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## **Hawai'i Tourism Authority Appoints Kalani Ka'anā'anā Director of Hawaiian Cultural Affairs**

**HONOLULU** – The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) today announced that Kalani Ka'anā'anā has been appointed as its Director of Hawaiian Cultural Affairs. He began work on June 6.

"Kalani is deeply committed to the Hawaiian culture on a personal, community and educational level. He brings to HTA a vision and energy that will help guide us in supporting programs and issues that are key to perpetuating our islands' native culture," said George D. Szigeti, HTA President and CEO.

Ka'anā'anā commented, "I was drawn to this position because of its significance to the Hawaiian community and to all the people of Hawai'i. I see the responsibilities as a great opportunity to promote increased dialogue and collaboration, and to elevate our native culture authentically in our largest industry."

Born and raised in Kailua on O'ahu and fluent in the Hawaiian language, Ka'anā'anā is involved in a multitude of community activities. He serves as the head coach and secretary of the board for the Kai Oni Canoe & Athletic Club, is a board member of the O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association, is the head coach of the Kailua High School Paddling Team, and is a hula dancer with Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima. In addition, he formerly served as first vice president of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club.

Before joining HTA, Ka'anā'anā served as coordinator of Clinical Health and Community Programs in the Native Hawaiian Health Program at The Queen's Health Systems. His background also includes overseeing the manufacturing and retail operations working for 'Ōiwi Ocean Gear. In addition, Ka'anā'anā served as a legislative aide to State Rep. Ken Ito and State Rep. Pono Chong.

An alumnus of Kailua High School, Ka'anā'anā graduated with distinction from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, earning B.A. degrees in both Hawaiian Language and Hawaiian Studies. His honors at UH-Mānoa included serving as a student marshal for the Hawai'inuiākea College of Hawaiian Knowledge.

### **About the Hawai'i Tourism Authority**

The [Hawai'i Tourism Authority](http://hawaiiitourismauthority.org) is responsible for strategically managing the State of Hawai'i's marketing initiatives to support tourism. HTA's goal is to optimize tourism's benefits for Hawai'i, while being attentive to the interests of travelers, the community and visitor industry. Established in 1998 to support Hawai'i's leading industry and largest employer, HTA continually strives to help ensure the sustainability of tourism's success.

For more information about HTA, please visit [www.hawaiiitourismauthority.org](http://www.hawaiiitourismauthority.org). Follow updates about HTA on Facebook, Twitter (@HawaiiHTA) and its YouTube Channel.

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