

**GM-830**

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 12:20:10 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sandi Kato-Klutke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Senator Wakai & members of the committee. My name is Sandi Kato-Klutke & I am here to submit testimony in support of Stephanie Iona to Hawaii Tourism Association. I have known Stephanie since 2002 as the general manager of Aston at Papakea. Since then we have worked together to meet the goals of Tourism on Maui & Kauai

Stephanie brings experience with Tourism, health, education & agriculture with all that she has done. Serving on numerous boards & committees from Chamber of Commerce, HLTA State board, KVMH/Mahelona Hospitals, Kekaha Ag Association, Kauai Shrimp, Charity Walk & food distributions throughout Kauai

I humbly ask for your support to have Stephanie serve on HTA board. She will be a priceless asset

With warm regards,

Sandi Kato-Klutke

**GM-830**

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 12:47:30 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beth Tokioka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I've been acquainted with Stephanie Iona for more than 20 years, and can think of no one better qualified or more committed to the mission of HTA than she.

She has well rounded experience that includes many years in the hospitality industry, but in recent years focused on broader community outreach and engagement throughout the island. She is a tireless worker and leader who is continually spearheading efforts to benefit those in need (e.g. food drives, disaster response), and spends a great deal of time assisting schools in meeting the needs of their students and staff.

Although she has a strong background in the visitor industry, Stephanie keeps the good of the entire community in mind in all that she does. She will most definitely bring a balanced, thoughtful perspective to the important work of HTA.

Please give your favorable consideration to her nomination.

Mahalo!

# OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

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Testimony of

**Stephanie Iona**

Managing Director, County of Kaua'i

Before the

**Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism**

April 11, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

In consideration of

**GM 830 – Stephanie Iona**

**Gubernatorial Nominee for the**

**Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority**

Honorable Chair Wakai, Honorable Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Ms. Stephanie Iona's nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. As a nominee, she is well qualified to fulfill this responsibility given her professional and life experiences, her temperament, and desire to serve.

I have known Ms. Iona in various community capacities for over a decade. Her lifetime work in both the visitor and business industries has resulted in her being known as a reliable, trustworthy pillar of our community. Her command of business experience and aloha lends to keenness in understanding how tourism can either result in impacts or care.

Over the years, there has been a growing call for better management of our tourism activities. Ms. Iona's most recent work in more public facing roles has intensified her skill in balancing the societal and economic needs of our community as it relates to this industry, while not losing sight of the community calls to maintain our way of life that is uniquely local.

Ms. Iona's track record for service in other venues is well established. She has served on the HHSC Kaua'i Region Board, including as Chair, over the years. She has also served in various private non-profit organizations including the Kaua'i Chamber of Commerce, HLTA, Hanapepe Economic Alliance, and the Farm Bureau.

The Board and the State will undoubtedly be enriched by her service on this critical commission. I have confidence in Ms. Iona's ability to make sound and deliberative choices in the tourism management of our state and respectfully ask the committee to **ADVISE AND CONSENT** to her nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**GM-830**

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 2:52:15 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randall John Francisco	Testifying for Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of Ms. Stephanie Iona whom I have known for 42 years. Stephanie is an outstanding leader whose tremendous skills throughout her entire career has always and will always continue to be of bringing her diverse skill sets to enable and empower the people with whom she engages and connects with for a much larger goal and vision: Creating a better Hawai'i and leading and leaving it better for the present and future generations of both kama'aina and malihini alike. And, she always leads with Aloha driven by here very strong sense of community and island-universal values of Aloha. Her diverse background, experiences on various boards over the decades will bring a tremendous complementary and diverse perspective that will add strength to the current challenges and pivot of the Hawaii Tourism Authority not only from the Kaua'i perspective and unique challenges the Garden Island has faced throughout pre-, Covid and, upcoming post-Covid. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in very strong support of Stephanie Iona. Randall Francisco, Hanapepe Kauai/ formerly Kaua'i Chamber of Commerce, Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce, Hanapepe Economic Alliance.

**GM-830**

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 3:08:01 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Grant Kunishima	Testifying for Sunrise Capital Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the General Manager for Kauai Shrimp, I support wholeheartedly the appointment of Stephanie Iona to the Hawaii Tourism Authority representing Kauai and Niihau. Stephanie's background in the tourism industry and in public relations is the perfect balance for this position. I believe Stephanie will provide positive ideas and direction along with community and business support from around the Island.

Best regards,  
Grant Kunishima

**GM-830**

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 4:52:19 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alvin K Pelayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying to support Stephanie N. Iona to be appointed to the Hawai`i Tourism Authority Board of Directors.

I have known and worked with Stephanie for a long time (Decades). She is incredible. She has insights and relationships throughout Hawai`i that will support her work on the Board.

She also brings with her a deep understanding of our culture.

I am proud to rise in support of her appointment.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in her support.

Malama pono,

Kai Pelayo



**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

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, & Tourism  
Governor's Message 830  
April 11, 2022

Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee, mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's oldest and largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers—strongly supports Ms. Stephanie Iona's nomination to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Board of Directors. HLTA has enjoyed a positive working relationship with Ms. Iona for many years in her roles as both an industry leader and member of HLTA's Board of Directors.

With years of experience in the hospitality industry and a broad understanding of local government, Ms. Iona would bring a wealth of knowledge and keen insight to HTA's Board of Directors as the agency continues its mission to both strategically market and responsibly manage Hawai'i as a premier tourism destination. As a former hotel and transportation executive, she marries executive level experience with extensive ties throughout the Kaua'i community in a unique way that will serve her well as a member of the board. Moreover, having grown up on O'ahu and spent considerable time as a resident on Maui, she has a deep understanding of our statewide community.

Ms. Iona has grown to be an outspoken advocate for the local agricultural industry and the men and women who comprise it. In this realm, she has been the catalyst for numerous projects and events including the Kaua'i Harvest Ag Festival, a popular event that is held annually in Waimea. She has also passionately supported farm-to-table initiatives and has plied her creativity to help grow this juncture of the agricultural and restaurant industry.

Above all else, the West end of Kauai knows that when something needs to be done for the community, they can count on Ms. Iona to show up ready to serve. One need look no further than her contributions as a board member and as chairman of the board for the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation – Kaua'i Region to understand her commitment to the Garden Isle and its residents.

Should she be confirmed, I am confident that Ms. Iona would represent the people of Hawai'i and HTA well throughout her term.

**For these reasons, HLTA supports Governor's Message 830.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.





**GM-830**

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 7:54:35 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wes Perreira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 8, 2022

Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Stephanie Iona for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, STEPHANIE IONA, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Stephanie Iona or “Aunty Steph” as she is commonly known, is one of the good things about Kauai. She has raised the bar to the highest levels in support of individuals, families, non-profit organizations and community groups. Of course, there are too many examples throughout the years to mention, but please understand that Aunty Steph is a powerful “one-woman army” that does so much good for others. Her compassion and empathy for those in need has helped fuel her passion for our Kauai and Niihau. The work that Aunty Steph has helped foster in our communities, has taken many from hopelessness and despair, to self-sufficiency and security.

And if this was not enough, Aunty Steph provides much needed advice and guidance to many of our community leaders who are looking for ways to make our community better. We are fortunate Aunty Steph has chosen Kauai to be her home, with her “motherly love,” she has been able to motivate an impressive group of support from the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Wes Perreira



**GM-830**

Submitted on: 4/9/2022 4:53:00 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Stoutemyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha and members of the Committee:

**I Strongly Support GM 830**, seeking the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee STEPHANIE IONA to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Ms. Iona has been actively involved in the Tourism industry for over forty years, serving in multiple roles that have strengthened Hawaii's hospitality industry to a world class status. Ms. Iona also has an extensive background and understanding of Hawaii's diverse agricultural industry through her work with Dow Agriscience and the Kekaha Agriculture Association. She is an incredible asset to bring this critical perspective to strengthen the Hawaii Tourism Authority, the interface of tourism and agriculture and the people and visitors to Hawaii.

I have worked for many years with Ms. Iona on developing and implementing Farm to State and Farm to school initiatives on Kauai as a critical gap in our states ability to become food sustainable. Her embrace of the community, tireless efforts to support these initiatives and hospitality background have ensured great success in these endeavors. Ms. Iona is dedicated to the improvement of Hawaii's visitor experience and her passion and energy will be a huge asset to strengthen Hawaii Tourism Authority.

I respectfully request your strong support towards the confirmation or Stephanie Iona to the Hawaii Tourism Board.

Mark Stoutemyer

Corteva Agriscience Hawaii Research Lead

**GM-830**

Submitted on: 4/9/2022 7:25:55 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dexter Kishida	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination of Ms. Stephanie Iona to the HTA board.

I had the priveldge of working with her over the past 4 years in my prior role as DOE Farm to School Coordinator and now as the City's Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager. Through that time, I have appreciated her ability to bring people of different backgrounds to the conversation, her passion for Hawaii's people and ability to graciously keep the team pointed toward our goals.

I have also experienced traveling around Hawaii with her and almost everywhere we go someone comes up to say hi to "Aunty Steph" proving the impact she has had on peoples lives. I have seen her ability to bring groups back to an actionable reality which theoretical conversations on complex systems (like our food system) usually get lost in.

While her ability to keep the larger vision and work through the menutiae, along with her years of experience in the Hospitality industry make her an ideal candidate, I strongly support her nomination because of the heart she has for Hawaii and the people of Hawaii. I have no doubt she will guard both ferociously while on the HTA board.

Thank you,

Dexter Kishida

April 9, 2022

The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President,  
And Members of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Bill GM830

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

My name is Bobby Farias and I strongly **support GM830**. I have had the pleasure of working along side and directly with Stephanie Iona. Stephanie always has great leadership and vision with the events that she is involved with. Stephanie always keeps the Aloha spirit front and center that makes everyone feel welcomed. This is why I support this nomination for Stephanie Iona. Her strong love and knowledge of Hawaii and her passion to make Hawaii a memorable destination for everyone.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo  
Bobby Farias

**GM-830**

Submitted on: 4/9/2022 11:07:22 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Thomas Nizo	Testifying for Historic Waimea Theater and Cultrual Arts Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Thomas Nizo Business Manager for the Historic Waimea Theater and Cultural Arts Center(HWTCAC) for the past 5 years. In my capacity with HWTCAC I have had the honor of fostering a partnership with Stephanie Iona. Stephanie comes with a wealth of experience of the Visitor Industry relocating from Maui, formerly employed by Aston Papakea and Kapalua Bay Hotel and Alana Waikiki previously on Oahu. In 2004, Kauai gained a gem, Stephanie changed the paradigm of Aston Waimea Plantation Cottages, Stephanie demonstrated "UNITY", embracing the local host cultures with the resources of the Waimea Plantation Cottages staff to create a commUNITY in Waimea and the Island of Kauai. Throughout my many successful partnerships (HWTCAC, Waimea Town Celebration Festival, Kekaha Host Benefit Community Advisory Board, Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai County Fire Commission, Kekaha Agriculture Association, E Ola Mau O Kekaha, Waimea Project Graduation, Pulama Kauai, Waimea High School, Kauai Museum, Kauai Chamber of Commerce) with Stephanie, all have an underlying foundation of inclusion, bridging the gap, experiential, efficient, beneficial to all. I am a witness of Stephanie character and her deep rooted Hawaiian values of Laulima (cooperation), Mo'olelo (tradition), No'eau (talent), Ola Kino (healthy living), Aloha (inclusive of all) and Aloha 'āina (stewards of the land). All these aspect play an important role in the preservation of our historic sites, paying tribute to those kupuna and ancestors that have shaped Kaua'i's history and culture, providing avenues to share and continued evolution of diverse cultures that make up the current fabric of Kaua`i. I support her nomination as the Kauai representative for the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

**GM-830**

Submitted on: 4/9/2022 4:05:39 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha.**

**I am writing in support of Ms. Stephanie Iona for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.**

**Ms.Iona comes with dedicated and passionate experience in the Hawaii visitor industry for many years with a proven record of not only solving problems but being a part of the solution!**

**She is a lady with leadership skills and very organized spearheading events and bringing people together**

**She will bring a wealth of experience and guidance to the HTA Board.**

**Thank you for your consideration!**

**Kauai Aloha,**

**Johnny Gordines**

**LATE**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this recommendation in support of Stephanie Iona who is being considered as Kauai, Niihau representative for the Hawaii Tourism Authority. I have known Stephanie for years, both personally and professionally and during this time she has shown her ability to turn good ideas into practical solutions. Emerging from COVID, and going forward, the HTA will have a difficult time balancing the historic, more is better approach of the visitor industry, to balancing the needs and way of life of our residents. Coming from the visitor industry, coupled with her vast network of community leaders, both in government and the private sector, I can think of no one better suited to represent all the stake holders moving forward.

Best Regards,

Mike Turner

Director of Sales and Marketing  
Sunrise Capital/Kauai Shrimp





Hawaii Foodservice Alliance LLC, 2720 Waiwai Loop, Honolulu, HI 96819  
Tel: 808.839.2004 ~ Fax: 808.839.2033 ~ [HFA@HFAHawaii.com](mailto:HFA@HFAHawaii.com)

April 10, 2022,

TO: Board of Directors  
Hawaii Tourism Authority

FROM: Chad Buck  
CEO  
Hawaii Foodservice Alliance LLC  
Niihau Ahiu Provisions LLC

RE: **GM830 Support for Stephanie Iona to Hawaii Tourism Authority  
Representing Kauai and Niihau**

Dear Directors,

I am writing this letter of support for Stephanie Iona's appointment to the Hawaii Tourism Authority to represent the Islands of Kauai and Niihau.

I have know Stephanie Iona for many years. As a business owner and employer on Kauai and responsible for the processing and sale of lamb and Eland from the Island of Niihau, I believe Stephanie Iona is the best suited candidate to represent these special islands for the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify in support of Stephanie Iona.

Thank you.

Chad Buck  
Owner  
Hawaii Foodservice Alliance LLC  
Niihau Ahiu Provisions LLC



**LATE**

P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 11, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

**TESTIMONY ON GM 830**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, STEPHANIE IONA, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference  
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau strongly supports GM 830**, seeking the confirmation of Ms. Stephanie Iona to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Association.

Ms. Iona has been involved in the hospitality industry in Hawai'i for over four decades. Her diverse professional background in as a hotel and transportation executive along with her experience in the agriculture industry be invaluable to HTA as they continue to work with community member and visitor industry stakeholders on the future of tourism in Hawai'i.

Ms. Iona's experience will undoubtedly provide positive leadership for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support of Ms. Iona's confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.



# KAUAI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD, INC

April 8, 2022

**LATE**

RE: GM830  
Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
Gubernatorial Nominee - Stephanie Iona

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Kaua'i Economic Development Board's (KEDB) - Members and Board of Directors, I write this letter to fully support the appointment of Mrs. Stephanie Iona to the Hawaii Tourism Authority's Board of Directors as Kaua'i's Representative.

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the economics of Hawai'i for two years and it is clear that we, who call Hawai'i home, have the largest responsibility and opportunities to transform our future. We must work with people who love Hawai'i as much as we do and recognize the need to have thriving communities throughout the whole of Hawai'i, not just the urban core. With Hawai'i's unemployment rate and its rate of permanent business closures leading the nation, it is imperative to diversify our economy and support, enhance, and increase our Hawai'i-based companies to evolve, survive, and become more resilient to the impacts of the pandemic or any other disruptive event.

KEDB will be pleased to support the appointment of Stephanie Iona to the Hawaii Tourism Authority's Board of Directors by bringing to bear its business and economic development expertise, as well as its deep and strong connections throughout the entire Hawai'i Island communities. KEDB recognizes that what happens on one island affects other islands as well. For example, KEDB's agriculture programs, while benefiting agriculture producers here on Kaua'i, also leads to the potential of expanding markets on O'ahu or other islands.

Stephanie Iona has served Kaua'i in various capacities for many years. We have great confidence that she will continue to represent the County of Kaua'i and Hawai'i with a heart of aloha.

We therefore strongly support the appointment of Stephanie Iona to the Hawai'i Tourism Board of Directors as Kaua'i's representative.

Sincerely,

JACLYN KAINA

Director of Programs & Business Development

Cc: Jonathan Chun, Board Chair  
Stephanie Iona



**LATE**

April 11, 2022

**Testimony Before the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism**

**Monday, April 11, 2022; 3:00 p. m.**

**CR 224 & via Videoconference**

**Senate Bill No. GM830 – Stephanie Iona to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority**

To the Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair; Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of this letter is to strongly support the confirmation of Stephanie Iona to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA).

Ms. Iona's 40+ years in management positions in the travel industry and her last nine years as the Community Affairs liaison representing several businesses makes her an exemplary candidate for a position on the Board of Directors for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. In fact, it is hard to find a more qualified person who can serve on the HTA!

However, her qualifications go beyond her extensive experience and leadership skills. In my personal interactions with Ms. Iona, I see her genuine care for the people and the community. In my professional experiences, she always demonstrates a keen understanding of the local business climate – being thoughtful, fair, and expedient in her actions. She is a wonderful, caring individual who has done so much to advance the hopes and dreams of communities, families, and people.

It is critical that important decisions regarding our community be stewarded by those who have a strong understanding of our people combined with a "pono" approach in her dealings. Ms. Iona fits that bill perfectly.

We strongly urge you to support the confirmation of Stephanie Iona to a position on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Warren H. Haruki  
President and CEO

**LATE**

**GM-830**

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 12:10:46 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tito Villanueva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ms. Stephanie Iona is a strong advocate for residents and visitors of Kauai. I stronly support for her consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.



**LATE**

Testimony Before the  
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

Monday, April 11, 2022 at 3:00 pm  
Conference Room 224 & Via Video Conference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: SUPPORT for GM830, Nomination of Stephanie Iona to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority**

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Char Misalucha and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

The Kaua'i Chamber holds Stephanie Iona in the highest regard and makes the strongest possible recommendation for her appointment to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Board of Directors.

Ms. Iona's track record of service to our community is second to no one. She is always finding ways to successfully support the work and mission of many of our local nonprofits. She has served on numerous Boards including the Kaua'i Chamber. Additionally, she is continually organizing efforts to provide healthy food and meals to local families, including farm-to-table efforts in the Department of Education and food drives during the COVID-19 crisis. She was named the "Ambassador of Aloha" at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Waimea Town Celebration in 2018 due to her thoughtful approach, kind heart, and extensive history of helping members of our community thrive.

Her network of close personal contacts on Kaua'i, in the state of Hawai'i, and across the United States, is one more reason that she will be a valuable asset to HTA's critical work.

For these reasons, Ms. Iona is uniquely qualified for a position on the HTA Board of Directors.

Thank you for considering the position of the Kaua'i Chamber on this important nomination.

Sincerely,

Mark Perriello  
President & CEO



**LATE**

April 11, 2022

**Testimony Before the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism**

**Monday, April 11, 2022; 3:00 p. m.**

**CR 224 & via Videoconference**

**Senate Bill No. GM830 – Stephanie Iona to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority**

To the Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair; Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of this letter is to strongly support the confirmation of Stephanie Iona to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA).

Ms. Iona's 40+ years in management positions in the travel industry and her last nine years as the Community Affairs liaison representing several businesses makes her an exemplary candidate for a position on the Board of Directors for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. In fact, it is hard to find a more qualified person who can serve on the HTA!

However, her qualifications go beyond her extensive experience and leadership skills. In my personal interactions with Ms. Iona, I see her genuine care for the people and the community. In my professional experiences, she always demonstrates a keen understanding of the local business climate – being thoughtful, fair, and expedient in her actions. She is a wonderful, caring individual who has done so much to advance the hopes and dreams of communities, families, and people.

It is critical that important decisions regarding our community be stewarded by those who have a strong understanding of our people combined with a "pono" approach in her dealings. Ms. Iona fits that bill perfectly.

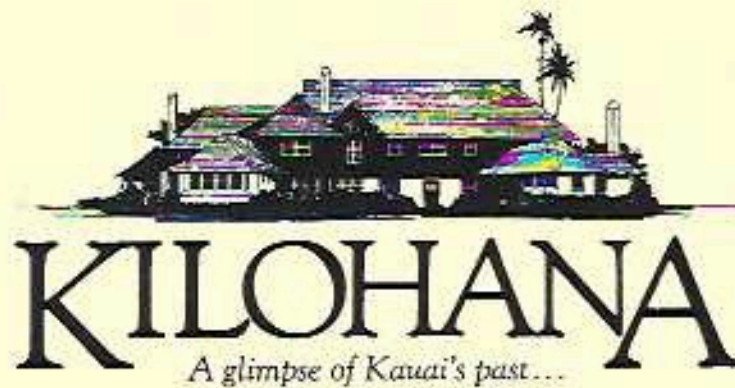
We strongly urge you to support the confirmation of Stephanie Iona to a position on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Warren H. Haruki*

Warren H. Haruki  
President and CEO



**LATE**

April 7, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly feel Senator Kouchi has made the right decision in nominating Stephanie Iona to the HTA Board of Directors, where she will represent Kauai and the Hawaiian Islands.

Stephanie will bring a wealth of knowledge to the Board in regards to the visitor industry and agritourism. She is also a highly respected community leader and will help guide our DMAP initiatives in a very positive direction.

Stephanie understands and embraces sustainable tourism. She doesn't just talk about challenges, she will work hard to find solutions. Her endless work in our westside community; feeding the hungry and enriching the lives of our neighborhoods, speak for themselves. She lives and embraces our objective of Malama Ku'u Home.

I have known Stephanie for many years and I will fully support her.

Sincerely,

Fred Atkins  
General Partner  
Kauai Kilohana Partners



KAUAI VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
PO Box 337, Waimea, HI 96796  
(808) 338-9431



HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION  
KAUAI REGION  
E PONO MAU LOA  
*Always Excellent*

SAMUEL MAHELONA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
4800 Kawaihau Rd, Kapa'a, HI 96746  
(808) 822-4961

**LATE**

Lance K. Segawa  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation – Kauai Region  
P.O. Box 337  
Waimea, Hawaii 96796

April 11, 2022

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism - GM830  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: Gubernatorial Nominee to the Hawaii Tourism Authority Board of Directors

Dear Senator Wakai:

I am honored to recommend Stephanie Iona as Gubernatorial Nominee to the Hawaii Tourism Authority Board of Directors. Ms. Iona's experience and background in hotel management and agriculture will bring tremendous experience and insight to the many complex issues surrounding tourism. Her love of Hawaii and our neighbor island culture assures an appreciation for the values that make our island state unique and special.

Without reservation, I strongly support the confirmation of Stephanie Iona.

Sincerely,

Lance K. Segawa  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hawaii Health Systems Corporation – Kauai Region