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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY ANNOUNCES GENERAL ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—the state's largest private sector tourism organization with 700 members representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers—has announced its endorsements of candidates seeking office in November's General Election.

HLTA President & CEO Mufi Hannemann said, "HLTA's endorsements include candidates we supported in the Primary Election as well as those who had automatic berths in November's races.

"These selections were based on a comprehensive process that involved invited candidates completing a tourism-centric questionnaire on issues of importance to our industry, evaluations by our state endorsement committee and county chapters, and final approval by our statewide board of directors. Our decisions were based largely on island-by-island grassroots input from those most familiar with the candidates and their records."

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association reaffirmed its support for endorsed candidates who won their respective races in the Primary Election. Hannemann said, "For the executive level, we're carrying forward our endorsements of Governor David Ige, Maui mayoral candidate Mike Victorino, and Kaua'i mayoral candidate Derek Kawakami, all of whom came through in impressive fashion in August and head to the General Election this November, where we'll also be backing Senator Josh Green in his pursuit of the lieutenant governor's seat."

In addition to those who were endorsed in the Primary Election, HLTA has given nods to State Senate candidates Dru Kanuha, Sharon Moriwaki, Senator Clarence Nishihara, Senator Michelle Kidani, and Kurt Fevella, as well as State House candidates David Tarnas, Representative Takashi Ohno, Val Okimoto, Representative Ryan Yamane, Chris Fidelibus, Stacelynn Eli, and Representative Cynthia Thielen.

In addition to its county council endorsements made in the primary elections, HLTA extended its support to Rick Nava in Maui County, Rebecca Villegas in the County of Hawai'i, and Kelly Kitashima in the City and County of Honolulu. For the Kaua'i County Council, HLTA endorsed the four incumbents in the Primary Election and added their backing to candidates Felicia Cowden, Luke Evslin, and Milo Spindt.

Listed below are the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association's 2018 General Election endorsements (asterisk represents HLTA-endorsed candidates who won their seats outright in the Primary Election):

Governor

David Y. Ige

Lieutenant Governor

Josh Green

Hawai'i Senate

Kaiali'i Kahele, District 1

Dru Kanuha, District 3

*Lorraine Inouye, District 4

*J. Kalani English, District 7

Sharon Moriwaki, District 12

Clarence Nishihara, District 17

Michelle Kidani, District 18

Kurt Fevella, District 19

Hawai'i House of Representatives

Christopher Todd, District 2

Richard Onishi, District 3

David Tarnas, District 7

*Troy Hashimoto, District 8

*Justin Woodson, District 9

*Kyle Yamashita, District 12

Lynn DeCoite, District 13

*James Tokioka, District 15

Gene Ward, District 17

Calvin Say, District 20

Tom Brower, District 22

Takashi Ohno, District 27

*Daniel Holt, District 29

Romy Cachola, District 30

*Sam Kong, District 33

Val Okimoto, District 36

Ryan Yamane, District 37

Bob McDermott, District 40

Chris Fidelibus, District 41

*Sharon Har, District 42

*Stacelynn Eli, District 43

*Scot Matayoshi, District 49

Cynthia Thielen, District 50

Hawai'i County Council

*Valerie Poindexter, District 1

*Ashley Kierkiewicz, District 4

*Matt Kanealii-Kleinfelder, District 5

*Maile David, District 6

Rebecca Villegas, District 7

*Herbert "Tim" Richards, District 9

Maui Mayor

Mike Victorino

Maui County Council

Rick Nava, West Maui

Alice Lee, Wailuku-Waihe'e-Waikapu

Alan Arakawa, Kahului

Kelly King, South Maui

Mike Molina, Makawao-Haiku-Pa'ia

Yuki Lei Sugimura, Upcountry

Riki Hokama, Lana'i

Stacy Helm Crivello, Moloka'i

Kaua'i Mayor

Derek Kawakami

Kaua'i County Council

Arthur Brun
Mason Chock
Felicia Cowden
Luke Evslin
Ross Kagawa
Arryl Kaneshiro
Milo Spindt

Honolulu City Council

Trevor Ozawa, District 4
*Carol Fukunaga, District 6
Kelly Kitashima, District 8

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About the HLTA

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association is a non-profit, statewide trade organization of lodging properties, lodging owners and management companies, suppliers, and related firms and individuals. It was founded in 1947 and is now the state's largest private sector tourism organization. Today, HLTA consists of 700 members representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers.

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