



TESTIMONY OF
CAROLINE ANDERSON
Interim President & CEO
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
Tuesday, March 31, 2026
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 597
CONFIRMATION OF KIMBERLY AGAS
ADVISORY 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 Kimberly Leimomi Agas's nomination to serve as a member of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Advisory Board of Directors. She was one of four reappointed to serve on the board in August 2025 and has served as Co-Vice Chair since her election to the post at the board's first convening.

As a member of HTA's Advisory Board, Ms. Agas serves as vice chair of the Branding Standing Committee, which provides strategic review, evaluation and recommendations on HTA's branding and marketing initiatives, programs and activities, with a particular focus on destination branding and meetings, conventions and incentive business; on the Sports Tourism Standing Committee, which advances Hawai'i's position as a premier destination for sports-related travel and events; on the CEO Search Permitted Interaction Group, which recruits, hires and establishes contract terms for HTA's president and CEO; and on the Strategic Plan Permitted Interaction Group, which discussed and reviewed proposed strategies and tactics and provides recommendations for HTA's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.

With more than 35 years in the hospitality industry, Ms. Agas provides a seasoned perspective on hotel operations, condominium resort management, business development, and renovation project management to the HTA Advisory Board of Directors.

For the past 15 years, she has served as General Manager of Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, overseeing 1,300 employees and all aspects of the 1,000-room resort, including the restaurants, merchandising, entertainment, animal programming, recreation, excursions, spa, meeting rooms, and vacation club management.

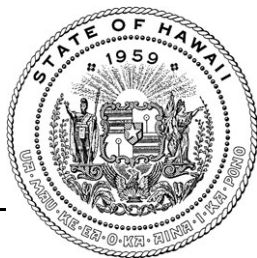
Prior to joining Aulani Resort, she held leadership roles at Outrigger for 17 years. She started as Hotel Manager with Outrigger Waikiki Village Group, overseeing four hotels. She was promoted to

General Manager and then to Assistant General Manager at Outrigger Waikīkī Beach, focusing on sales, marketing, revenue, operations, renovations, and community partnerships. She was later named Vice President of Operations at Outrigger Beachfront Deluxe Resorts, providing senior executive leadership for deluxe resorts in Hawai'i and French Polynesia.

Ms. Agas has also served on the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association and the Bishop Museum Association Council, demonstrating her commitment to the visitor industry and supporting popular visitor sites.

Her background makes Ms. Agas an ideal fit for the HTA Advisory Board of Directors, and we support her nomination to continue serving on the board.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our support.



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Testimony of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
Tuesday, March 31, 2026
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

In consideration of
GM 597
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board of Directors
of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee,
KIMBERLY AGAS, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of Kimberly Agas's nomination to serve as a member of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Advisory Board of Directors. She was one of four members reappointed to serve on the board in August 2025 and has served as co-vice chair since her election to that post at the board's first convening.

With more than 35 years in the hospitality industry, Ms. Agas brings a seasoned perspective on hotel operations, condominium resort management, business development and renovation project management to the HTA Advisory Board.

For the past 15 years, she has served as general manager of Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, overseeing approximately 1,300 employees and all aspects of the 1,000-room resort, including restaurants, merchandising, entertainment, animal programming, recreation, excursions, spa operations, meeting rooms and vacation club management.

Prior to joining Aulani, she held leadership roles at Outrigger for 17 years, including hotel manager, general manager, assistant general manager and vice president of operations for beachfront deluxe resorts in Hawai'i and French Polynesia.

As a member of HTA's Advisory Board, Ms. Agas serves as vice chair of the Branding Standing Committee, which provides strategic review, evaluation and recommendations on HTA's branding and marketing initiatives, programs and activities, with a particular focus on destination branding and meetings, conventions and incentive business; on the Sports Tourism Standing Committee, which advances Hawai'i's position as a premier destination for sports-related travel and events; on the CEO Search Permitted Interaction Group, which recruits, hires and establishes contract terms for HTA's president and CEO; and on the Strategic Plan Permitted Interaction Group, which discusses and reviews proposed strategies and tactics and provides recommendations for HTA's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Agas.



Gerard C. Gibson
President
Hawai'i Hotel Alliance

March 28, 2026

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development & Tourism (EDT)
HTA Advisory Board Members' Confirmation Hearings
Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 1:00 pm, CR229

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Economic Development and Tourism Committee,

Re: GM 597 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KIMBERLY AGAS**, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

It is my sincere honor to recommend Ms. Kimberly Leimomi Agas as to the Advisory Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. Ms. Agas is the Executive Director for one of the most successful properties in the Disney portfolio. She continues to not only lead with professional acumen within her hotel community but also statewide hospitality. As a leading member of the Hawai'i Hotel Alliance, she volunteers continually to make Hawaii the very best.

Chair DeCoite and Vice Chair Wakai, I would humbly ask that you nominate Kimberly for this very important position.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Jerry Gibson
President, Hawai'i Hotel Alliance

GM-597

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 12:40:43 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/31/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elliot	Testifying for Hawaii Hospitality Group	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 28, 2026

Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development & Tourism (EDT)

HTA Advisory Board Members' Confirmation Hearings

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 1:00 pm, CR229

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Economic Development and Tourism Committee,

Re: GM 597 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, KIMBERLY AGAS, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

I am pleased to offer my strong support for the confirmation of Mrs. Kimberly Agas to the Advisory Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. Mrs. Agas brings a thoughtful and well-rounded perspective to Hawai'i's visitor industry, grounded in both community awareness and practical experience. She understands the importance of balancing economic

vitality with the stewardship of our cultural and natural resources—an approach that is essential to the future of tourism in Hawai‘i. Her professionalism, collaborative mindset, and commitment to serving Hawai‘i’s people will make her a valuable contributor to the Advisory Board. I am confident she will provide sound judgment and help guide policies that support a sustainable and responsible visitor industry.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of her confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

Elliot K. Mills

CEO, Hawaii Hospitality Group



March 30, 2026

RE: Letter of Support for Gubernatorial Nominee Kimberly Agas

Dear Members of the Advisory Board,

I am pleased to offer my strong support for Kimberly Agas in her consideration for confirmation to the Advisory Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

In her role serving on both the Board of Directors for the Ko Olina Community Association, Inc. and the Ko Olina Resort Operators Association, Inc., Kimberly has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, sound judgment, and a deep commitment to the responsible stewardship of Hawai'i's visitor industry. Her ability to thoughtfully balance the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors reflects a clear understanding of the unique dynamics that shape our communities.

Kimberly brings a collaborative approach to every initiative she undertakes. She is highly respected among her peers for her professionalism, insight, and willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue to achieve positive outcomes. Her expertise and forward-thinking perspective have been invaluable to our organizations, particularly in addressing complex issues and advancing initiatives that support sustainable tourism and community well-being.

Beyond her professional capabilities, Kimberly is dedicated, reliable, and driven by a genuine passion for Hawai'i. She leads with integrity and consistently goes above and beyond in her service, making her an outstanding candidate to help guide the future of tourism in our state.

I am confident that Kimberly Agas will be a valuable asset to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and will serve with distinction. I respectfully urge your favorable consideration and confirmation of her appointment.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Ko Olina Community Association, Inc.
Ko Olina Resort Operators Association, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Williams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ken Williams
General Manager

I am writing to submit testimony on behalf of Kimberly Agas GM597 in strong support of her appointment to the Advisory Board of Directors for the Hawaii Tourism Authority as a Gubernatorial Nominee.

I can speak to Kimberly as a partner while she was with Outrigger Hotels, a co-member as we served on HTA, and as a well balanced advocate for our Hawaiian community. As a fellow native Hawaiian that operates in the tourism industry it is our Kuleana to do our job while working to support our communities and our precious islands. I can only speak for my self and what I know of the 20 plus years I have worked and served with Kimberly that she gets it. We need to be leaders that our educated and passionate. To only lead with emotion is not enough and can lead to harder times for our people. I know Kimberly understands that we can do the work we need done without sacrificing our economy and industry.

I would humbly ask that Chair Decoite and Vice Chair Wakai along with the entire senate confirm Kimberly Agas to the much needed Advisory Board of Directors for the Hawaii Tourism Authority. I would also like to thank the Chair and Vice Chair for their leadership and commitment to preserving the Authority as it is vital that we have this board to help the state navigate our most important and dynamic industry.

Mahalo Nui,

Dylan Ching

Vice President T S Restaurants Hawaii

Dylan@tsrestaurants.com

GM-597

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 7:48:36 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/31/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of Kimberly Agas - GM 597

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

I strongly support the appointment of Kimberly Agas to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority Advisory Board. With over 30 years of hospitality leadership, including past service on the HTA, she deeply understands industry needs and responsible funding priorities. Kimberly evaluates decisions through the lens of Hawaiian culture, community wellbeing, economic realities, and global industry trends. Her critical thinking, extensive experience, and genuine care for Hawai'i's people ensure thoughtful, balanced guidance. Kimberly's vision for the future of tourism, grounded in both expertise and aloha, makes her an invaluable asset to this board. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



March 30, 2026

RE: Letter of Support for Governatorial Nominee Kimberly Agas

Dear Members of the Advisory Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for Kimberly Agas in her consideration for confirmation to the Advisory Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Kimberly through her service on the Ko Olina Community Association, Inc. and the Ko Olina Resort Operators Association, Inc., where she has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership, professionalism, and a deep commitment to our community. Kimberly brings a thoughtful and balanced perspective to every discussion, ensuring that the interests of residents, businesses, and visitors are all carefully considered.

Her ability to collaborate effectively and lead with integrity has made a meaningful impact on our organizations. Kimberly is proactive, dependable, and always willing to step forward to support initiatives that strengthen our community and promote responsible, sustainable tourism.

Kimberly's dedication to Hawai'i, combined with her experience and insight, make her exceptionally well-qualified to serve on the Advisory Board. I am confident she will contribute positively and help guide decisions that support both our communities and the future of tourism across the state.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration and confirmation of Kimberly Agas. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Ko Olina Community Association, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin Vasquez", written in a cursive style.

Kristin Vasquez
Resort Manager

GM-597

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 9:55:20 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/31/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hogan Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Advisory Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for Kimberly Agas and her consideration for appointment to the Advisory Board of Directors of the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority.

Through her service on both the Board of Directors for the Ko Olina Community Association and the Ko Olina Resort Operators Association, Kimberly has proven herself to be a thoughtful and effective leader. She brings a well-rounded perspective that reflects an understanding of the interconnected needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, and consistently approaches decisions with balance and care.

Kimberly is known for her collaborative mindset and her ability to work productively with a wide range of stakeholders. She communicates with clarity, listens with intention, and contributes meaningfully to discussions—qualities that have earned her the respect of those she works alongside. Her insight and strategic thinking have been instrumental in navigating complex issues and supporting initiatives that promote responsible and sustainable tourism.

In addition to her professional strengths, Kimberly demonstrates a genuine commitment to Hawai‘i and the communities she serves. She approaches her work with integrity, accountability, and a strong sense of purpose, making her exceptionally well-suited for this role.

I am confident that Kimberly Agas will make a meaningful contribution to the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority and respectfully encourage your support of her confirmation.

Please feel free to reach out should you need any additional information.

Sincerely,
Hogan Williams