



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

Monday, April 16, 2012
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
GM 916
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RONALD WILLIAMS,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2014.**

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kouchi, and members of the Committee.

I am writing in **strong support** of Ronald Williams to the Board of the Hawaii Tourism Authority. Ron's extensive experience in the Hawaii visitor industry with Atlantis Adventures, Tropical Rental Car, and as a board member of the Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii enables him to make pertinent and worthwhile contributions to the HTA board. As a current member, Ron has been a valuable asset to the HTA board in his capacity to help promote Hawaii as both a tourist and business destination.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

Testimony for Hearing

Date: Monday, April 16, 2012
Time: 2 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: Testimony in support for the consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONALD WILLIAMS, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Chair Kim, Vice Char Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jerry Gibson and I am sending you testimony in support of the confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ronald Williams.

Ron Williams has been a member of the board since 2009 and I feel strongly that it is imperative to keep the tourism industry moving in a positive direction by confirming Ron and other sitting members of the board.

As CEO and president of Atlantis Adventures, Ron understands the importance of tourism to the state and how best to manage this driver of Hawaii's economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at the Hilton Hawaiian Village at (808) 949-4321.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerry Gibson', written in a cursive style.

Jerry Gibson
Area Vice President
Hilton Worldwide

kim3 - Nancy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2012 10:07 AM
To: TSM Testimony
Cc: clewis@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for GM916 on 4/16/2012 2:00:00 PM
Attachments: GM 916 Ron Williams.pdf

Testimony for TSM 4/16/2012 2:00:00 PM GM916 *Ron Williams*

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Tim LYons
Organization: Ocean Tourism Coalition
E-mail: clewis@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 4/12/2012

** testimony attached*

Comments:

Please deliver on behalf of Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Ocean Tourism Coalition to the Senate Committee on Tourism.

The meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 16, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in Conference Room 224.

Thank you.



Ocean Tourism Coalition

The Voice for Hawaii's Ocean Tourism Industry
820 Mililani Street, #810
(808) 537-4308 Phone (808) 533-2739 Fax
office@oceantourism.org

April 16, 2012

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Tourism
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: G.M. 916 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, RONALD K. WILLIAMS, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Ocean Tourism Coalition and we are in strong support of Mr. Williams for confirmation as a member of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

As the President and CEO of Atlantis Adventures LLC, Mr. Williams has become intimately familiar with all the various aspects and needs of operating several different tourist attractions or destinations. It is exactly that kind of talent that we need on the HTA Board in order to better focus our efforts on a statewide basis to increase tourism for the State of Hawaii.

As a member of OTC we know that he is a dedicated member of the industry and also has the concerns and welfare of the overall ocean tourism industry in his heart.

Based on the above, we highly recommend Mr. Williams for another term and confirmation to the HTA Board.

Thank you.



Testimony in Support of GM916
Ronald Williams Nomination to the HTA Board
Presented at the Committee on Tourism
At the hearing 2:00 pm, Monday, April 16, 2012
Conference Room 224, State Capitol

Submitted by: Toni Marie Davis/Executive Director A3H

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Ronald Williams. It has been my honor & pleasure to work with Ronald Williams for nearly a decade. My name is Toni Marie Davis. For the last 14 years I have served as the executive director of the statewide Activities & Attractions Association of Hawaii, (A3H). Today we are over 200 members strong, statewide, representing over 2900 different tours and attractions. These businesses collectively provide jobs for over eight thousand residents and recycle nearly half a billion dollars a year back into our state's economy annually. They're a mix of large, medium, small and owner operated businesses. Most of which are owned by residents of this state.

I first met Ronald Williams, when he served on the A3H expanded board in 1999. Later in 2002, when our association expanded to Statewide, he was a natural fit as president and ever since has been an integral part of our executive board.

He is a great leader, a paddler, Hilo born & raised, a coach, appreciative, respectful and protective of Hawaii's natural resources....he is just an exceptional well rounded akamai human being. I cannot think of a better candid for the HTA board.

Thank you again for an opportunity to submit support for a perfect candidate,

Sincerely,

Toni Marie Davis

kim3 - Nancy

From: Ron Takeuchi [rontakeuchi@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 7:18 AM
To: TSM Testimony
Subject: GM 916, April 16, 2012, 2:00p.m., Conference Room 22, State Capitol

To: The Senate, the Twenty-Sixth Legislature Regular Session of 2012
Committee on Tourism, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair and Senator Ronald D. Kouchi, Vice Chair

We humbly ask for your consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ronald Williams, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Mahalo for your kind support.



Sincerely,

Ronald Takeuchi
President
Aloha V.I.P. Tours, Inc.

438 Hobrón Lane, 5th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96815

kim3 - Nancy

From: Orgill, Von [orgillv@polynesia.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2012 12:54 PM
To: TSM Testimony
Cc: Von Orgill
Subject: Ron Williams - Reappointment to HTA Board

Respectfully, I encourage the reappointment of Ron Williams to the HTA Board. He has been a valuable addition to the Board with his insights on the tourism industry gained through many years of first-hand experience and involvement. There are few, if any, who are so well prepared to serve in such a capacity.

His energy, creativity, and optimism, coupled with his practical realism are a powerful combination and are needed by this Board and our state.

Your favorable consideration is very much appreciated.

With sincere aloha,

Von Orgill
President & CEO
Polynesian Cultural Center
55-370 Kamehameha Highway
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