so that our future generations may best be able to benefit from the joys and treasures of our history and our people.

As secretary for the Daughters and Sons of Hawaiian Warriors, Māmakakaua, I know the value and significance of preserving our Hawaiian culture. I have been a member since 1993, as is my mother, was my grandmother, and great-grandmother. At the time of my initiation, I was *hāpai* with my daughter, so she too is an auxiliary member. Our rich Hawaiian history is and has been a treasure of my family for many generations. Over the past 20 years, I have continued to enrich this love of our culture, through hula and service within our community. I have also promoted the beauties of Hawai'i, professionally, in marketing, and in positions, such as an Aloha Airlines flight attendant, and as a Visitor Services Coordinator for the Bishop Museum. In 2007, I was also privileged to promote May Day and the all that the lei represent as a Lei Day Princess for the City

and County of Honolulu. Each of these experiences allows me to be of great service as a member of the commission.

Organization, life-long education and my faith is the key to my balance as a professional, volunteer and dedicated Mom/wife. I keep a folder for each of the activities that I am involved in and try to keep up to date with all of my communications, to do lists, and details to projects that I am working on. Knowing that challenges and obstacles are inevitable, the knowledge that I will be able to endure and overcome anything with a spiritual strength and divine power, is an essential part of my life. When my own strength or skills seem unable to tackle a situation, I often believe that a way will be provided through another resource, as long as I am doing things that are in the right. I believe that this faith and optimism is a good key to have amongst a group of varied ideas and characteristics. And I am always willing and eager to learn more every day. My grandfather exemplified the importance of ling-long learning. As a retired Army Colonel, his last years were spent learning the computer, the piano and he also attained his Bachelor degree at the age of 92. I welcome opportunities to learn and to share all that I have already learned. Together with hard work, I know that these simple but important strengths to have as a commissioner for the King Kamehameha Celebrations.

Over the past seven months, I have had the privilege of serving as an interim commissioner. During this time, I began as the commission secretary and as I listened and recorded our meetings, I learned much from each of the other commissioners about their talents and skills that they each bring to the table, whether new or old to the commission. I am a dedicated and reliable individual that enjoys coordinating and working together with a team that is on the same page. With good communications, I am always open and respectful to new ideas, and never hesitate to share my own *mana'o* or that of the society I represent. I have volunteered to work with the properties inventory, and have had the wonderful opportunity to prepare costuming for the parade. I hope to be of further *kokua* to the commission as a part of the marketing and parade committees as well. Within the next few years, I hope to strengthen our community involvement and have all of the State of Hawai'i as one in our mission to celebrate King Kamehameha. It would be a great honor to serve amongst the commission members, such as Kainoa Daines, Macky Shea, and all of the commission, to fulfill all of the goals that we set forth, together. Thank you again for your nomination.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kalei Fermantez

Kalei (Farden) Fermantez

kfermantez@gmail.com / (808)687-1376

Objective: To make a positive difference in our community today and for the future.

Professional Experience:

United Self-Help	Facilitator & Research Assistant	04/ '10 - current
Event Concepts of Hawai'i	Event Specialist	03/ '06 to 12/ '09
Creations in Catering	Event Planner	11/ '07 to 06/ '08
Bishop Museum	Visitor Services Ops Coordinator	09/ '06 to 10/ '07
Helms Briscoe	Regional Sales Director	09/ '05 to 02/ '06
Aloha Airlines	Flight Attendant	01/ '01 to 10/ '05
Maui Monkey (retail)	Operations Manager	12/ '04 to 07/ '05
Barbizon Modeling School	Special Events & Agency Director	12/ '01 to 10/ '04
Nature's Image/Equinox	Director of Sales (started as Mgr)	'01/ '95 to 10/ '00

Education:

University of Phoenix	Bachelors-Science-Business	currently Jr
	w/ Concentration in Communications	
Leeward Community College	Sophomore Credits	'90 to '91
Copy Editor for School Newspaper		
Phi Theta Kappa - Honor Students		
Kapi'olani Community College	Freshman Credits	'88 to '90
Lahainaluna High School		'85 to '88
Kamehameha Elementary & Middle School		

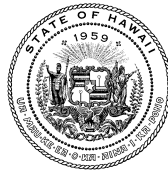
Community Experience:

Maunalani 18s Girls Volleyball	Team Parent	current
National Guard Youth Challenge	Mentor	'06/ '09 - current
Daughters & Sons of Hawaiian Warriors	Secretary / Member	1/ '09 - current, since '93
Church of Jesus Christ of LDS	Primary Secretary	'07 - current
	Primary Teacher	'06 - '07
	Women's Enrichment Leader	'04 - '06
ASICS Rainbows Girls Volleyball	Fundraising Chair	'06 - '09
Nu'uaniu Elementary Talent Show	Annual Talent Chair	'05 - '08
Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus	Annual Fundraiser Décor	'01 - '07
Lanakila Meals on Wheels	Deliver Meals	'03 - '08
City & County May Day	Lei Princess	2007
Hawai'i State PTSA	Vice President of Programs	'04 - '05
	President of Voyager School PTSA	'03 - '05
Hula Halau o Maiki	Dancer	'02 - '04
	Hula Mom	'98 - '04

References:

Monisha Santiago - 348-6436 / Watters Martin - 595-8612 / Hailama Farden - 383-5868

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



RUSS K. SAITO
Comptroller

SANDRA L. YAHIRO
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 TECHNOLOGY
ON
April 12, 2010

G.M. 409, G.M. 410

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, KALEIAHIHI K. FERMANTEZ, for a term to expire 6-30-2010 and 6-30-2014.

Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on G.M. 409 and G.M. 410.

As Director of the Department of Accounting and General Services, I strongly support the confirmation of Ms. Kaleiahihi K. Fermantez to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.

HRS Section 8-5 requires that the Commission have a member from the Daughters and Sons of Hawaiian Warriors. Ms. Fermantez is from the Daughters and Sons of Hawaiian Warriors. Her appointment fulfills the statutory requirement for representation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.