

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Māori Development
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Tama Potaka – August 2025

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel from 3 August 2025 to 11 August 2025 to North America, namely:
 - 1.1 Honolulu, O'ahu, Hawai'i, United States of America;
 - 1.2 Island of Hawai'i, Hawai'i, United States of America;
 - 1.3 Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; and
 - 1.4 Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada.
- 2 The purpose of the visit will focus on the Māori Development and Conservation portfolios with some social housing elements.
- 3 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 4 I intend to meet with indigenous communities, government agencies, and private investors to discuss how they are delivering social services, raising funds and debt for infrastructure and large-scale developments for indigenous communities, as well as partnering in conservation and social housing delivery. Identifying options for growing the Māori economy and improving social outcomes for high needs communities aligns with the Government's Going for Growth strategy and Tōnui Māori Going for Growth with Māori.
- 5 I intend to visit a selection of National and State Parks to discuss how others approach visitor management, access charging and revenue generation from conservation. Insights from these visits can be incorporated into the modernisation of Conservation reforms that I am progressing.
- 6 This visit will strengthen New Zealand's relationship with the US and Canada by focussing on the growth of the Māori economy through indigenous trade and innovations. We can learn from each other on how Governments support indigenous communities to be more prosperous which supports the continued growth of the Māori economy.

Hawai'i

- 7 The United States of America (US) is a key economic partner and one of New Zealand's largest export markets, including for primary goods and services. Hawai'i is an important relationship for New Zealand due to our joint interests within the Pacific, shared Polynesian heritage and strategic interests.
- 8 The agencies and people I intend to meet with in Hawai'i between 3-5 August are as follows:

	Who	Reason
1	Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and Chair of the Hawai'ian Homes Commission	Diplomacy and discussions on different approaches to government administration and oversight of indigenous land for residential, agricultural and commercial enterprise purposes.
2	Office of Hawai'ian Affairs including meeting with Kaiali'i Kahele (Chair and Hawai'i Island Trustee)	Diplomacy and Māori development, conservation and housing matters
3	Hawaiian State Government (HSG) and University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	Meeting with lead Government agency and technical experts at the University to discuss BioInvest and on New Zealand's approach to how we determine biodiversity and conservation needs in order to achieve better outcomes
4	Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and Diamond Head State Monument	Conservation interests and environmental crisis management

Canada

- 9 New Zealand and Canada are closely aligned in promoting inclusive and sustainable trade, with shared initiatives including Inclusive Trade Action Group, Indigenous Peoples Economic and Trade Cooperation Arrangement and Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. New Zealand is also the only country that currently has an Indigenous Collaboration Arrangement (ICA) with Canada.
- 10 The visit to Canada provides a balance of strengthening diplomatic relationships with Ministerial counterparts and on-the-ground insights on priority indigenous issues such as economic development and housing.

- 11 The agencies and people I intend to meet with in Canada between 6-9 August are as follows:

	Who	Reason
1	Ministerial counterparts and leaders – may include Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Regional Director Indigenous Services Canada, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.	Diplomacy
2	Indigenous Infrastructure Fund Corporation and the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council	Discussions on improvement of First Nations infrastructure and housing
3	Jericho Lands	Discussion on Jericho Lands' planning program and policy statement. The Jericho Lands are owned by a joint venture partnership between the Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation Partnership and the Canada Lands Company.
4	Nancy Greene (previous BC Senator)	Diplomacy
5	British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFM) -	Meeting with Regional Chief Terry Teegee and Economic Development team. BCAFM represents 204 First Nations groups and advocates for those who are engaging in treaty processes.
6	First Nations Major Projects Coalition (FNMP C)	FNMP is a national 170+ collective group of First Nations members advancing 17 major projects. These projects cover geothermal, green energy and economic development focused kaupapa and include equity ownership components for First Nation investment.
7	Lu'ma Group of Companies	Alignment to indigenous housing priorities. Lu'ma provides an estimated

		\$18 million to address homelessness and runs an Indigenous Community Entity Advisory Board for the implementation and development of community plans, approval of funding proposals, and results reporting.
8	Nch'kay Development operation	A visit to the Park Royal Shopping Centre, a large development on the lands of Squamish Nation managed by its economic development arm, Nch'kay Development operation.

Ministerial Party

- 12 My Ministerial Advisor, Rose Austen, will also be travelling with me, and her costs have been included in the indicative table below. My wife intends to accompany me for part of this trip, and all associated costs for her travel will be met at my personal expense.

Travel Costs

- 13 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares	\$27,600.00
Accommodation:	\$5,169.00
Hospitality, surface travel, insurance gifts, food & incidentals	\$5,510.00
Contingency [5%]	\$1,946.00
TOTAL	\$40,181.00

Acting Ministers

- 14 In my absence, the following Ministers have agreed to act in my portfolios:

Hon Chris Penk - Conservation
Hon Shane Jones - Māori Development
Hon Louise Upston- Whānau Ora
Hon Judith Collins- Māori Crown Relations
Associate Housing revert to Lead Minister

Proactive release

- 15 I propose to proactively release my travel report within 30 business days subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

16 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 16.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 3 August 2025 to 11 August 2025 to travel to Hawai'i, United States and Canada to accelerate the Going for Growth with Māori I Tōnui Māori framework through a Ministerial delegation;
- 16.2 agree that I be accompanied by my ministerial adviser, and my wife Ms Ariana Paul;
- 16.3 approve the estimated expenditure of 36,100.00 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 16.4 note that I will be accompanied by a senior official from Te Puni Kōkiri, whose travel costs will be met by Te Puni Kōkiri;
- 16.5 note that I will be accompanied by my wife Ariana Paul, whose costs will be met by me personally;
- 16.6 agree that in my absence that the following Ministers will be acting in each of my portfolios:
 - Hon Chris Penk – Conservation;
 - Hon Shane Jones – Māori Development;
 - Hon Louise Upston – Whānau Ora;
 - Hon Judith Collins – Māori Crown Relations;
- 16.7 note that the House is not sitting during my absence;
- 16.8 note that leave from Parliament has been approved by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Tama Potaka
Minister for Māori Development