

STATE OF HAWAII



**KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION COMMISSION**  
355 NORTH KING STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

April 1, 2024

Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts  
The Honorable Senator Lee, Chair  
And Members of the Committee

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, April 4, 2024, at 3:00 pm  
PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha e Honorable Senator Lee and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of Ku'uleilanimekealohamau Kupahu-Marino Kahoano who is being considered for confirmation to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

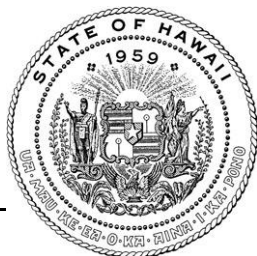
As Executive Director of the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission, I strongly support the appointment of Ku'uleilanimekealohamau, representing Waimānalo Hawaiian Homestead Association, to the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission. Ku'uleilanimekealohamau will be a welcome addition in helping the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission move toward accomplishing many of our goals.

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of her appointment.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Hammond".

Amy Hammond  
Executive Director  
King Kamehameha Celebration Commission  
(808)223-6040/ (808)586-0333  
kkcc@hawaii.gov



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
DIRECTOR

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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Thursday, April 4, 2024

3:00 PM

In room #224 and via videoconference

In support of

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 575, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to  
the King Kamehameha Celebration Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
KU'ULEILANIMEKEALOHAMAU KUPAHU-MARINO KAHOANO,  
for a term to expire 06-30-2027.**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and members of the Committee. The department supports GM 575 and appointment of Gubernatorial Nominee Ku'uleilanimekealohamau Kupahu-Marino Kahoano to serve as member of the King Kamehameha Celebration Committee, whose goal is to commemorate the legacy of King Kamehameha I through culturally appropriate and culturally relevant celebrations throughout venues statewide.

With over 30 years of clinical and community nursing experience, coupled with 50 years of dedicated volunteerism, Ms. Kupahu-Marino Kahoano embodies the spirit of aloha and commitment to service that is quintessential to our Hawaiian culture. Her contributions extend beyond the realm of healthcare, with exceptional leadership and cultural stewardship. Being a kumu hula and being involved in cultural teaching for over four decades underscores her dedication to preserving and perpetuating our rich Hawaiian heritage.

Her candidacy for the King Kamehameha Celebration Committee is a testament to her unwavering dedication to serving the people of Hawaii. Ms Kupahu-Marino Kahoano is an excellent fit for the committee and to be a representative of the legacy of Kamehameha I.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



MARRIOTT RESORT  
WAIKIKI BEACH

April 3, 2024

Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

Re: Support of GM 575 – Confirmation of KU'ULEILANIMEKEALOHAMAU KUPAHU-MARINO  
KAHOANO to the King Kamehameha Celebration Committee

Chair Senator Lee, Vice Chair Lorraine R. Inouye and members of the Committee on Transportation and  
Culture and the Arts,

My name is Jerry Gibson and it is my honor to recommend Ku'uleilanimekealohamau Kupahu-Marino  
Kahoano for the King Kamehameha Celebration Committee. Kumu Leilani has been at the Waikiki Beach  
Marriott Resort & Spa since early 2023 and slowly but surely enhanced our cultural awareness  
throughout our entire team. She created several guest experience destination activities such as feather  
lei making, indigenous flower arranging, oli chanting classes, Hawaiian music and history tours with a  
spirit of cultural collaboration to our team and guests.

Kumu is the shining light that awakens our connection to the islands as we walk through our daily  
journey with guests and our team members. Her "can do" attitude and hard work are a recipe to learn  
the history and appreciation for Hawai'i. Leilani has brought us to a true sense of place. She would be a  
sensational committee member for the King Kamehameha Celebration Committee.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jerry Gibson  
General Manager

**GM-575**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:32:46 AM

Testimony for TCA on 4/4/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susie Chun Oakland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Chair and Committee Members:

i strongly support Leilani Kahoano to serve on the King Kamehameha Celebration Committee. Her commitment and devotion to Hawai'i's people is very deep. Her knowledge and cultural understanding is significant. She will continue to contribute much to the Committee's work

Thank you for you favorable comments nsideration.

me ke aloha pumehana,

Susie Chun Oakland

**GM-575**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:09:21 AM

Testimony for TCA on 4/4/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leatrice Haas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Chair Lee, Senate Vice Chair Inouye, and honorable members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts:

This is regarding GM575 and I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Ku'uleilanimekealohamau Kupahu-Marino Kahoano to the King Kamehameha Celebration Committee. My name is Leatrice Haas, and I am a haumana of Kumu Leilani, but I also know her in her capacity as a cultural director, neonatal nurse, educator, community leader, event organizer, volunteer, and much more. Not only does she have a deep knowledge and understanding of the Hawaiian people, culture, and our 'Aina, but simply put--she is the epitome of what ALOHA looks like and feels like. Her grace, compassion, respect, and love that she shows to others, to the Hawaiian culture, and our beautiful state is undeniable and incomparable. I urge you to support her nomination as she is truly an asset, not only to your committee but to the State of Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Leatrice Haas