

GM825

Submitting for consideration
and confirmation to the Board
of Directors of the Hawai'i
Tourism Authority,
Gubernatorial Nominee, CRAIG
NAKAMURA, for a term to
expire 6-30-2018.



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākāua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaii tourism authority.org

David Y. Ige
Governor

Ronald Williams
Chief Executive Officer

Testimony of
Ronald Williams
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Senate Committee on Tourism and International Affairs
Wednesday, April 15, 2015
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 225

GM825: Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), Gubernatorial Nominee, Craig Nakamura.

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair English and Members of the Senate Committee on Tourism and International Affairs.

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Craig Nakamura to the Board of Directors for the HTA. During my time as HTA Board Chair and now as the interim CEO, I have had the opportunity of working directly with Mr. Nakamura in support of Hawai'i's Visitor Industry.

Mr. Nakamura has served on the HTA Board of Directors for almost 4 years and is currently serving as the HTA Vice Chair. He has earned my respect as a hardworking and dedicated individual who has a great understanding of the tourism industry and the importance of balancing community and visitor needs. I support his nomination without hesitation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Senator Gil Kahele, Chair
Senator Kalani English, Vice Chair
Committee on Tourism and International Affairs

Senate confirmation of HTA Board Director – Craig Nakamura

Tuesday, 14 April 2015

Support for GM 825, Craig Nakamura

Aloha Senators,

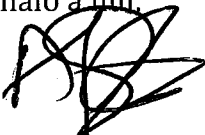
I write this letter to provide my full support to Craig Nakamura and his reconfirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. Craig has served on the HTA Board since 2012 and, in August of 2014, was appointed co-vice-chair. I am currently serving with Craig on HTA's CEO-search committee and find him to be a gentleman who speaks honestly and with integrity.

In terms of Board business, his particular experience in land use and real estate law has proven invaluable to the HTA in recent years. Moreover, as a representative of the island of Maui, he brings a much-needed other-than-O'ahu perspective to HTA.

In early 2014, Craig and I traveled together to Sapporo, Japan as HTA Board Members and in support of a goodwill trip with Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui. During the trip, we met with the Governor and with several mayors of Hokkaido. At a luncheon with exchange- and resident-students at Hokkaido University, I got a chance to observe with Craig interacting with college students still in contemplation of their futures. He was nurturing but pointed, supportive but directive. As a student and professor myself at the time, I found the interaction to be fruitful and important for those students.

It is all of these characteristics that make Craig a uniquely important asset to the HTA Board and he has my full support.

Mahalo a nui.



Aaron J. Salā
HTA Board Chair

April 10, 2015

Via Email (TSITestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senator Gilbert Kahele
Chair, Committee on Tourism
Hawaii State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 213
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Governor's Message No. 825 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee Craig G. Nakamura
Hearing Date: April 15, 2015; Hearing Time: 2:45 p.m.

Dear Senator Kahele and Committee Members:

My name is Christof Luedi and I am the Regional Vice President for Fairmont Hotels and Resorts, Hawai'i, overseeing our two properties on the islands Maui (The Fairmont Kea Lani) and Hawai'i (The Fairmont Orchid). I have held this position since January 2001.

I am writing this note in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Craig G. Nakamura whom I have known on a personal and professional level since my arrival to the State of Hawai'i in 2001. Mr. Nakamura has advised and continues to advise our company on many issues over the years and has proven himself to be an extremely efficient and effective contributor with a deep understanding of Hawai'i's business world and visitors industry.

I would like, therefore, to highly recommend that Mr. Nakamura's term with the Hawaii Tourism Authority be extended.

Sincerely,



Christof Luedi
General Manager & Regional Vice President, Hawaii

The Fairmont Orchid
One North Kaniku Drive
Kohala Coast, Hawaii
United States 96743
TEL 808 887 7338
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chris.luedi@fairmont.com
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HYUNDAI

Tournament of Champions

April 13, 2015

Via Email: TSITestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Gilbert Kahele
Chair, Committee on Tourism
Hawaii State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 213
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Governor's Message No. 825 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to Hawaii Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee Craig G. Nakamura; Hearing Date: April 15, 2015; Hearing Time: 2:45pm

Dear Senator Kahele and Committee Members,

It is with great pleasure that I enthusiastically support the nomination to extend the term of Craig G. Nakamura to the Hawaii Tourism Authority board. In my 32 years of experience in developing and operating events on Maui including wine and food festivals, health and wellness events, whale conservation and educational forums, LPGA and PGA TOUR golf tournaments, I am acutely aware of the marketing benefits, worldwide exposure and economic and charitable benefits that they produce.

While working as the Tournament Director for the Mercedes-Benz Championship, I reported to Kapalua Maui Charities, the host organization of which Craig was a valued board member. His commitment to our community was very evident and I greatly admired his ethics, legal expertise and wise guidance. I am confident that his sound judgment and experience would be of considerable benefit to the Hawaii Tourism Authority and the state of Hawaii.

Aloha,



Nancy Cross
Executive Director
PGA TOUR/Hyundai Tournament of Champions



HYUNDAI TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
1000 Kapalua Drive • Lahaina, Maui, HI 96761
Toll Free 1-888-665-9160 • (808) 665-9160 • Fax: (808) 669-2063
PGATOUR.com/hyundai



April 14, 2015

Via Email (TSITestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

**Senator Gilbert Kahele
Chair, Committee on Tourism
Hawaii State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 213
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813**

RE: Craig Nakamura
Letter of Recommendation

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure and honor to recommend Craig Nakamura to continue his service on the Board of the Hawaii Tourism Authority. His past service on the Board is a testimony to the valuable knowledge, experience and expertise he contributes to the organization.

I have known Craig for nearly 20 years as my business attorney and over the years has become a trusted advisor and great friend. His honesty, integrity and high moral standards are admirable; I have the highest and utmost respect and trust in him. Craig has always had the best interest for what is right and fair whether representing me in my business affairs or personally as a friend.

He is highly respected in his industry and in the community. His honesty, integrity, knowledge, professionalism, and compassion are his qualities; I truly believe he is a great asset to the Board.

Respectfully,



Rose Royce
Owner & President
Hauoli Ltd. Db a Rainbow Mall



Wailea Blue

Golf Course

100 Wailea Ike Drive, Suite #4
Wailea, Maui, Hawaii 96753

April 13, 2015

Senator Gilbert Kahele
Chair, Committee on Tourism
Hawaii State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 213
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Governor's Message No. 825 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee Craig G. Nakamura; Hearing Date: April 15, 2015; Hearing Time: 2:45 p.m.

Dear Senator Kahele and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Craig Nakamura to the Hawaii Tourism Authority. I have known Craig Nakamura for many years and feel that he is an outstanding choice to represent Maui and the State of Hawaii as a member of this important body.

Being a respected business attorney from Maui, Craig is an ideal candidate for the position. He has worked closely with people in all aspects of business, giving him a keen understanding of our economy. Obviously, tourism plays a major role in our economy and Craig has assisted many businesses in this sector of the economy as well. From start up ventures to existing resort hotels, Craig has been involved. However, I feel that it is his diversity of clients that helps him understand the impact of tourism and how it affects everyone in Hawaii.

I also believe that Craig has distinguished himself as a member of the Tourism Authority. His insight has already been an asset in guiding the Authority over the past few years. He has been looked upon for leadership and has more to offer the people of Hawaii as a member of the Authority.

I would like to encourage the committee to support the nomination of Craig Nakamura to the Hawaii Tourism Authority. If you have any questions regarding my support, I can be reached at 808-875-5140.

Sincerely,

Barry Helle
General Manager

D|K RESTAURANTS

OAHU _ MAUI _ BIG ISLAND

April 10, 2015

Via Email (TSITestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Senator Gilbert Kahele
Chair, Committee on Tourism
Hawaii State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 213
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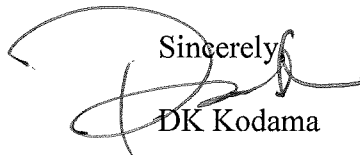
Dear Senator Kahele and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide this letter in support of Craig G. Nakamura's nomination to the Hawaii'i Tourism Authority.

I have known Craig since 1985, when I moved to Maui from the mainland, having met him through mutual friends. Since that time, Craig has represented me and my companies with respect to my Sansei Seafood and Sushi Bar and other restaurants on Maui, Oahu and the Big Island. I know that he also represents other restaurants, hotels and property owners whose businesses are dependent to a large degree on our visitor industry. Craig also has a deep seated appreciation of our culture and the things that make Hawaii'i special. As a result, Craig has an excellent understanding of the impacts of tourism on the State of Hawaii.

Craig is someone that I know will not hesitate to assist me whenever I call, as both a friend and attorney. He has a great family and strong community ties. I know he will be an asset to the Hawaii'i Tourism Authority Board and I am happy to provide this letter supporting him for this position.

Sincerely,



DK Kodama

For more information, go to our website: www.dkrestaurants.com