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PRESIDENT

DONNA MERCADO KIM
VICE PRESIDENT

SAM SLOM
MINORITY LEADER

The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 21, 2012

FIRST DISTRICT
MALAMA SOLOMON

SECOND DISTRICT
GILBERT KAHELE

THIRD DISTRICT
JOSH GREEN, M.D.

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SHAN S. TSUTSUI

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SIXTH DISTRICT
J. KALANI ENGLISH

SEVENTH DISTRICT
RONALD D. KOUCHI

EIGHTH DISTRICT
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NINTH DISTRICT
LES IHARA, JR.

TENTH DISTRICT
BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI

ELEVENTH DISTRICT
CAROL FUKUNAGA

TWELFTH DISTRICT
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THIRTEENTH DISTRICT
SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND

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CLAYTON HEE

TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT
JILL N. TOKUDA

TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT
POHAI RYAN

CHIEF CLERK
CAROL TANIGUCHI

Mr. Elmer Ka'ai

Re: Nomination to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission GM 725

Dear Mr. Ka'ai:

Congratulations on being nominated by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. To assist the Senate with its confirmation process, I request that the following information be submitted to my office by **Wednesday, March 28, 2012**:

- (1) A resume with a list of references
- (2) A written statement that addresses the following questions:
 - (a) Why do you wish to be a commissioner of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission?
 - (b) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a commissioner of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, particularly in terms of your nomination by the Royal Order of Kamehameha I?
 - (c) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a commissioner of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a commissioner of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.
 - (d) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
 - (e) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission?

- (f) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit 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?

Your prompt response in providing the above information will ensure that the Senate confirmation process can proceed in a timely manner. The committee is scheduling your confirmation hearing on Monday, April 2, 2012 at 1:15pm in Conference Room 016. Please contact Doris Lam or EDT Committee Clerk Ashley Advincula at 586-6890 if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Economic Development Committee

Governor's Message No. 725
Nomination to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my mana'o on my nomination to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. First and foremost, I want to send a mahalo to Governor Abercrombie and the Royal Order of Kamehameha Ekahi for the nomination. I am truly humbled.

My name is Elmer Ka'ilikole Ka'ai, Jr., and I represent the Royal Order of Kamehameha I on the commission. As a member of the Royal Order, I hold myself to a standard that exemplifies a good moral character; someone that cultivates the cardinal principals of friendship, charity and benevolence; a commitment to preserve and perpetuate the ancient customs and traditions of Hawai'i; and, an dedication to uplift the Hawaiian People. This standard enhances the skills and the qualities I've obtained from my community and non-profit organizing, and work and life experiences.

My background is a mix of public service and private sector, over 20 years in the public sector, 3 years currently at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 18 years at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), and over 10 years in the private sector. I've also been active in the community including the serving on boards on various Hawaiian organizations, a former McCully-Mō'ili'ili Neighborhood Board member, a 'Aha 'Ōiwi Hawai'i-Native Hawaiian Convention Delegate, Past President for the Hula Preservation Society, and past Membership Chair/Director for the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce.

At the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, my responsibilities include managing government, community and public relation matters impacting the Mānoa campus. Combine with my program planning experiences at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; I believe that I provide the commission with the expertise in organizational structure and public-relations knowledge.

I started serving on the commission in 2011 on an interim basis and was recently elected as its vice chair. In addition, I was appointment by the commission as the chair of the commission's statutory and administrative rules committee with Commissioners Aquino and Khan. The objectives of the committee are: 1) to insure that commission move forward, using historical past as a foundation; 2) provide a process or processes for the commission to work and to give it standing like any other commission; and 3) return the commission to prominent again.

As an example of my leadership qualifications and commitment, I am extremely proud of my involvement as president of the Hula Preservation Society (HPS). HPS primary goal is the preserve the teaching and life-story of our Kupuna Kumu Hula. I got involved during a difficult time. Hard decisions . needed to be made that impacted HPS board and funding priorities. The first decision was to replace the entire board with motivated and qualified people. Although, this was a difficult decision to make this is what a leader must do to maintain the integrity of the organization's mission. The second decision was to develop an aggressive grant-seeking plan. HPS is now on a solid foundation with sufficient funding to honor our Kupuna.

I do not expect any conflict of interests' issues; however, if one does arises, I believe in my ability to recognize the conflict and address it appropriately.

Finally, I want to share with you the driving force for my commitment to the commission. I wrote a tribute to Kamehameha for Kawaihao Church's Ali'i Sunday in 2011.

We Must All Strive to Achieve Something Greater Than Ourselves.

By Elmer Ka'ai

In the early 1800s, when Kamehameha, through both acts of war and diplomacy, brought together the political reigns of the Hawaiian Islands, he did much more than leaves to us a legacy of unification. He left to us a simple and powerful heritage: *We Must All Strive to Achieve Something Greater Than Ourselves*. It's a seemingly strange concept when you think about it carefully.

We Must All Strive to Achieve Something Greater Than Ourselves.

How, one may ask, is it even possible to achieve something greater than myself? I am only one. I am only me. But none of us are only one. None of us are ever really alone. And Kamehameha understood that.

Each Hawaiian enters this beautiful place we call home the latest addition to a beautiful, winding and expansive mo'okū'auhau. Not simply a family tree brimming with our relatives, but a forest of all our relations. Kamehameha's greatness stemmed not only from what he achieved as an individual, but his constant and steadfast commitment to constantly look out and look ahead, while never forgetting to honor those who came before him.

Pu'ukoholā. Kūka'ilimoku. Kānāwai Māmalahoe. Achievements representing the very best in innovation, preservation and governance. Achievements that all remain with us today. Achievements exemplifying the best of who we were. The best of who we are. The best of who we can be. The best of our lāhui Hawai'i.

In all his infinite wisdom, it seems Kamehameha saw something in the future of his people that we have yet to realize today: as a lāhui, we are so much more than the sum of our individual parts. We are infinitely greater when working together, than working alone.

So it is with great pride and tremendous humility that I give this tribute to our Mō'i, Kamehameha at the start of this year's celebration activities. It is the start of a time when so many call upon their kūpuna, those still with us and those who have passed, to pay tribute to our King (Mō'i).

GM 725

Mr. Elmer Ka'ai Jr.

King Kamehameha Celebration Commission

EDT

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



DEAN H. SEKI
ACTING COMPTROLLER
JAN S. GOUVEIA
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
DEAN H. SEKI, ACTING COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
ON
April 2, 2012

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 725

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE KING
KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION, ELMER KA'AI, JR.

Chair Fukunaga and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on G.M. 725. The Department of Accounting and General Services supports Mr. Elmer Ka'ai, Jr.'s confirmation to the Commission.

Section 8-5, HRS, requires that the Commission have at least one member from the Royal Order of Kamehameha I. Mr. Ka'ai, Jr. is a member of the Royal Order of Kamehameha I. His appointment fulfills the statutory requirement for representation on the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



March 26, 2012

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 725 - Elmer Ka'ai, Jr.
Gubernatorial Nominee to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology
April 2, 2012. 1:15 P.M.

Dear Chair Fukunaga, Vice-Chair Wakai and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology:

It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to write to you in support of the gubernatorial nomination of Elmer Ka'ai, Jr. to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.

Having known Mr. Ka'ai for over 15 years, I feel privileged to be able to regard him as a close personal friend. It is my belief that Mr. Ka'ai possesses all the qualifications necessary to oversee the arrangements for the celebration to commemorate the memory of King Kamehameha I as well as the dispensation for the use of his statue.

His commitment to the Hawaiian community has been exemplary. His volunteer work with organizations such as 'Ahahui i na Alaka'i and his dedication to housing and homelessness illustrates his devotion to the principles of duty and community responsibility. I am supremely confident that this level of performance and commitment will continue if reconfirmed as a commissioner.

I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of the Governor's nomination of Mr. Ka'ai to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. His service will be an invaluable contribution to the people of Hawaii.

Thank your for your consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully,

Jason Toth
Chairman

JT:cmp

fukunaga2 - Ashley-Jane

From: Ben Henderson [bhender@QLCC.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:03 PM
To: EDTTestimony
Cc: ekkj1959@gmail.com; mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony In Support of GM 724 and 725

To the Honorable Carol Fukunaga Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee On Economic Development and Technology:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of the gubernatorial appointments of Elmer Ka`ai Jr. (GM 724) and Marilyn Leimomi Khan (GM 725) to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.

Both candidates have been active in Hawaiian affairs for many years and will provide outstanding service as members of this commission.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with both nominees on numerous occasions and can personally vouch for their dedication, commitment and ability. I am confident that they will do an excellent job of guiding the work of the Commission in a manner that will bring pride and dignity to esteemed Ali`i Nui.

I urge your committee's favorable support and consent on their nominations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in this matter.

Aloha Pumehana,

Ben Henderson
President and Executive Director
Queen Lili`uokalani Children's Center
1300 Halona Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

❖ DANTE K. CARPENTER
3054 Ala Poha Place, No. 401
Honolulu, HI 96818

HAWAII STATE SENATE – REGULAR SESSION 2012
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

April 2, 2012
1:15 PM, Conference Room 016

GM No.725 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, ELMER KA’AI, JR., for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Chair Sen. Carol Fukunaga, V.C. Sen. Glenn Wakai and Committee Members:

Good afternoon. My name is Dante Carpenter, a concerned citizen of Hawaii whose residence is in the Salt Lake area of Honolulu. I am in strong support of the nomination in GM No. 725 for Elmer Ka’ ai, Jr., for confirmation by the State Senate as a member of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.

Mr. Ka’ ai is an employee of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and has served positions of heavy responsibility. As Chair of the Hawaiian Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai’i, his capabilities and education compliments and shows he is eminently qualified by his training and myriad experience in the Hawaiian Culture. His willingness to share his time, expertise and energy for the important work of the activities in conjunction with the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission is a serious effort by the state of Hawai’i to recognize its native culture.

I strongly recommend approval of GM No. 725 and confirmation of Elmer Ka’ ai by the Senate to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Jocelyn B. Collado
95-1140 Makaikai St., Apt. 16
Mililani, HI 96789

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS & MEANS
MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012, 1:15 P.M.
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 016

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 725
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ELMER KA'AI, JR.,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2013.

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the confirmation of Elmer Ka'ai, Jr. to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.

I have known Mr. Ka'ai for more than a decade in his various professional and community service roles. His knowledge, experience, and deep connection to the Native Hawaiian culture make him well prepared to serve on the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. His current position of vice chair on the Commission representing the Royal Order of Kamehameha I is evidence of his leadership.

I strongly believe Mr. Ka'ai character and dedication to serve the community he lives and works in will be an asset to the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Ka'ai's confirmation.

fukunaga2 - Ashley-Jane

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 8:05 AM
To: EDTTestimony
Cc: millsb001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for GM725 on 4/2/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT 4/2/2012 1:15:00 PM GM725

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kamana'o Mills
Organization: Individual
E-mail: millsb001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/23/2012

Comments:

Submitting my support for the confirmation of Elmer Ka'ai, Jr. to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.

fukunaga2 - Ashley-Jane

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2012 2:18 PM
To: EDTTestimony
Cc: ksouza@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for GM725 on 4/2/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT 4/2/2012 1:15:00 PM GM725

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kevin Souza
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ksouza@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/25/2012

Comments:

I write in STRONG SUPPORT of Elmer Kaai to serve on the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. I have known Elmer for a number of years, and have always been impressed with his intellect, his humble nature, and his unyielding love for our community.

Elmer is a dedicated public servant who has always been passionate about Native Hawaiian issues. He has spent a lifetime working to support and advance the cause of many Hawaiian organizations; and those of us who have had the pleasure of working with Elmer have certainly benefitted from his wisdom and passion.

In short, I am confident that Elmer will bring these same wonderful qualities to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, and he will continue to serve our community well.

From: kkcc@hawaii.gov [mailto:kkcc@hawaii.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 1:17 PM

To: EDTTestimony

Subject: Confirmation of King Kamehameha Celebration Commissioners

Aloha mai!

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Elmer Ka`ai, Mr. Kamakana Aquino, Ms. Donna-lei Smythe and Ms. Marilyn Leimomi Khan, who are up for Senate confirmation of their appointments to the King Kamehameha Celebration commission. They were hoping to have an opportunity to meet previous to the confirmation hearing, which as of this writing I don't believe has been set yet, with members of the EDT committee.

They would like to introduce themselves and informally get to spend time and answer any questions committee members may have. If any or all of the Senate Committee members are available, please let us know at your earliest convenience what would be a good day/time to meet. All the commission members have freed up their schedules and are available after March 7, 2012.

Please contact me at this email address kkcc@hawaii.gov or call 586-0333 to let me know what is possible. If you prefer I contact each Senate member individually I would be happy to do so.

Mahalo nui,

Lehua Kalima

King Kamehameha Celebration Commission
355 North King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Tel: (808)-586-0333

Email: kkcc@hawaii.gov

fukunaga2 - Ashley-Jane

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 7:52 AM
To: EDTTestimony
Cc: lsora001@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for GM725 on 4/2/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT 4/2/2012 1:15:00 PM GM725

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lili Ann Sora
Organization: Individual
E-mail: lsora001@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/23/2012

Comments:

fukunaga2 - Ashley-Jane

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 7:26 AM
To: EDTTestimony
Cc: Lon Paresa
Subject: Testimony for GM725 on 4/2/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT 4/2/2012 1:15:00 PM GM725

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lon Paresa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: paresa@capitol.hawaii.gov
Submitted on: 3/23/2012

Comments:

I support Elmer Ka'ai Jr for a appointment to the King Kamehameha Commission. Thank you.

fukunaga2 - Ashley-Jane

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:01 PM
To: EDTTestimony
Cc: soor001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for GM725 on 4/2/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT 4/2/2012 1:15:00 PM GM725

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Richard Soo
Organization: Individual
E-mail: soor001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

March 23, 2012

Mr. Rob Ramsey
89-1120 Puawiliwili Place
Waianae, HI 96792
808.927.4762
kaleiboy@yahoo.com

To Whom it May Concern,

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Elmer Kaai on a personal level for nearly ten years. He has been both friend and valued resource throughout the years. As I have gotten to know Elmer more, one of his most endearing and respected qualities is what I call his "quiet passion." Elmer is direct in his dealings, but not overbearing. He is of great knowledge but not condescending. He is of strong beliefs, but is open to additional points of view. In decision making, Elmer gathers facts and opinions, does his research, and only when he feels he has a concrete foundation, he will make an informed decision.

As a business owner and entrepreneur, I have often solicited Elmer's opinions of which have played an integral role in shaping many of the directions of my dealings. And, as a Native Hawaiian, he has also helped me to gain greater understanding of our culture, it's politics, and it's future. He has given me knowledge of my homesteads history, introduced me to several of it's key leaders, and helped me to truly gain pride in my Hawaiian ancestry.

Elmer has many engaging qualities of which would benefit just about any challenge or endeavor placed before him. I hope you look favorably upon his appointment. Please feel free to contact me should you require any additional testimony.

Aloha,

Rob Ramsey

fukunaga2 - Ashley-Jane

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 2:39 PM
To: EDTTestimony
Cc: spwm808@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM725 on 4/2/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT 4/2/2012 1:15:00 PM GM725

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shauna Mau
Organization: Individual
E-mail: spwm808@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 3/29/2012

Comments:

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Economic Development and Technology Committee
Monday, April 2, 2012 at 1:15pm

GM 725 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, ELMER KA'AI, JR., for a term to expire 6-30-2013

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Economic Development and Technology Committee:

My name is Stephanie Kim and I am testifying as an individual. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in wholehearted support for the Governor's nominee, Elmer Ka'ai Jr., for consideration and appointment to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.

I have had the opportunity to know Mr. Ka'ai both professionally and as a friend, for over twenty years. Mr. Ka'ai would bring a solid commitment and dedication to this appointment and I know him to be a thoughtful, reliable, and active member in his community. I have the utmost respect for his abilities, intellect and integrity. He would be an excellent addition to the commission.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to confirm him for the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for the Governor's nomination of Elmer Ka'ai, Jr.