



# KINTETSU INTERNATIONAL HAWAII COMPANY

*A division of Kintetsu International Express(U.S.A), Inc.*

February 27, 2016

THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2016  
COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

SENATOR J. KALANI ENGLISH, VICE CHAIR

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016, 2:45 P.M.

STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 225

RE: GM534 AND GM 535

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KUIIPO KUMUKAHI  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-16 AND FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2020

Dear Mr. Vice Chairman English and Members of the Tourism & International Affairs Committee,

My name is Akira Kinjo, Vice President of Kintetsu International Hawaii Company, an established in-bound travel agency. I am testifying in support of the confirmation of Ms. Kuuipo Kumukahi to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Ms. Kumukahi is well respected as a cultural practitioner by Kintetsu International and its many customers. She has repeatedly demonstrated her knowledge, skill, and talent in the course of our business relations with the Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts as its President and Vice President; the Maiki Aiu Foundation as its Co-Founder, and as a Kumu Hula. She is skillful in interacting with and connecting our representatives and guests to Hawaiian culture.

Ms. Kumukahi is an excellent choice as a member of the Hawaii Tourism Authority Board of Directors and we fully support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Akira Kinjo', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Akira Kinjo, Vice President

Kintetsu International Hawaii Company

HAWAIIAN MUSIC HALL OF FAME

P. O. BOX 4717

HONOLULU, HI 96812-4717

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Aloha Vice Chairman English and Members of the Tourism & International Affairs Committee,

My name is Antoinette "Toni" Lee, President of Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame. I am here to testify in support of the confirmation of Kuuipo Kumukahi to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

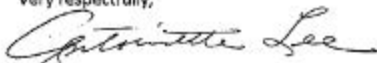
Kuuipo Kumukahi will be filling a seat that requires the Board member to be a Hawaiian practitioner. Kuuipo is an excellent choice to fill this position. She has been a great example in the Hawaiian Community, in Hawaii, and internationally as a Hawaiian practitioner through her leadership, as a past President of the Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts (HARA), the past President of the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame and the past President and founder of the Na Lani Eha Hawaiian Civic Club and as an entertainer. She is an excellent musician, co-founder of the Maiki Aiu Foundation and a kumu at Halau Hawaii, and fluently speaks, writes and understands the Hawaiian Language. Kuuipo really has worked in the tourist industry almost her entire life sharing our host culture with not only the people in Hawaii but with visitors around the world. She is also a wonderful MC and is able to produce shows that teaches all that are able to see these productions much about our host culture.

I have personally worked with Kuuipo Kumukahi on many projects and she is definitely a team leader and a joy to work alongside with very ethical strength in teaching and living our Hawaiian Values. She is very well respected and dependable as an experienced Hawaiian

entertainer, knowledgeable in Hawaiian language and customs, past and present, and known to work hard and well with all she comes in contact with. Kuuipo will be able to foster both economic and cultural sides of Hawaiian music and language with her creativity, resources and Class within our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on Kuuipo Kumukahi's behalf and Mahalo to Governor Ige for appointing her. She is the right person to sit on the Hawai'i Tourism Authority Board.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Antoinette Lee". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Antoinette "Toni" Lee, President

Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame

PEARL HARBOR HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB  
P. O. Box 66  
Aiea, Hawai`i, 96701

February 28, 2016

THE 28<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION 2016  
THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016  
HAWAI`I STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 225

RE: GM 534 AND GM 535

Aloha; Vice Chairman Kalani English and members of the Tourism and International Affairs Committee.

My Name is Charles Kapua the Immediate Past President of Pearl Harbor Hawaiian Civic Club. I am here to offer testimony in support of the confirmation of Ku`uipo Kumukahi to the Board of Directors of the Hawai`i Tourism Authority.

Ku`uipo will be filling a seat that requires the Board member to be a Hawaiian practitioner. I have known her to be immersed as a lifetime student and practitioner of the language, arts, Hawaiian culture and most notably music and hula.

I have worked with Ku`uipo on several projects and she has displayed many high qualifying characteristics such as being knowledgeable in the history of the Hawaiian culture, and the past history of the last of the royal family (Na Lani `Eha). She is a very hard worker and works well with others. She has been a great example of what we should expect more from our Hawaiian community.

Mahalo! for this opportunity to testify on Ku`uipo Kumukahi's, behalf and I look forward for you and your committees' positive response.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Charles K. Kapua

Immediate Past President  
Pearl Harbor Hawaiian Civic Club



February 28, 2016

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Aloha, Vice Chairman English and Members of the Tourism & International Affairs Committee,

Please accept this statement in strong support of Ms. Ku'uipo Kumukahi for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

My name is Clint Kalaola, owner and operator of Tidal Wave Entertainment. I have known Miss Kumukahi for over 10 years and have had the opportunity to work with her on various projects in the private and non profit sectors. She is the former president of the Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts (HARA), winner of multiple Na Hoku Hanohano Awards, Former President of the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame, co-founder of the Maiki Aiu Foundation, and a Kumu at Halau Hawai'i.

Ms. Kumukahi has created, founded, and continuously supports many projects throughout Hawai'i and abroad that promote and perpetuate the Hawaiian Culture and Arts. One such project is the creation of Mali'o, where women of all ages and backgrounds are encourage to seek options of creativity by engaging in Hawaiian fine arts and to keep the fine arts alive with integrity and dignity.

I can testify to Ms. Kumukahi's uncompromising work ethic and strength as both a leader and team player. As a lifelong practitioner of traditional Hawaiian Culture and Arts with a worldwide reach, she is well qualified and the right choice for this board. As a well respected leader in the community, a beloved entertainer, she brings with her a wealth of experience and foresight. Ms. Kumukahi will be a tremendous value to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority that will help foster the contemporary and traditional Hawaiian culture in the implementation of Hawaii Tourism Authority programs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Ku'uipo Kumukahi.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clint Kalaola".

Clint Kalaola, President  
Tidal Wave Entertainment



# The Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts

## Nā Hōkū Hanohano Awards

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### **Board of Governors**

#### **Officers:**

##### **President**

Pali Ka'aihue

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Julian Ako

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Lea A. Uehara

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Kimo Kahoano

Keola Donaghy

Eric Lagrimas

Gaylord Holomalia

Kenneth Makuakāne

Janet Maduli

Ben Gutierrez

Cindy Lance

Bennet Namahoe

##### **Office location:**

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1414 Waikamilo Blvd, #208

Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone/Fax: (808) 593-9424

##### **Mailing address:**

P. O. Box 821

Honolulu, Hawaii 96808

##### **E-mail address:**

[info@nahokuhanohano.org](mailto:info@nahokuhanohano.org)

##### **Website:**

[www.nahokuhanohano.org](http://www.nahokuhanohano.org)

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Aloha, Vice Chairman English and Members of the Tourism & International  
Affairs Committee,

My name Pali Ka'aihue, President of the Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts.  
and co-creator/producer of Mele Mei, the month long celebration of Hawai'i's  
Music, testifying in support of the confirmation of Samie Ku'uipo Kumukahi to  
the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

Ku'uipo Kumukahi is the former president of the Hawai'i Academy of Recording  
Arts (HARA), multiple Nā Hōkū Hanohano Award winner, a director of the  
Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame Serenaders, co-founder of the Maiki Aiu  
Foundation, and a kumu at Hālau Hawai'i. The Hawai'i Academy of Recording  
Arts and I fully endorse and support Samie Ku'uipo Kumukahi for this  
appointment.

I've known Ku'uipo Kumukahi and have worked with her for over fifteen years  
She's always been a natural leader, teacher and mentor. She will make an  
exceptional member of the HTA Board.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about this letter.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on Ku'uipo Kumukahi's behalf.

Pali Ka'aihue, Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts President