

RES24-172

Testimony

MISC. COMM. 321

PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES AND CULTURE & THE ARTS (PESCA)

**PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES AND CULTURE & THE
ARTS (PESCA) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Jul 24, 2024 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Michael Pili Pang	Email: mpilipang@gmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 22, 2024 @ 09:59 AM
Name: Mufi Hannemann	Email: mhannemann@hawaiilodging.org	Zip: 96815
Representing: Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association	Position: Support	Submitted: Jul 22, 2024 @ 04:33 PM

 MU'OLAULANI
HĀLAU HULA KA NO'EAU

Michael Pili Pang, Kumu Hula & Director, 908 Punahou Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826 • Email: halauhkn@aol.com • (808)285-4035

July 22, 2024

The Honorable Tommy Waters Chair
and Presiding Officer and Members Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

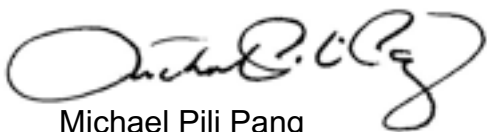
It is my honor to send this letter of support for Victoria M.H. Takamine for the position of Commissioner on Culture and the Arts City and County of Honolulu.

Victoria M. H. Takamine is more than qualified for this position as a Commissioner on Culture and the Arts City and County of Honolulu. To understand her achievements you have to know she is recognized and respected throughout Hawai'i and among other indigenous communities as a: Kumu Hula; educator; Executive Director, developer; activists, and producer.

Her credentials as a cultural practitioner and Kumu Hula need no explanation as she carries those responsibilities within her being. As a former Lecture at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Music Department Kumu Vicky educated students on the inherent art form of hula and mele for 30+ years. She is the Executive Director of PA'I FOUNDATION with a mission to "preserve and perpetuate Native Hawaiian arts and cultural traditions for future generations". Kumu Vicky and her PA'I Foundation were instrumental in the development of Ola Ka 'Ilima Art Space Loft an 80 unit residential apartments for artists in Kaka'ako. For more than three decades she has been an advocate for artists, practitioners, and native people as seen in her leadership and in the development of the PAUOAKALANI DECLARATION focusing on establishing protocol to protect "traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, and artforms". For the past 19 years she has produced MAMo – Maoli Arts Month which has become known today as "Maoli Arts Movement" with its signature event MAMo Wearable Art Show which focuses on creating opportunities for artists and upcoming designers.

I can say with no hesitation I, Michael Pili Pang, support Victoria M. H. Takamine for now and forever.

Aloha nō,



Michael Pili Pang



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

Honolulu City Council:
Committee on Parks, Enterprise Services and Culture and the Arts.

Resolution 24-172: Appointment of Victoria M.H. Takamine
to the Commission on Culture and the Arts.

July 24, 2024

Aloha Chair Tulba and Members of the Committee,

It is with great pleasure and wholehearted support that I submit this testimony in strong support of Kumu Victoria “Vicky” Holt Takamine’s appointment to the Commission on Culture and the Arts of the City and County of Honolulu. I have had the distinct honor of knowing Vicky both personally and professionally for several decades, and our families have maintained a close and enduring relationship throughout this time.

In my capacity as President and CEO of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, as Board Chair of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, as well as during my tenure on the Honolulu City Council and as Mayor of Honolulu, I have had the privilege of working alongside Vicky on numerous occasions. Her unwavering commitment to Native Hawaiian cultural and arts issues has been a cornerstone of our collaborative efforts.

One notable example of Vicky's invaluable contributions was during my time on the Honolulu City Council when I passed legislation that would establish an advisory panel of local experts to provide expertise when naming City streets in Hawaiian. Vicky played an integral advisory role in shaping this policy, ensuring it honored and preserved our cultural heritage.

As Mayor, I worked closely with Vicky on various Native Hawaiian issues. She collaborated extensively with my Executive Director of Culture and Arts, Michael Pili Pang, and her expertise was crucial when the City celebrated its 100th Centennial Anniversary, where she served as a commissioner.

Vicky's early advocacy for FESTPAC coming to Hawai'i is another testament to her forward-thinking vision and dedication to our cultural enrichment. She has been a tireless advocate for preserving and protecting traditional cultural practices, such as hula, and the natural and cultural resources of Hawai'i.

Vicky is highly respected throughout the Hawaiian community for her cultural expertise and advocacy work on behalf of Hawaiians, their cultural traditions, and the protection and preservation of our cultural and natural resources. Her appointment to the Commission on Culture and the Arts is not only well-deserved but essential for promoting and preserving our rich cultural heritage.

Thank you for considering my testimony in strong support of Kumu Victoria “Vicky” Holt Takamine. I am confident that her appointment will greatly benefit the City and County of Honolulu, and I urge you to confirm her to the Commission on Culture and the Arts.

Mahalo nui loa,

Mufi Hannemann
President and CEO
Hawai‘i Lodging & Tourism Association