

Dear Chairperson Lee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further information in support of my nomination to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA).

**1. Why do you wish to serve as a member of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority?**

I wish to serve on the HCDA because I care deeply about the future of Kalaeloa and the broader communities that HCDA helps shape. Living and working in Kalaeloa since 2020 has given me a firsthand understanding of both the opportunities and the challenges within this unique area. I see the potential for underutilized areas to become thriving, inclusive, and well-balanced communities, and I want to be part of the thoughtful decision-making that helps guide that growth.

HCDA's mission to plan and implement community development through collaboration with public agencies, private partners, and community stakeholders strongly resonates with me. In my own work, I've seen how meaningful collaboration can create spaces that not only function well, but also feel connected and intentional. Serving on the board is an opportunity for me to contribute to that kind of impact on a larger scale.

**2. What is your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority?**

My understanding is that an HCDA board member plays a critical role in guiding the planning, development, and long-term vision of designated community districts. This includes reviewing and making decisions on development proposals, ensuring compliance with established rules and regulations, and helping to balance infrastructure, economic development, and community needs.

Board members are also responsible for upholding HCDA's commitment to thoughtful, strategic development, while ensuring that growth aligns with the State's broader goals. Equally important is the responsibility to listen to and represent community perspectives, helping to ensure that development is not only effective, but also equitable and reflective of the people it serves.

**3. Based on your understanding of the role and responsibilities of this position, please explain why you believe you are qualified to serve.**

I believe I am qualified to serve because my professional and personal experiences are directly connected to the work HCDA does.

As a small business owner since 2018, I bring a perspective rooted in entrepreneurship, adaptability, and long-term sustainability. Through my work co-founding and growing multiple businesses, including an event planning company, a décor rental company, and most recently a floral and lei shop, Haus of Puas, I have developed strong skills in strategic planning, relationship-building, and community engagement. I also helped develop THRD HAUS, a community-centered space designed for connection and collaboration. My businesses are

grounded in values of inclusivity, sustainability, and cultural awareness, and they rely heavily on collaboration with local businesses, farmers, and creatives across Hawai'i.

In addition, as a Property and Community Manager at Wākea Garden Apartments in Kalaeloa since 2020, I have been responsible for maintaining compliance with Kalaeloa reserved housing rules, while addressing the day-to-day needs of residents. This role has given me a practical understanding of how policies and development decisions impact residents in real, tangible ways.

Together, these experiences allow me to approach decision-making with a balanced perspective, understanding the needs of residents, the realities of business and economic development, and the importance of building communities that can grow cohesively and sustainably.

**4. If confirmed, what goals or priorities would you hope to accomplish during your term of service?**

If confirmed, my priorities would center around supporting thoughtful development of the broader communities that the HCDA serves. Specifically, I would hope to:

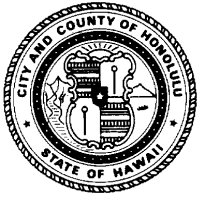
- Support the continued development of infrastructure that enables responsible growth while improving quality of life for current and future residents.
- Advocate for projects that contribute to a balanced, mixed-use community, including housing, local businesses, and shared community spaces.
- Encourage collaboration between HCDA, local businesses, residents, public agencies, private partners, and other stakeholders to ensure that development reflects the needs and values of the community.
- Help ensure that development decisions consider long-term sustainability, inclusivity, and cultural sensitivity.

**5. Do you believe there is anything that could reasonably be perceived by the public as creating a conflict of interest or otherwise raise questions regarding your character, judgment, or ability to serve impartially on the Hawai'i Community Development Authority? If so, please explain.**

I am not aware of any circumstances that would reasonably be perceived as creating a conflict of interest or raising questions regarding my character, judgment, or ability to serve impartially on the Hawai'i Community Development Authority.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I am honored to be considered for this opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,  
Adena Joy Ipolani Duvauchelle



**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL**  
**KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU**  
530 S. KING ST. STE. 202, HONOLULU, HI 96813

**MATT WEYER**  
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL  
DISTRICT II  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5002  
FAX: (808) 768-1222  
EMAIL: mweyer@honolulu.gov

April 13, 2026

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM611**

**Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts**  
Sen. Chris Lee, Chair  
Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Committee Members,

I write in support of GM611, which submits gubernatorial nominee Adena Joy Ipolani Duvauchelle for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Community Development Authority (Kalaehoa District). Her trajectory—from community advocate to leading entrepreneur in Hawai'i's event and housing sectors—exemplifies the kind of grounded, visionary leadership this role demands.

Ipo is not merely a business owner; she is a systems thinker. As the Co-Founder of The Gay Agenda Collective, she identified a market need for sustainability and inclusivity, then methodically built an ecosystem to solve it. She launched WedCycle Hawai'i to combat wedding industry waste, opened Haus of Puas to support local farmers and lei makers, and created THRD HAUS as a physical community hub. This ability to understand the interconnectedness of her industry has allowed her to build a resilient, values-driven network that uplifts local vendors, reduces waste, and creates lasting community impact.

What truly distinguishes Ipo, beyond her business acumen, is her deep integrity and empathy—qualities that have earned her a reputation for creating safe and inclusive spaces. She possesses the judgment, work ethic, and collaborative spirit required to serve effectively on the Hawaii Community Development Authority. I am confident she will bring the same dedication and integrity to this role that she has demonstrated throughout her career, and I strongly support her confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Weyer", written over a horizontal line.

Matt Weyer  
Councilmember, District 2  
Honolulu City Council



**HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

547 Queen Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Telephone: (808) 594-0300 Fax: (808) 587-0299  
Web site: <http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/>

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR

STERLING HIGA  
CHAIRPERSON

CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Statement of  
**CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO**  
**Executive Director**  
Hawai'i Community Development Authority  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Wednesday, April 15, 2026  
1:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**GM 611**

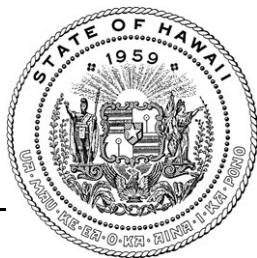
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Hawai'i Community Development Authority (Kalaeloa District), Gubernatorial Nominee,  
ADENA DUVAUCHELLE, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Chairperson Lee, Vice Chairperson Inouye and members of the Committee. The  
Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) **supports GM 611**, that considers  
confirmation for Ms. Adena Duvauchelle, as a Kalaeloa Community Development  
District board member, representing the small business owner seat on the HCDA board.

Ms. Duvauchelle is a successful small business owner of Haus of Puas, which is  
a sustainable wedding floral design company, located in Ho'opili.

Since joining the HCDA Board, Ms. Duvauchelle has demonstrated a steadfast  
commitment to HCDA's mission, actively engaging in board deliberations and  
contributing thoughtful, well-informed insight to support sound decision-making. Her  
continued service will provide valuable continuity and leadership as HCDA advances its  
responsibilities in the Kalaeloa district and beyond. Ms. Duvauchelle's perspective and  
commitment will help ensure that HCDA remains responsive to community needs while  
fulfilling its statutory mandate. We look forward to continuing our collaborative work with  
Ms. Duvauchelle.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in 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

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](http://dbedt.hawaii.gov)

Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
Fax: (808) 586-2377

**LATE**

Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Wednesday, April 15, 2026  
1:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**GM 611**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Hawai'i Community Development Authority (Kalaeloa District), Gubernatorial  
Nominee,  
**ADENA DUVAUCHELLE, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) respectfully submits testimony in **strong support** of GM 611, which seeks confirmation of the Governor's nominee to serve on the HCDA Board of Directors representing the Kalaeloa District.

The HCDA plays a critical role in planning and implementing development that is both economically viable and consistent with the State's long-term vision for sustainable communities. In Kalaeloa, this responsibility is especially important, as the district continues to transition into a vibrant mixed-use community that balances residential, commercial, and public uses.

Strong board leadership is essential to advancing this work. Ms. Duvauchelle is a small business owner in Kalaeloa and will help provide continuity and thoughtful oversight to support HCDA's mission and the long-term success of the district.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**GM-611**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 11:37:44 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Sanders	Testifying for Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawai‘i State Legislature,

I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association as its Executive Director and with the full support of our Board of Directors. I provide this testimony relative to the character and abilities of Adena Ipolani Duvauchelle as she steps into her confirmation hearing for a position on HCDA for the Kalaeloa District.

For the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association (NaHHA), our advocacy has always centered on ensuring that Native Hawaiian communities and local families more broadly, are not displaced, overlooked, or treated as an afterthought in the development of our own homeland. We have consistently advocated for greater accountability, transparency, and community-informed decision-making particularly as it relates to tourism and its effects on housing. We strongly advocate affordable housing and other effects of the long-term impacts of tourism in Hawai‘i. It is from this position that we strongly believe Adena Ipolani Duvauchelle is the right nominee for this role.

Ipolani’s professional and community-based work directly reflects the values and priorities that NaHHA has long advocated for. Her hands-on experience in property and community management gives her a practical understanding of housing systems not just at the policy level, but at the level of real people and families navigating real challenges in living and trying to thrive in one of the most expensive places to live in the United States. Affordability, stability, and access are all important points of consideration when we develop new communities or improve upon existing ones. Ipolani understands what it means to steward housing in a way that directly relates to Native Hawaiian values of kuleana (duty and responsibility), ho‘okaulike (balance) and mālama (taking care of and caring for). Her approach is grounded in the well-being of residents and the places she caretakes.

Through her leadership with TGA and related ventures, she has also demonstrated a commitment to strengthening local economies by intentionally supporting Hawai‘i-based businesses, farmers, and cultural practitioners. It also shows that Ipolani understands not only housing and management but also how this plays into the impacts our community members have when they are able to contribute to the local economy. This aligns with NaHHA’s belief that when we invest in our local people first, we create the conditions for a more resilient and thriving Hawai‘i for all.

Equally important, Ipolani is a trusted member of the community who has already demonstrated her ability to operate in spaces that require both cultural awareness and operational excellence as well as strong character, business acumen and value in her foundations. In her work with NaHHA and in large-scale efforts such as the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture, she has shown that she can navigate complex systems while remaining grounded in relationships, accountability, and integrity.

At a time when HCDA must more effectively meet its kuleana to the people of Hawai'i, we believe it is critical to have leaders who are not only qualified, but deeply rooted in the communities they serve. We don't need more transient people serving in Hawai'i who only plan to be here a few years and leave, we need permanent people to lead these charges, those who will be living out their lives here... those who are willing to plan for the long lasting effects of the decisions of today. This exemplifies a level of generational accountability to the communities most impacted by these decisions and its effects on generations into the future. Ipolani embodies this balance and forward thought. She is generationally tied to Hawai'i and her lived experience, professional expertise, and alignment with the values that NaHHA continues to advocate for make her an exceptionally strong and necessary voice at the table.

With aloha,

Mālia Sanders

Executive Director or NaHHA

April 15, 2026

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts  
Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 224 and via video conference



**RE: GM 611 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (Kalaeloa District), Gubernatorial Nominee, ADENA DUVAUCHELLE, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.**

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kiran Polk, and I am the Executive Director & CEO of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. The Kapolei Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for businesses in the Kapolei region including Waipahu, Kapolei, 'Ewa Beach, Nānakūli, Wai'anae, and Mākaha. We work on behalf of our members and the broader business community to improve the regional and State economic climate and to help West O'ahu businesses thrive.

On behalf of the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to submit this letter of **strong support for Adena "Ipolani" Duvauchelle's nomination to serve on the Hawai'i Community Development Authority** representing the Kalaeloa District. Ipolani is a respected West O'ahu business leader, entrepreneur, and community builder whose work reflects the very balance of economic development, community engagement, and cultural awareness that HCDA is tasked with advancing.

As Co-Founder and Co-Owner of The Gay Agenda Collective, which includes Haus of Puas, a proud Kapolei Chamber member business located in the Ho'opili community, Ipolani has successfully built and grown a locally rooted ecosystem of companies spanning event planning, sustainable rentals, floral design, and community gathering space development. Her work has directly supported local farmers, small businesses, and creatives across Hawai'i, including partnerships with more than 20 local farms and lei makers through her Kapolei-based business ventures.

In addition to her entrepreneurial leadership, Ipolani serves as Property and Community Manager at Wakea Garden Apartments in Kalaeloa, where she oversees operations, tenant relations, regulatory compliance, and community programming. In this role, she has demonstrated a strong ability to balance development with resident needs, foster community connections, and ensure responsible management of housing resources in West O'ahu. Her background in program development, policy analysis, and workforce training, including her work with the State of Hawai'i Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund and prior leadership roles in workforce development programs, further reflects her ability to navigate complex systems, implement effective programs, and contribute thoughtfully to public policy discussions.

What sets Ipolani apart is her deep commitment to community-centered development. Whether through supporting local supply chains, creating spaces for connection, or fostering opportunities for small businesses to thrive, her work embodies the type of thoughtful, inclusive growth that is essential to the continued success of HCDA and the communities it serves.

With her strong ties to West O'ahu, proven business leadership, and dedication to community engagement, Ipolani Duvauchelle will be a valuable voice on the Hawai'i Community Development Authority. As a leader of a Kapolei Chamber member small business, she brings a grounded, firsthand understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing small, locally owned businesses that are the backbone of our regional economy. I respectfully urge the Committee to support and confirm her nomination.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Kiran Polk  
Executive Director & CEO

**GM-611**

Submitted on: 4/11/2026 10:02:48 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doreen Canto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislature,

My name is Brianna Ornelas, and I am honored to write in strong support of Adena Joy Ipolani Duvauchelle as she comes before you for confirmation to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority Board for the Kalaeloa District.

I first connected with Ipolani when I applied for an event staff position 3 years ago, and even over the phone, I immediately felt at ease. There was something about the way she listened and responded that made me feel truly seen, even as a complete stranger. Looking back, that first interaction perfectly reflects how she shows up in every space.

Through the support of Ipolani and her wife and business partner, I was not only welcomed into their company, but truly "hānai'd" into their family. With their encouragement, I was able to build and grow Haus of Puas, a business rooted here in Kapolei. What began as a job became a career, all within the very community Ipolani cares so deeply about. Her support was not just about building a business, but about contributing to the local economy and creative community in Kapolei in a meaningful way.

At the same time, I was navigating stepping away from my previous career in education, which was not an easy decision. Ipolani recognized how important that part of my identity was to me, and instead of asking me to leave it behind, she encouraged me to find ways to carry it forward. She helped me explore how I could incorporate teaching into my work within the floral space, allowing me to grow without feeling like I was losing a part of myself.

As a leader, Ipolani is deeply invested in the people around her. She is someone who truly listens. When you speak with her, you feel heard, understood, and supported. She consistently checks in, not only as an employer, but as someone who genuinely cares about your well-being. She offers thoughtful guidance, practical solutions, and when needed, shows up with her own hands to help get the work done.

She has also been instrumental in helping me find my voice as a business owner. From supporting my early conversations with vendors to confidently advocating for my work in rooms I may not yet be in, she has always been one of my greatest champions. Her ability to uplift others is constant and intentional.

Beyond her impact on individuals, Ipolani has a deep and authentic commitment to Kapolei and the Kalaeloa community. She is not only invested in its growth, but in ensuring that growth reflects and supports the people who are already here.

It is from both a personal and professional perspective that I can confidently say that Ipolani leads with integrity, intention, and a true commitment to community. I strongly believe she will bring that same thoughtfulness and care to her role on the HCDA Board.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha,  
Brianna Ornelas  
Co-Founder, Haus of Puas

**Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts**  
**Conference Room 224 & Videoconference**  
**Stance: SUPPORT / CONFIRM**

**G.M. 611**, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (Kalaeloa District), Gubernatorial Nominee, ADENA DUVAUCHELLE, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong support** for the Committee to advise and consent to G.M. 611, which would place Adena "Ipo" Duvauchelle to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) Kalaeloa District seat. Her background, skills, and dedication to building community align well with the HCDA's aim "to establish community development plans in community development districts; determine community development programs; and cooperate with private enterprise and the various components of federal, state, and county governments to bring community development plans to fruition." Further, Ms. Duvauchelle's continued success in local business in the Kalaeloa/Kapolei area can be seen as an indicator of her fitness to achieve HCDA's stated goal of work that "should result in economic and social opportunities and aim to meet the highest needs and aspirations of Hawai'i's people."

With confidence, I believe that this Committee can and will find any question or evaluation of the nominee to be affirming. Many people may have the professional ability to serve on a body like the HCDA, but Ipo is the kind of person who will bring much more than technical capacity. The character reference I can provide to you about Ipo, my friend and community member, is as follows:

- She is the first to offer assistance or reassurance to others without expectations;
- She has maintained composure through profoundly difficult personal and professional experiences and continues to find meaningful ways to refine and improve herself;
- She listens carefully with the intention to understand the speaker;
- She believes that making things better for everyone is both worthwhile and possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please **advise and consent** to G.M. 611.

**GM-611**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 9:28:49 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kalani Kaanaana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the committee,

I am honored to offer my strong support for Ipolani Duvauchelle, both as a friend and a colleague, to serve on the HCDA board. I have had the privilege of witnessing her leadership, integrity, and deep commitment to community. Over the years, she has built not just businesses, but communities of practice that reflect her values—community-centered, culturally rooted, and economically sustainable.

Through her work co-founding The Gay Agenda Collective and its affiliated ventures, she has created opportunities that uplift local makers, support Hawai‘i-based agriculture, and strengthen relationships across our islands. Her ability to grow ventures while staying anchored in purpose is something I deeply respect. Beyond entrepreneurship, Ipo brings a systems-level understanding, shaped by her experience in public-sector consulting and program development.

Whether working with the State’s Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund or leading workforce and housing-related programs, she consistently demonstrates an ability to translate vision into execution, designing programs, improving systems, and delivering measurable outcomes.

Ipo shows up with empathy, clarity, and a deep sense of responsibility to people and place. In her role as a property and community manager, she didn’t just manage operations; she built community, fostered trust, and created environments where people feel seen and supported. I believe she will do the same if given the opportunity to serve.

On a personal level, Ipo is someone I trust deeply. She leads with humility, listens with intention, and acts with courage. She is the kind of leader who brings people together, elevates others, and follows through on her commitments. I wholeheartedly support Ipo and believe she will continue to make meaningful, lasting contributions in any role she takes on.

Mahalo nui,

Kalani L. Ka‘anā‘anā