DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804 Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov Telephone: (808) 586-2355 Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of MIKE MCCARTNEY Director Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism before the SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM Wednesday, April 14, 2021 3:00 PM State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of GM 802 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHERRY MENOR-MCNAMARA, for a term to expire at noon on 06-30-24.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Miscalucha and members of the Committee.

I am writing in **strong support** of Sherry Menor-McNamara to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA). Sherry has served on the board of HTA since 2017. She is currently the President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i which advocates for businesses in the State of Hawai'i. Sherry's reach across a broad spectrum of businesses gives her insight that is helpful in HTA achieving the goals of their four strategic pillars. Her experience and knowledge of the business community is a key to finding the balance between the community's needs and the visitor industry's challenges.

I support the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Sherry Menor-McNamara, to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY DIRECTOR

> CHUNG I. CHANG DEPUTY DIRECTOR



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 3:00 P.M. Written Testimony

<u>RE:</u> <u>GM 802, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of</u> <u>Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHERRY</u> <u>MENOR-MCNAMARA, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.</u>

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** GM 802 for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHERRY MENOR-MCNAMARA, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Ms. Menor-McNamara is currently the President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, becoming the youngest and first female leader and the first Japanese-Filipino of the organization's 165-year history.

She previously worked for the Hawaii State Legislature, ESPN's Sheraton Hawaii Bowl, Sony Corporation, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Estee Lauder Company, Elton John Production, U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka and the Executive Office of the United States President. It is this wide range of experience in both the private and public sector that gives her a unique perspective that can add to the HTA Board.

Given her breathe and experience, Ms. Menor-McNamara has contributed to community services including the Queen's Health Systems, JAIMS Foundation, Girl Scouts of Hawaii, FILCom Center, East-West Center Foundation, Center for Tomorrow's Leaders, and Move Oahu Forward, as well as on a number of task forces. From her vantage point at the Chamber, Ms. Menor-McNamara maintains constant contact with a myriad of key individuals throughout Hawaii's business community, many of whom drive the economic engine of the state's tourism industry. She has been an active and enthusiastic supporter of



ongoing efforts to keep Hawaii a top-of-mind destination for visitors from around the world. Her work experiences have involved reaching out to audiences on a global scale and included living overseas in major cities like Tokyo and London as well as New York, Los Angeles and Washington D.C.

Her global mindset was further nurtured by the opportunity to participate in the prestigious Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs leadership program, which afforded her the opportunity to meet with various senior executives from Japanese companies and government officials to promote the relationship between Japan and Hawaii.

We have no doubt that Ms. Menor-McNamara would continue to offer a fresh, globally-minded perspective to any initiative being undertaken by the HTA Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support.

Testimony of Ku'uhaku Park On Behalf of Matson Navigation Company, Inc. Support GM802 Before the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism April 14, 2021

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee,

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. supports GM802, which nominates Sherry Menor-McNamara to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority. As the President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, Ms. Menor-McNamara will bring an unmatched business perspective to the Hawaii Tourism Authority. We have worked with Ms. Menor-McNamara and have always found her to be open, fair, and transparent. We believe she will execute her duties with fairness and competence.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support.

<u>GM-802</u> Submitted on: 4/12/2021 8:11:42 AM Testimony for EET on 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary T. Yoshioka	Testifying for Diamond Bakery Co., Ltd.	Support	No

Comments:

I support Sherry Menor-McNamara for appointment to HTA given her outstanding qualitfications and judgement. Mahalo.



April 12, 2021

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chairman, Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism, and Members Thirty-First State Legislature Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairman Wakai:

Please accept this letter in **strong support** of **Ms. Sherry Menor-McNamara's** candidacy for the Hawaii Tourism Authority's Board of Directors.

I grew up with Ms. Menor-McNamara in Hilo, Hawaii, and have known her both personally and professionally for over 40 years. I have every confidence in Sherry's abilities and extensive insight into business, travel and the hospitality industry to truly help HTA fulfill its mission of strengthening tourism for our State.

Your favorable consideration and confirmation upon Ms. Menor-McNamara's nomination would be greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

/ohy is-fl

Toby B. Taniguchi President

<u>GM-802</u> Submitted on: 4/12/2021 1:02:12 PM Testimony for EET on 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Edie	Testifying for Holomua Consulting Group LLC	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf myself as an individual and a principal of Holomua Consulting Group, we strongly support the confirmation of Ms. Sherry Menor-McNamara to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA).

As President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (COC Hawaii), a position which she has held since September 2013, Sherry is intimately familiar with and has an excellent handle on the pulse as well as unique needs and concerns of Hawaii's business community. Under Sherry's leadership, COC Hawaii has become a strong advocate for and powerful voice of Hawaii's businesses. During the pandemic, Sherry and COC Hawaii have worked tirelessly to provide necessary information and aid to our local businesses. During the current legislative session, Sherry and COC Hawaii have brought the business community together to allow our voices to be heard.

Also under Sherry's leadership, COC Hawaii has taken affirmative steps to better understand the specific needs of the Native Hawaiian business community, through development of a formal relationship with the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, which I am president of.

I believe that Sherry's experience and perspective is a necessary one as well as one of immense value to HTA, particularly during this critical time for our State – as we navigate economic recovery, as we look to a more sustainable tourism model and as we work to diversify our economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide support for this nomination.



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 14, 2021

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

TESTIMONY ON GM 802

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHERRY MENOR-MCNAMARA, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

Conference Room 224 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 Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports the confirmation and reappointment of Ms. Sherry Menor-McNamara to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Sherry is currently the President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, becoming the youngest and first female leader and the first Japanese Filipino of the organization's 169-year history.

She previously worked for the Hawaii State Legislature, ESPN's Sheraton Hawaii Bowl, Sony Corporation, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Estee Lauder Company, Elton John Production, U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka, and the Executive Office of the United States President. It is this wide range of experience in both the private and public sectors that has given her a unique perspective on the HTA Board.

Ms. Menor-McNamamar is very active in other community efforts. She serves on numerous boards including the Queen's Health Systems, JAIMS Foundation, Girl Scouts of Hawaii, FILCom Center, East-West Center Foundation, Center for Tomorrow's Leaders, and Move Oahu Forward, as well as on many task forces. From her vantage point at the Chamber, Sherry maintains constant contact with a myriad of key individuals throughout Hawaii's business community, many of whom drive the economic engine that is the state's tourism industry and has been an active and enthusiastic supporter of ongoing efforts to keep Hawaii a top-of-mind destination for visitors from around the world.

Her work experiences have involved reaching out to audiences on a global scale and included living overseas in major cities like Tokyo and London as well as New York, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C.

We do not doubt that Ms. Menor-McNamara would be a continued asset to the Hawaii Tourism Authority Board, Hawaii's tourism sector, and the people of Hawaii.

HFB respectfully requests your support of Ms. Sherry Menor-McNamara's reappointment to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our support for Ms. Menor-McNamara.



April 12, 2021

Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair Honorable Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism The Senate Hawaii State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 802 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHERRY MENOR-MCNAMARA, for a term to expire 06-30-2024 - TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce ("<u>HJCC</u>"), we would like to express our <u>strong support</u> for GM 802, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHERRY MENOR-McNAMARA, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

As a member organization of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, the HJCC has had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. Menor-McNamara, particularly after her appointment to be President and CEO in September, 2013. We believe that Ms. Menor-McNamara will be a valuable and effective member of the board of directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority ("<u>HTA</u>") and strongly support her nomination. The HTA will have a critical role to play in moving the State's leading industry forward during these unprecedented times, and Ms. Menor-McNamara can provide value leadership as a director of the HTA.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Nay I Ashihan

Wayne Ishihara President and CEO

Peter J. Hamasaki Chair, Government Affairs Committee



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

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, & Tourism Governor's Message Number 802

Chair Wakai and members of the Committee, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's 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 —advocates on behalf of an industry that spans numerous facets of the local economy. Our members include not only lodging properties, but small businesses, restaurants, air and ground transportation, as well as countless other entities that are adjacent to the travel industry itself. It is critical that the representatives who comprise the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Board of Directors mirror this diversity.

Sherry Menor-McNamara has been an outspoken and capable leader throughout her time as the president & CEO of the Chamber of Commerce – Hawaii. She is a strong advocate for her members, many of whom are also HLTA members, as well as Hawai'i's business sector as a whole. Should she be confirmed for another term on HTA's Board of Directors, she would bring to the table an understanding of Hawai'i's economic diversity that is vitally important to our state's top economic driver: tourism.

I have been fortunate to collaborate with Sherry throughout the pandemic as we have looked to inform public policy and balance public health with the economic well-being of our local society. As establishing members of the Hawai'i Tourism & Business Coalition, I have been able to work closely with Sherry over the past year and am confident that her voice is needed at HTA as we continue the arduous process of recovering our state's tourism economy.

For these reasons, HLTA supports Governor's Message Number 802.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

<u>GM-802</u>

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 11:33:05 AM Testimony for EET on 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall John Francisco	Testifying for Kauai Filipino Chamber of Commerce	Support	No

Comments:

Sherry Menor-Mcnamara will provide outstanding leadership and support that will have great insight and contribution to this board reflecting a wider perspective as a non-hotelier representative of other secotrs and industries as a longtime business, community and non-governmental member.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 | Honolulu, HI 96813 P: 808-533-1292 | e: info@hawaiifood.com

Executive Officers

Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Chair* Charlie Gustafson, Tamura Super Market, *Vice Chair* Eddie Asato, The Pint Size Corp., *Secretary/Treas.* Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director* John Schlif, Rainbow Sales and Marketing, *Advisor* Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor* Stan Brown, Acosta Sales & Marketing, *Advisor* Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor* Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor* Beau Oshiro, C&S Wholesale Grocers, *Advisor* Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*

TO: Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair Senator Bennette E. Misaluch, Vice Chair

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: April 14, 2021 TIME: 3pm PLACE: Via Videoconference

RE: GM802 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHERRY MENOR-MCNAMARA, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure. Sherry Menor-Mcnamara has a wealth of experience that will be valuable to the Hawaii Tourism Authority in accomplishing its mission of managing tourism for the benefit of the Hawaiian Islands. We encourage you to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT Governor's Message 802, Sherry Menor-McNamara, Gubernatorial Nominee, Hawai'i Tourism Authority Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 3:00pm Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha and members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Ms. Sherry Menor-McNamara nomination to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. Ms. Menor-McNamara's reappointment to the Tourism Authority is crucial at this time – when the industry is recovering from a near standstill – as her leadership in the business community as well as her previous tenure with this Authority will enhance the Authority's leadership to glean necessary information from Ms. Menor-McNamara's experiences.

Hawaiian Airlines appreciates our working relationship with the Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i and Ms. Menor-McNamara's leadership.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Sherry Menor-McNamara to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.



April 13, 2021

The Honorable Glenn Wakai Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism State Senate State Capitol 415 S. King Street Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in support of Sherry Menor-McNamara to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority Board

Dear Chair Wakai and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism:

I am writing in support of Ms. Sherry Menor-McNamara's appointment to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority Board (HTA). I have known Sherry since her tenure as CEO of the Hawai'i Chamber of Commerce and have known her to be a dedicated and passionate leader in Hawaii's business community, as well as in the visitor industry. As CEO of the Chamber, she understands the interconnectedness of different industries, and how they all work together as part of our local economy.

Sherry deserves this appointment because she is not only an advocate for local businesses, but also an advocate for our local people, understanding that their is a balance, and often times a compromise that is necessary to making good public policies. Beyond her business acumen, Sherry possesses the character, reputation, and leadership to do what's right for our community as a board member of the HTA. She has also the emotional intelligence to bridge relationships and work through tough decisions with others in leadership positions and among her peers.

Within applicable rules, I wholeheartedly support Sherry Menor-McNamara's appointment to the HTA. Should you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me, 808-386-2538.

Mahalo,

Denise Yamaguchi CEO



April 13, 2021

RE: Governor's Message 802

Dear Chair Wakai and the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism,

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce **supports** the Governor's Message 802 that submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Sherry Menor-McNamara**, for a term to expire 6-30-2024.

With nearly 500 members, the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce exists to provide leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i. Since our founding in 1968, we have worked to enhance the quality of life for our community through a strong, sustainable economy on Hawai'i Island.

For many years, the Kona-Kohala Chamber has participated in a statewide chamber alliance led by the Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i President and CEO Sherry Menor-McNamara. This group meets routinely to communicate and collaborate on important issues.

Here in West Hawai'i, like other neighbor islands, tourism is the main economic driver and Hawai'i Tourism Authority plays a very important role to our local economy.

We believe Ms. Menor-McNamara brings a deep understanding of the business community to HTA's Board of Directors. She also provides an important statewide perspective because of her strong neighbor island relationships.

Please reappoint Sherry Menor-McNamara to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Mendy Laros

Wendy J. Laros, President and CEO Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce

Written Statement of Myoung Oh

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

April 14, 2021

3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

G.M. 802

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHERRY MENOR-MCNAMARA, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the appointment of Ms. Sherry Menor-McNamara as a board member of the Hawaii Tourism Authority. Ms. Menor-McNamara has extensive knowledge and offers tremendous value and extensive insight about business, travel and hospitality which will help drive Hawaii Tourism Authority's fulfillment of their mission to continually strengthen tourism for the State. Her strong business acumen will help drive their vision forward and show how all businesses benefit from the visitor industry.

For these reasons I humbly request your favorable consideration of the nomination of Ms. Sherry Menor-McNamara to the Board of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

<u>GM-802</u>

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 10:02:44 AM Testimony for EET on 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

Sub	omitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Le	en Higashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony as an individual in **Support** of Sherry Menor-Mcnamara for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

At HTDC, I have had the pleasure or working with Sherry and the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii on numerous initiatives. She is bold, creative, collaborative, and a strong advocate for the small business community. Her leadership will be a great asset for the State. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.





Testimony before the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism State Capitol Room 224 & Via Video Conference State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street Wednesday, April 14, 2021 3:00 p.m. HST

April 13, 2021

RE: Support for GM 802

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

The Kauai Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the reappointment of Chamber of Commerce Hawaii (COCH) President and CEO Sherry Menor-McNamara to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) for a term ending June 30, 2024.

Ms. Menor-McNamara is the state's leading voice for business and understands the interconnectedness between tourism and Hawaii's economic health. She represents over 2,000 businesses through her work at COCH, which distinguishes her as the preeminent representative for the Hawaii business community. She knows, better than most, how all of our state's businesses benefit from a thriving tourism sector.

Additionally, the Kauai Chamber could not find a stronger friend, ally, and supporter to the neighbor island economies than we do with Ms. Menor-McNamara. She continues to ensure that neighbor island Chambers are consulted and included in critical conversations taking place in the corridors of power on Oahu. Her strong value of inclusiveness of the entire state makes her an excellent choice for continued service with HTA.

Ms. Menor-McNamara's well-known track record of excellence in leadership is well known throughout the State Capitol. She works successfully across political factions in order to successfully advocate for and advance the mission of COCH. In addition, she played an invaluable role in helping navigate the difficulties presented by the COVID-19 crisis to the business community.

Ms. Menor-McNamara has earned a second term on the HTA Board of Directors.

Thank you for considering the position of the Kauai Chamber as you evaluate Ms. Menor-McNamara's reappointment to HTA.

Mahalo.

Mark Perriello President & CEO



<u>GM-802</u> Submitted on: 4/14/2021 1:16:34 PM Testimony for EET on 4/14/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn Miyahira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Sherry Menor-McNamara to serve on the HTA Board.