



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. 603**  
**CONFIRMATION OF JAMES MCCULLY**  
**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 James McCully's nomination to serve as a member of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Advisory Board of Directors.

Mr. McCully has been actively involved with HTA since 2022 and was reappointed to serve on the HTA Advisory Board in August 2025. On the board, he represents Hawai'i Island and serves as Co-Vice Chair of the board.

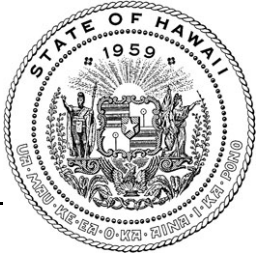
As a member of HTA's Advisory Board, Mr. McCully serves as chair of the Administrative Standing Committee, which oversees the contract terms of the president and chief executive officer and makes recommendations related to their evaluation, and as chair of the CEO Search Permitted Interaction Group, which recruits, hires and establishes contract terms for HTA's president and CEO.

Mr. McCully is a world-renowned orchid breeder. As head of Mauna Kea Orchids, he continues to explore the latest advances in developing orchid varieties with brighter colors, the ability to produce multiple flowers, and longer-lasting, easier-to-grow traits. He brings this same inquisitiveness and spirit of discovery to his role as a member of the HTA Advisory Board of Directors, always pushing the envelope and challenging us to set our sights higher.

Through his work as an agricultural consultant and as a member of the International Commercial Orchid Growers Association, Mr. McCully has established professional relationships with colleagues in Belize, Brazil, the Netherlands, and across the United States.

Mr. McCully has boundless energy. He also started McCully Works, a real estate management and development company based in Hilo. We appreciate his commitment to volunteering his time to serve on the HTA Advisory Board of Directors and support his nomination.





**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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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 603**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Advisory Board of Directors  
of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
JAMES MCCULLY, 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 James McCully's nomination to serve as a member of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) Advisory Board of Directors.

Mr. McCully has been actively involved with HTA since 2022 and was reappointed to serve on the HTA Advisory Board in August 2025. He represents Hawai'i Island and serves as co-vice chair of the board. Mr. McCully is a world-renowned orchid breeder and the head of Mauna Kea Orchids, where he continues to explore advances in developing new orchid varieties. He brings that same inquisitiveness and spirit of discovery to his role on the Advisory Board.

Through his work as an agricultural consultant and as a member of the International Commercial Orchid Growers Association, Mr. McCully has developed professional relationships with colleagues in Belize, Brazil, the Netherlands and across the United States. He also founded McCully Works, a real estate management and development company based in Hilo.

As a member of HTA's Advisory Board, Mr. McCully also serves as chair of the Administrative Standing Committee, which oversees the contract terms of the president and chief executive officer and makes recommendations related to their evaluation, and

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as chair of the CEO Search Permitted Interaction Group, which recruits, hires and establishes contract terms for HTA's president and CEO. His entrepreneurial background, global perspective and commitment to public service make him a strong contributor to the Advisory Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. McCully.