

Statement of  
**Mary Alice Evans**  
Deputy Director  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, AND  
TECHNOLOGY**

Monday, April 30, 2018  
9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

in consideration of  
**GM 752**  
**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the to the Board of Directors of  
the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
KYOKO KIMURA, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee.

I respectfully urge your **support** for the confirmation of **Kyoko Kimura** to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Kyoko Kimura understands Maui's visitor industry and Maui's community values as a long-time resident who has held leadership roles in both areas. I served with Ms. Kimura on the Small Business Regulatory Review Board and found her to be very focused on the small businesses' requests for regulatory relief. She has the ability to strengthen Hawaii's cultural and business ties to Japan which is an important partner with Hawaii in the Asia Pacific economic sphere.

I respectfully urge you to recommend advice and consent to the nomination of Kyoko Kimura for the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Hawai'i Convention Center  
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815  
**kelepona** tel 808 973 2255  
**kelepa'i** fax 808 973 2253  
**kahua pa'a** web [hawaii tourismauthority.org](http://hawaii tourismauthority.org)

**David Y. Ige**  
*Governor*

**George D. Szigeti**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Statement of  
**George D. Szigeti**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority

on

**GM 752**

**Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority**  
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology  
Monday, April 30, 2018  
9:00am  
Conference Room 414

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) offers the following **testimony in support of GM 752**, which submits for consideration and confirmation to HTA's Board of Directors (the Board), Gubernatorial Nominee **Kyoko Kimura** for a term to expire on June 30, 2022.

Ms. Kimura has extensive experience serving Hawai'i's tourism industry and communities. Ms. Kimura's prior service on the Board and as Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, which is tasked with developing the State's Tourism Strategic Plan, has given her a unique knowledge and understanding of HTA's mission to serve the people of Hawai'i by promoting Hawai'i as a premier visitor destination. In addition to her broad experience in Hawai'i's and Japan's hospitality industries, Ms. Kimura has dedicated her time to serving her community as a board member of both the Pacific Cancer Society and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i. Ms. Kimura also possesses a deep understanding of government service and the importance of serving our residents through her current position on the State's Small Business Regulatory Review Board.

At HTA, we look forward to continuing our collaboration with Ms. Kimura to enhance and highlight Hawai'i's people, place and culture with the goal of delivering an incomparable visitor experience.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.



**HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM**  
**A S S O C I A T I O N**

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann  
President & CEO  
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Before the Committee on  
Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology

GM 752: Kyoko Kimura, Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and members of the committee:

I am pleased to offer this testimony—on behalf of the nearly 700 members of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization—in support of the confirmation of Kyoko Kimura to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

Ms. Kimura, the director of owner relations for Aqua-Aston Hospitality, has an impressive track record and invaluable experience in the hospitality industry, having held such key positions as managing director of the Hotel Wailea and Maui Beach Hotel, president and general manager of Diamond Resort Hawai'i Corporation, chairperson of the Maui Hotel & Lodging Association, and director of the Maui Visitors and Convention Bureau. Her service to the community, meanwhile, has included work with the Pacific Cancer Society, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, and Maui Japanese Chamber of Commerce, where she was president.

In addition to an active involvement in the industry and local organizations, Maui-based Ms. Kimura has been an invaluable contributor to the governance of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, serving as a board member for 12 years. Her dedication to our association's endeavors is prominently seen through her commitment, leadership, and involvement in our functions and meetings on O'ahu and elsewhere. She was named to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Board of Directors in 2003 for two four-year terms, a testament to the respect she has earned in the visitor industry and beyond.

We commend the administration for this outstanding nomination. It underscores our strong belief that the members of the HTA board must come to their responsibilities with an exceptional background and experience in the visitor industry.

The members of the HLTA urge you to confirm Kyoko Kimura's nomination to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Board of Directors.

Mahalo.

**GM-752**

Submitted on: 4/27/2018 1:15:57 PM

Testimony for ETT on 4/30/2018 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deidre Tegarden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is an honor and privilege to submit testimony in support of Ms. Kyoko Kimura to the Board of the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA).

I have known Ms. Kimura for over sixteen (16) years and have found her to be hard-working, accessible and incredibly knowledgeable in her field of expertise. Her understanding and appreciation of both the visitor industry and host cultural allow her to ensure that the decisions we make today are going to benefit the community far into the future.

Ms. Kimura has been a leader in the visitor industry for many years. Her deep-rooted understanding of Hawaii, Japan and our other pan-pacific neighbors, allows her to effortlessly work between our cultures acting as an Ambassador of Aloha as Hawaii takes its next steps in reaching out to new markets including Taiwan, Korea and China.

Her reputation is impeccable. It is an honor to recommend Ms. Kyoko Kimura for appointment to the HTA Board.

With Aloha, Deidre

**GM-752**

Submitted on: 4/27/2018 5:08:23 PM

Testimony for ETT on 4/30/2018 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-752**

Submitted on: 4/29/2018 2:50:02 PM

Testimony for ETT on 4/30/2018 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Warren Watanabe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: