



TESTIMONY OF DANIEL NĀHO'OPI'I  
INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO, HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
AND TOURISM

Thursday, April 11, 2024 1:30 p.m.

In consideration of

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 703**  
**NOMINATION OF BLAINE MIYASATO**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY**

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

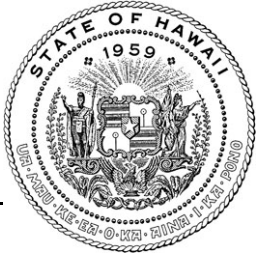
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Blaine Miyasato's nomination to serve as a member of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority Board of Directors.

Mr. Miyasato was born to a mother and father who both worked in the visitor industry, and his story stands as an example to our kama'aina children. He brings to our boardroom nearly four decades of experience at Hawaiian Airlines – the first rank-and-file employee to ascend to the executive team of Hawai'i's hometown carrier. The values lived by Hawaiian Airlines, of caring for Hawai'i's people, environment, and communities, are reflections of Mr. Miyasato's personal values. His experience spans disciplines including marketing, advertising, brand management, product development, and business process improvement – all relevant to the work we do at HTA.

His experience, energy, and commitment lead to Mr. Miyasato's appointment by his peers as Chair of the HTA board in July 2023 – a role that he fulfilled ably through the August wildfires. His leadership through the early response and setting the course for tourism's recovery set a strong foundation for our work in the years to come. Today, he chairs the branding committee of our board, setting policy and direction for the Hawaiian Islands brand globally.

Mr. Miyasato's lived experience has contributed immensely to our work at HTA. We wholeheartedly support Mr. Miyasato's nomination to serve on our board, and appreciate this opportunity to express that support before this committee.

Mahalo.



**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

**DANE K. WICKER**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
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Testimony of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM**

Thursday, April 11, 2024  
1:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
**GM 703**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
BLAINE MIYASATO, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.**

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

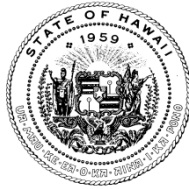
I support the appointment of Blaine Miyasato to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

Mr. Miyasato is an experienced leader with nearly 40 years in the airline industry and more than 20 years as a senior executive with Hawaiian Airlines where he was the first Vice President of in-flight services and the first rank and file employee on the executive team. His accomplishments include successfully negotiating multiple labor contracts, creating award winning products and services, and introducing transformational guest facing experiences.

Mr. Miyasato also serves as a Hawai'i Business Roundtable committee member and Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i board member and has previously served as Airlines Committee of Hawai'i co-chair.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for Mr. Miyasato's confirmation to serve on the Board of Directors for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. He has been integral in his role on the board and I look forward to continuing to work with him to fulfill the HTA's mission. Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors  
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele  
DREANALEE K. KALILI  
TAMMY L. LEE  
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 11, 2024  
1:30 P.M.  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
State Capitol

In consideration of  
**Governor's Message 703**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, BLAINE MIYASATO, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

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Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the confirmation of Blaine Miyasato to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA).

Mr. Miyasato brings an unmatched perspective to the HTA, honed by his nearly four decades at Hawaiian Airlines. This experience offers a deep understanding of the tourism industry, from the thrills and expectations of visitors to the complex operational realities that ensure a smooth travel experience.

Beyond his professional qualifications, Mr. Miyasato possesses a deep understanding of Hawaii's unique culture. This local perspective is crucial for the HTA to strike a responsible balance between tourism growth and the well-being of Hawaii's residents and natural resources.

Furthermore, Mr. Miyasato's background in marketing, advertising, and brand management will be instrumental. His expertise will ensure Hawaii remains a competitive leader in the global tourism market.

The DOT firmly believes that Mr. Miyasato's exceptional experience, proven leadership, and unwavering commitment to Hawaii make him an ideal candidate for the HTA Board. His insights will be essential in navigating the ever-changing tourism landscape and securing a sustainable, prosperous future for Hawaii's visitor industry and its communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Imanaka Asato  
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

April 5, 2024

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic  
Development and Tourism

**RE: Governor's Message No. 703**  
**Hearing date: April 11, 2024 at 1:30 PM**

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the committee,

Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 703 confirming Blaine Miyasato to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority ("HTA"). Blaine's exceptional career in the airline industry, marked by innovative solutions, operational excellence, and a dedication to delivering outstanding guest experiences, makes him an ideal candidate to contribute to the strategic management of tourism in Hawaii.

With 39 years of experience in the airline industry, Blaine has earned a solid reputation for his visionary leadership and ability to drive transformative change. He played a pivotal role in shaping the Hawaiian Airline's service offerings, introducing award-winning products, and spearheading the airline's entry into the Japan-Hawaii market. In addition, Blaine has consistently demonstrated his ability to lead teams to achieve exceptional results, even in the face of significant challenges. Moreover, his ability to build consensus among diverse stakeholders will be important to driving organizational success through many important but competing interest from local groups and other stakeholders.

In addition, as a Native Hawaiian professional, he has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of the importance of culture and sustainable tourism, which has proven invaluable in his ability to align organizational values with the tenets of Native Hawaiian culture during his tenure with the HTA.

In conclusion, I am confident that Blaine's wealth of experience, leadership acumen, and passion for Native Hawaiian cultural values, as well as his commitment to our beautiful islands make him an exemplary candidate for the board of the Hawaii Tourism Authority. I strongly urge you to approve his nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michael Iosua



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

April 11, 2024

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

**TESTIMONY ON GM 703**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, BLAINE MIYASATO, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, 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 Blaine Miyasato's nomination to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.**

HFB has had the opportunity to work with Mr. Miyasato during his tenure at Hawaiian Airlines. We believe his extensive experience in the airline industry makes him an ideal candidate to continue serving on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

We are confident that Mr. Miyasato is an ideal candidate for the HTA Board. His experience, expertise, and dedication will continue to be an asset to the HTA and the State of Hawai'i.

Please accept our strong support for Mr. Blaine Miyasato's nomination to continue to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

9 APRIL 2024

Governor's Message 703

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

I am pleased to provide the Committee on Energy, Economic development and Tourism with a compelling testimonial in favor of Governor's message 703, of Blaine Jay Miyasato's consideration and approval to the Board.

It has been a joy to collaborate with Blaine on Hawaiian Airlines government relations projects. In all we do, we have been able to reflect our home and hometown carrier. We have had the opportunity to stand with our legislators in honoring our home both domestically and abroad.

Working with Blaine gives me immense pride as a Cultural Entertainer. He has an intense love for our way of life, Hawaii, and its people. Blaine would be an excellent candidate to serve on this Board of Directors.

Mahalo for your time and consideration of Blaine Jay Miyasato for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority Board of Directors

Mahalo

Amy Hānaiali'i Gilliom

6 Time Grammy Nominee, 18 Nā Hōkū Awards, Ambassador of Hawaiian Music.  
Mother, Producer, Recording Artist, Actor



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

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Senate Committee: Energy, Economic Development and Tourism

Measure: GM703

**Position: Support**

Chair Decoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my full support for the confirmation of Blaine Miyasato to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Board of Directors. With nearly four decades of invaluable experience in the airline industry, and currently as the Managing Director of State Government Affairs at Hawaiian Airlines, Blaine brings a wealth of expertise and insight to the table.

Throughout his career, Blaine has demonstrated a relentless commitment to excellence and innovation, consistently driving positive change and fostering growth within his organization. Blaine's journey within Hawaiian Airlines, from his beginnings as a flight attendant to serving in multiple leadership positions as a Vice President in the areas of In-Flight Services, Product Development and Brand, Airport Customer Services, and currently as the Managing Director of State and Local Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, is a testament to his dedication, leadership, and unparalleled understanding of the industry. His deep-rooted connection to Hawai'i, coupled with his extensive background in various disciplines such as marketing, advertising, brand management, and business process improvement, uniquely position him to contribute meaningfully to the HTA board.

Blaine's previous tenure as the chair of the HTA board speaks volumes about his leadership capabilities. I wholeheartedly believe that Blaine's participation as a member of this board will only strengthen its effectiveness and impact.

Respectfully,

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



**TESTIMONY BY:**  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE  
  
Deputy Directors  
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele  
DREANALEE K. KALILI  
TAMMY L. LEE  
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Thursday, April 11, 2024  
1:30 P.M.  
State Capitol, RM 229

In consideration of  
**Governor's Message 703**  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii  
Tourism Authority, Blaine Miyasato

Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

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

It is with honor and pleasure that I submit this testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. Blaine Miyasato to the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Since 2011, I have had the pleasure in working with Mr. Miyasato in his role as the co-chair of the Airline Committee of Hawaii, ACH, and as the Managing Director for Hawaiian Airlines.

The ACH is comprised of 20 airlines who work with the airports on the development of the airport and airline policies and, CIP projects such as the new Mauka Terminal.

Mr. Miyasato later transitioned to the Managing Director, State Government Affairs, and the representative for Airlines for America, A4A, for Hawaiian Airlines. In his role with A4A, he helped develop the many policies and procedures related to the Safe Travels program for all airlines operating in the State of Hawaii.

Mr. Miyasato has the communication and collaborative skills to help HTA achieve their mission.

I respectfully ask for your support of his nomination.



**GM-703**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 3:42:03 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
stephanie iona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of Blaine Miyasato for the Hawaii Tourism Board.

Blaine has been an active member of the board and has taken the lead willingly to direct its operations in his position for a period of time.

your support of his permanent position is appreciated.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT

2 APRIL 2024  
Governor's Message 703

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

It gives me great pleasure to submit strong testimony in support of Governor's Message 703, seeking consideration and confirmation of Blaine Jay Miyasato to the board of directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

For the last 12 years I have had the great privilege to be a consultant to Hawaiian Airlines in various capacities. Since 2019 my contractual responsibilities have been with the state and local government relations division and its managing director, Blaine Miyasato. While I have had interactions with Blaine prior to 2019 in his various leadership roles with Hawaiian Airlines, 2019 was my first time working alongside Blaine.

In Blaine you will find someone who is passionate about our home, inquisitive enough to ask the right questions and brings unparalleled ground-up experience of the airline industry – the chief mode of arrivals for our visitor industry.

A year in to my state and local government relations contract with Hawaiian Airlines, unprecedented times happened upon us. COVID-19 atrophied the travel and tourism industries – crippling its day-to-day services. Because of the extraordinary nature of COVID-19 and an equal response by the world to thwart the deadly virus, the State Senate's COVID committee sought answers from the Airlines Committee of Hawai'i (ACH) on a whole gamut of issues. The ACH refused to participate in the public hearing. This was unacceptable and offensive to Blaine. He would not allow the industry he spent nearly four decades in to disrespect the work of the Senate and he believed Hawai'i deserved answers. He quickly organized Airlines for America (A4A) to step-in. A national resource and industry expert, A4A took the hard questions and did not back down or scour from difficult times.

This is Blaine's greatest asset, he genuinely believes in this industry and in his home and when times are tough, you show up anyway and you do right, always.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Blaine Jay Miyasato for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority Board of Directors.

Mahalo nui,

Adrian K. Kamali'i

**GM-703**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 6:45:51 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Danny Cup Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

My name is Danny Cup Choy and I'm honored to submit testimony in strong support of Blaine Miyasato's nomination to the Hawaii Tourism Authority. As one of Hawaiian Airline's consultants, I've had the pleasure of working with Blaine for a number of years. His resume clearly shows an individual who exceeds the requisite knowledge and experience needed to serve on the Hawaii Tourism Authority. I can attest that Blaine has built strong relationships both locally and nationally, has a tremendous work ethic, and most importantly is passionate about Hawaii and our history, culture, and people.

On a personal level, Blaine has many admirable qualities. He is caring, generous, trustworthy, and genuine. I value his friendship and I know many others who do as well. Hawaii is better when people of Blaine's character volunteer to serve. I have no doubt he will continue to be an asset on the Hawaii Tourism Authority, and I urge you to please support his nomination.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

**GM-703**

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 12:12:24 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ann Botticelli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairwoman DeCoite, Vice Chairman Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism,

My name is Ann Botticelli and I am testifying in strong support of Blaine Miyasato's nomination to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

I got to know Blaine very well during the nine years I spent with Hawaiian Airlines, and I can attest to the qualities he brings to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority Board. First and foremost, he is a man of great character and morality. In any situation, his decisions are guided by his strong sense of ethics and professional conduct. Secondly, he possesses a deep understanding of and respect for Hawai'i and its varied communities. Third, he is deeply well-versed in the Hawai'i Tourism market. There are few people whose career arc has been concentrated in Hawai'i tourism, and yet has been diverse within that concentration. Blaine began his career at Hawaiian Airlines as a flight attendant. He went on to serve as Vice President of the In-flight and Customer Service departments at the airline. He has overseen the airline's Branding, Product Development, and Marketing, and managed its Government Affairs. As past co-chair of the Airline Committee of Hawai'i, Blaine developed an understanding of how other airlines utilize and rely on airport service.

In short, Blaine brings to the HTA Board a perspective on both promoting and serving this market. I believe his contribution will be hugely valuable to the HTA and to the state.

Mahalo for giving his appointment favorable consideration.

Very sincerely,

Ann Botticelli

**GM-703**

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 8:55:23 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
paul Casey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

members of the Committee

My name is paul casey. I have been the CEO of HVCB,Hawaiian Airlines and Island Air.

i have known Blaine for more than 30 years. He has deep local roots, integrity and a passion for sustainable and culturally appropriate tourism.

He is well respected in the industry and is an ideal candidate for a board position at HTA.

he has my full support

**GM-703**

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 9:14:11 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dean Konia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

My name is Dean Konia and I'm honored to submit testimony in strong support of Blaine Miyasato's nomination to the Hawaii Tourism Authority. I am Flight Attendant for Hawaiian Airlines for 38 years and I have had the honor and privilege of working with Blaine, as well as being a personal friend. I have worked for and worked along with Blaine through so many changes. His love and commitment for the people of Hawai'i is so dedicated. He is the true meaning of "grassroots" movement. His vast knowledge and experience are what is needed to serve on the Hawaii Tourism Authority. Most importantly is Blaine's passion about Hawaii, our history, culture, and people, but respectful of other cultures and traditions.

Just a few of Blaine's true qualities is that he is always caring and trustworthy he will go out of his way if you need any assistance from him. Blaine is so innovated and creative and I know he will without a doubt continue to be an asset on the Hawaii Tourism Authority. I ask you respectfully to please support his nomination.

Mahalo nui loa

Dean Konia

April 8, 2024

Aloha Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

My name is Alan M. Sukita, and I am writing to provide my written testimony to my staunch support of the nomination of Blaine Miyasato to the Hawaii Tourism Authority Board. I have known Blaine since the mid-eighties professionally during my work with Hawaiian and United Airlines. I have watched his commitment to serving and collaborating with the people of Hawaii to ensure a safe and pleasurable travel experience. I believe that his vast tourism experience and expertise will undoubtedly serve the Hawaii Tourism Authority Board well. I have seen in action his passion and dedication to any cause that he undertakes. I feel strongly that he will bring this repertoire of skills and experience, along with his commitment to building a stronger and better Hawaii Tourism Authority, to the role.

Personally, I can attest to the qualities that Blaine will contribute to the Hawaii Tourism Board. He is authentic, honest, generous, and humble. I have no doubt Blaine will be an asset on the Hawaii Tourism Authority, and I urge you to please support his nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration of Blaine.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan M. Sukita". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Alan M. Sukita

Aloha Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism,

My name is Richard Velazquez, and I would like to submit testimony supporting the nomination and confirmation of Blaine Miyasato to the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

As the former head of the Automobile Association of America (AAA) Hawai'i, I have had the pleasure of working with Blaine in several areas over many years, including travel and tourism. As a result, this initial working relationship has developed into 30+ years of collegial friendship. I can say without reservation, his 40 years of experience in the industry has translated into a well-rounded and authentic leader; someone who has energy and passion for everything he does. He has developed an innate business acumen complemented with world class leadership skills.

Blaine is well respected and works exceptionally well with others. His love and support for the culture of Hawai'i is well documented and his collaboration, intuition, and innovation skills unparalleled.

I appreciate your time and the opportunity to provide supporting testimony.

Mahalo,

Richard E. Velazquez  
R580@aol.com  
808-348-5154



**GM-703**

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 9:03:21 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Faylene Mahina Duarte	Testifying for Hawai'i Tourism Authority	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice-chair Wakai and Senate Committee Members of Energy, Economic Development and Tourism:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Blaine Miyasato to be fully confirmed to serve as director of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. I served alongside Mr. Miyasato as his Vice-chair during his time as Chair of the board. During this time, I witnessed his passionate and diligent leadership style and genuine aloha for the industry. He undoubtedly was concerned for the effects of overtourism while equally concerned for local businesses and employees.

I wholeheartedly support Blaine's confirmation to serve as a director of Hawai'i Tourism Authority board.

Mahalo nui for your favorable decision.

Me ka mahalo,

Mahina Paishon, Vice-chair

Hawai'i Tourism Authority

My name is Marlana Kidani. It is my honor to submit my testimony in support of Blaine Miyasato to the Hawaii Tourism Authority. I retired from Hawaiian Airlines with 39 years of service. I met Blaine when he was hired as a flight attendant. Over the years I saw how Blaine used his work experience of service and knowledge to share with other employees. I am also a personal friend of Blaine.

Blaine has shown others he is trustworthy and willing to help. You can also say he is innovative and see how to improve situations. His love of Hawaii and customs will be an asset to the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Mahalo Nui Loa

Marlana Kidani

**GM-703**

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 8:51:54 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

My name is Mark Dunkerley, a former CEO of Hawaiian Airlines, and I'm honored to submit testimony in strong support of Blaine Miyasato's nomination to the Hawaii Tourism Authority. I have known and worked with Blaine over 20 years, principally during the time we were both employees of Hawaiian Airlines.

During the course of working together, Blaine took on a broad spectrum of responsibilities all of which he managed with great skill and dogged determination. Regardless of the task at hand and of the difficulties to be overcome, Blaine always demonstrated a sense of passionate responsibility for Hawaii in all of its forms. He cared deeply about the Ohana, he cared deeply about Hawaiian culture and he cared deeply about making sure that the decisions made today would benefit the community in the years ahead. He was the conscience of our business.

Accordingly, I believe he is an ideal steward of the community's indispensable and vitally important relationship with tourism.

I suspect that you all know Blaine and that in knowing him you will agree that he would be a tremendous asset on the Board of the Hawaii Tourism Authority. I would be delighted to speak with anyone on Blaine's behalf if that would be helpful in your deliberations.

With Aloha,

Mark Dunkerley

Melissa Pavlicek, J.D.  
Stephen M. Teves, J.D.  
1099 Alakea Street, Suite 2530  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**DATE:** April 11, 2024  
**TIME:** 1:30 pm  
**PLACE:** VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE and Conference Room 229  
**BILL:** GM 703, Nomination of Blaine Miyasato to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the committee,

We are attorneys and small business owners in Honolulu, writing in strong support of the nomination of Blaine Miyasato to serve on the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. In our personal and professional capacities, we have known Mr. Miyasato for well over ten years and we often work together on a weekly or even daily basis.

We know Mr. Miyasato to be a very hard-working business leader, truly committed to advancing the interests of the people of the state of Hawai'i. He has demonstrated many times over that he has the best interests of the community at heart. He is collaborative, thorough, and highly qualified by virtue of his work at Hawaiian Airlines to serve on the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. More specifically to the work of the HTA, Mr. Miyasato has a breadth of travel industry and leadership expertise. He is highly regarded by members of the visitor industry and we strongly believe that he will continue to make significant contributions, ensuring the success of HTA.

The most important things to know about Mr. Miyasato are his can-do spirit and a deep love for the state of Hawai'i. We have no doubt in his abilities and hope that you will confirm his appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Melissa Pavlicek

Stephen M. Teves

**LATE**

**GM-703**

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 1:38:59 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lester Kodama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing on behalf of Mufi Hannemann who I is being considered as the Chairperson for the HTA Board of Directors.

Mr. Hannemann is an exemplary individual in our community. He is passionate in his dealing with Hawai'i and always advocates to ensure that our islands are recognized as a first class destination around the world. A positive and open person, Mr. Hannemann seeks to find alternate ways to best present his community, including youth of Hawaii. As a member of HLTA for the past 24 years and last 10 years on the Board of Directors, I have witnessed his hardworking nature, his passion for tourism and the people of of the islands. Many late night emails or early morning phone calls, along with his normal daily vigorous schedule, along with his knowledge and experience in Tourism and Politics along with his innovative self and willingness to battle difficult situations makes Mr. Mufi Hannemann the perfect person for this role.

Mahalo,

Lester Kodama

HLTA Board of Director

38 year retirees from The Honolulu Star-Advertiser (2/29/2024).



**LATE**

April 10, 2024

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair; Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair; and the Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

GM702 Relating to the confirmation of Mufi Hannemann to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Board of Directors, Chairperson  
Position: (strong) support

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for Mufi Hannemann's nomination for a position on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, as proposed by Governor Josh Green. As a concerned citizen who is deeply interested in the sustainable growth and development of Hawai'i's tourism sector, I believe that Mr. Hannemann's leadership skills and his profound commitment to the community make him an exemplary candidate for this role.

Mr. Hannemann has already been serving with distinction as the Chairman of the Board, where his extensive experience and deep understanding of the nuances of Hawai'i's tourism industry have been evident. His prior role as the Mayor of Honolulu and various leadership positions within the community have equipped him with a unique perspective and the necessary skills to navigate the complex challenges facing Hawai'i's tourism today. Under his chairmanship, we have seen thoughtful initiatives that balance economic growth with cultural preservation and environmental sustainability. His approach to tourism management focuses on inclusivity, community engagement, and long-term strategic planning. These are critical elements that ensure tourism remains a positive force in our society, providing economic opportunities while respecting the unique heritage and natural beauty of our islands.

Mr. Hannemann's dedication to public service and his proactive leadership style have garnered him respect and admiration from colleagues and constituents alike. His ability to unite various stakeholders, from local businesses to international partners, demonstrates his capability to foster collaboration and drive innovative policies that benefit all.

It is with great enthusiasm that I support Mr. Hannemann's nomination to continue his work on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. I am confident that his continued leadership will bring robust growth and sustainability to Hawai'i's tourism industry, enhancing our reputation as a world-class destination while preserving the Aloha spirit that defines us. Thank you for considering this endorsement. I am optimistic about Hawai'i's future in tourism with leaders like Mufi Hannemann at the helm, and I urge your favorable vote on his confirmation.

Sincerely,  
Denise Yamaguchi  
CEO, Hawai'i Ag & Culinary Alliance

Hawai'i Ag and Culinary Alliance dba Hawai'i Food & Wine Festival  
3538 Waialae Ave. #202, Honolulu, HI 96816  
Hawai'i Tax #: 30157628-01 Federal Tax #: 46-0618609



**LATE**

**GM-703**

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 10:28:41 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sharon Soper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

My name is Sharon Soper, and I am honored to submit testimony in support of Blaine Miyasato's nomination to the Hawaii Tourism Authority. I am a former long time Flight Attendant and president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA at Hawaiian Airlines. I've had the opportunity to work closely with Blaine for many years in my position as president.

The late 1990s were a very difficult time for our airline. When Hawaiian Airlines was purchased, we worked together to create a cooperative partnership between the employees and management. Blaine led the project to transform the culture at Hawaiian and to bring people together to accomplish our common vision to have our company succeed. Blaine's commitment to Hawaiian and its employees was essential to the project's success. Blaine would always say "it is our people that make Hawaiian the airline it is, and we need to support them."

Over the years I've watched Blaine use his talents to create an authentic expression of Hawai'i and its people for Hawaiian Airlines, then empower the employees to express the vision. Blaine impressed me with his ability to create solutions whether it was for the brand, for airport operations, contract negotiations or bringing authenticity to whatever was being worked on.

I know Blaine to be a man of integrity who can be counted on and who cares deeply for Hawai'i and its people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my experience of Blaine.

Sharon Soper

**LATE**

**GM-703**

Submitted on: 4/11/2024 3:20:30 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Matthew Sasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the appointment of Blaine Miyasato as a board member of the HTA. His long and successful tenure in the hospitality industry gives him the knowledge, experience, and relationships to ensure the HTA's success.

**LATE**

**GM-703**

Submitted on: 4/11/2024 11:28:52 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tammie Kotani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairwoman DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism:

My name is Tammie Kotani and am submitting written testimony in very strong support of Blaine Miyasato's nomination to the HTA Board of Directors.

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to work alongside Blaine for many years in my former capacity at Hawaiian Airlines and got to know Blaine extremely well as a person.

He is one of great character, dignity, visionary and great leader. with a deep knowledge of the hospitality and tourist industry. Blaine is one who will always go over and beyond his role which has always resulted in meeting the organizations goals and mission.

I am confident to state the Blaine will be an valuable asset to serving HTA and Hawaii.

Thank you.