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April 10, 2012

LATE

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
Chairperson, Senate Tourism Committee
Room 210
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hi. 96813

RE: Appointees to the Tourism Authority

This letter is in support of Jack Corteway, Lorrie Stone, Aaron Sala, Victor Kimura, and Michael Kobayashi to the Hawaii Tourism Authority. I have had the privilege of working with these individuals over the years and am confident that they will do a credible job in protecting and promoting our tourism industry.

Hawaii tourism is very important to our state's economic success. My sincere best wishes to the Hawaii Tourism Authority, under the leadership of Mike McCartney. They have a challenging job ahead of them.

Aloha Ke Akua,



Danny Kaleikini
Ambassador of Aloha

Ms. Donna Mercado Kim, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Tourism
Hawaii State Legislature
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

Aloha Madam Chair and Members of the Tourism Committee:

My name is Emalia Keohokalole. I am a colleague and friend of nominee Aaron Kaha'i Salā, who is being recommended for a Director position of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. I am here to voice my total support of his appointment.

I have known Aaron since he was a Music Assistant at Kamehameha Schools during his college years and am honored and proud to come before you to speak on his behalf. Aaron is one of Hawai'i's up and coming treasures - a bright star whose background is extensive in the areas of classical musical training, the performing arts, a voice for Hawaiian and Polynesian culture nurtured by loving Kūpuna (grandparents), who is currently engaged in a rich academic world of both western and Hawaiian thought.

He is respected in the education community where he is a full-time assistant professor of music in our university system, and a choral leader of several community music groups. As an educator, he represents the link that young people see as a role model for them as they contemplate their own futures and contributions their lives can give to our society,

As a businessman and producer of shows, he is very much aware of costs involved, budgets to be managed and good publicity. He is in great demand as a musician here in Hawai'i, and especially in Japan, where concerts are often sold out. His concerts in Europe also speak to his versatility in the music he shares, and his ability to converse in the languages of those countries. He has also taken his talents into the South Pacific into Tahiti, Sāmoa and Aotearoa (New Zealand).

In the Native Hawaiian community he is respected by Kūpuna, by Hawaiian leadership and by many of his peers, who themselves see him as a strong influence in the continuance of Hawaiian culture to the world. His ease of and fluidity in the Hawaiian language is key to a proper understanding of many of our cultural values and ideas. This is a valuable asset, among other contributions, which Aaron can bring to the Authority.

Perhaps the greatest gift that Aaron has is his ALOHA for others. He has a youthfulness that puts him in touch with the young of this world, and an integrity and commitment to hard work, and a deep respect for those older than him, whose wisdom have helped to shape him.

Your favorable consideration of his appointment is greatly appreciated! Mahalo.