

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, March 28, 2025
3:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 016, and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 550
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
ALEXANDRA KELEPOLO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2028**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 550 for retaining Alexandra Kelepolo as a member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (Commission). Alexandra resides in the County of Hawai'i and possesses "membership in a land conservation organization in the State" (Moku O Keawe Land Conservancy), fulfilling the Commission membership requirements of subsections 173A-2.4 and 2.4(a)(3), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Alexandra Kelepolo served on the County of Hawai'i Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission (PONC) for the last five years, including terms as Vice-Chair and Chair. In prior work with the County Department of Finance, she facilitated PONC operations. She coordinated County grant applications to the Legacy Land Conservation Program, resulting in several successful land acquisitions. As an interim Legacy Land Commissioner, Alexandra participated in four of the eight permitted interaction groups that investigated this year's grant applications, bringing unique expertise in land matters, applicant capacity, project readiness, and Hawai'i island community relations that added significant value to the Commission's annual review, ranking, and recommendation process.

Alexandra's record of land conservation experience and accomplishments highlights her suitability for serving on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. The Department strongly supports Governor's Message 550 and recommends that the Water and Land Committee confirm Alexandra Kelepolo's appointment.

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this nominee.

GM-550

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 7:36:38 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Falinski	Testifying for Legacy Lands Conservation Commission	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice-Chair and members of Water and Lands,

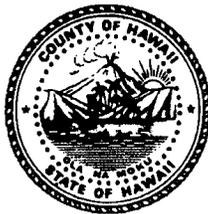
I appreciate the opportunity to support Alex Kalepolepo in her role as a Commissioner for Legacy Lands. She is clearly dedicated to her role as a protector in the community, and is well qualified for this position. Having knowledge of Hawaii County processes and community support, Alex is a welcome voice on the Commission.

We look forward to working with her, with her appointment to the Commission once again.

Aloha,

Dr. Kim Falinski

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



William V. Brillhante, Jr.
Managing Director

Merrick Nishimoto
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i ~ Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • Phone (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
Phone (808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 27, 2025

Committee on Water and Land
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Hawai'i State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: *GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 550 / Nomination of Alexandra Kelepolo to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission*
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, March 28, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.
Location: Via Videoconference and Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

This letter serves to endorse the nomination of Alexandra "Alex" Kelepolo to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Alex worked for the County of Hawai'i, Finance Department administering the Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission and program "PONC". She was instrumental in laying the foundation to what has evolved into one of the most successful government funding programs in the State of Hawai'i to protect and preserve our natural and cultural resources, native wildlife habitat and ensuring lands remain open space in perpetuity. Alex worked closely with the Legacy Land Conservation Program "LLCP" during her time with the County PONC program. LLCP funds contributed to PONC's success by providing matching funds for multiple fee simple and/or conservation easement acquisitions in the County of Hawai'i.

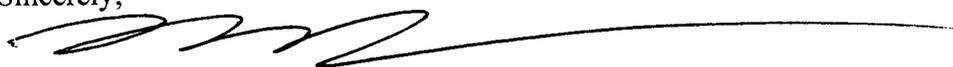
While Alex no longer works for the County of Hawai'i, she has recently served as Chair and completed a five-year term on PONC. Alex's contributions have positively impacted her community. She is a strong believer in volunteer work. She currently serves as interim commissioner on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, President of Moku O Keawe Land Conservancy, Board of Director for E Mau Nā Ala Hele and Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, Secretary and Committee member for Toys for Tots and a member of the Zonta Club of Hilo.

Committee on Water and Land
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Hawai'i State Legislature
March 27, 2025
Page 2 of 2

Alex's experience working with community, non-profits, government and ohana to protect, preserve and steward these lands and her knowledge of the LLCP is invaluable and will make her a great asset to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William V. Brillhante, Jr.
Managing Director



LATE

March 18, 2025

RE: Strong Support for Alexandra Kelepolo for Legacy Land Conservation Commission

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Malama Kohala Kahakai stands in strong support of appointing Alexandra Kelepolo to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Ms. Kelepolo's is highly qualified to serve on this Commission. Her dedication to and expertise in protecting important lands and cultural and natural resources is significant and will serve the Commission well.

Ms. Kelepolo was the primary driver behind successfully establishing Hawaii County's very successful Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resource Preservation (PONC) fund and PONC Commission to administer the funds, which has successfully preserved nearly 11,000 acres of land on Hawaii Island. She has been responsible for overseeing numerous multimillion dollar conservation purchases, as well as monitoring of these lands and monitoring of conservation easements. Alex understands the nuts and bolts of conservation fee simple, and easement purchases as well as what is required for successful long-term stewardship.

Alex has nearly 20 years of experience effectively coordinating work with a diversity of stakeholders to preserve lands to protect a variety of values, including habitat, view planes, cultural sites, agricultural lands, important coastal and watershed functions, etc. Everyone who has worked with Alex, be it archeologists, landowners, scientists, cultural practitioners, community nonprofits, etc. will tell you that she has a heart of gold *and* the skill set and experience to be an effective Legacy Land Conservation Commissioner.

Alex's current work requires her to have a strong understanding of a variety of land use issues as she works with landowners and utilities to secure important easements while protecting natural and cultural resources. She has worked successfully with landowners on hundreds of easements.

Very few people in this state have the breadth of real property experience in a conservation context working with both government agencies, community nonprofits, and a variety of public and private funding sources.

We strongly recommend you appoint Alexandra Kelepolo to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. She will be an asset to the state.

Respectfully,

Gail Byrne Baber

Gail Byrne Baber

Co-coordinator

Malama Kohala Kahakai

**P.O. Box 198900 PMB 102
Hawi, HI 96719
MalamaKohalaKahakai@gmail.com**

Kohala Lihikai

P.O. Box 76
Hawi, Hawai'i 96719

March 20, 2024

RE: Strong Support for Alexandra Kelepolo's Appointment to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission

Aloha, Chair and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

Ms. Alexandra Kelepolo is highly qualified to serve effectively and with integrity on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. We strongly recommend her appointment.

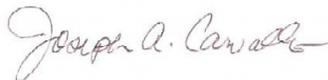
Kohala Lihikai is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving North Kohala's important open spaces and public access ways. We were founded by five community nonprofits and groups to further their decades of work, especially with respect to coastal preservation.

Without a doubt, Ms. Kelepolo's work has made a tremendous difference to the North Kohala community's efforts to preserve our cultural, agricultural, and ecological heritage. She has a very humble but effective way of helping to advance community driven initiatives and has worked with a wide range of professionals to protect and conserve important community properties around Hawaii Island.

Ms. Kelepolo was responsible for establishing the highly effective Hawaii County Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resource Conservation program, which has preserved 11,000 acres to-date. Alexandra coordinated the purchase of numerous conservation purchases and conservation easements and has been responsible for the monitoring of the care of these lands once purchased. She understands the nuts and bolts of real property conservation purchases, what it takes to steward properties, as well as experience with a variety of land uses that have deepened her on-the-ground understanding of effective and respectful management of cultural and natural resource management.

Ms. Kelepolo's expertise and experience are a perfect match for the Legacy Lands Commission. Please appoint her to the Commission as soon as possible.

Malama na Lihikai o Kohalanei,



Joseph A. Carvalho
Chairperson

Kohanaiki 'Ohana

P.O. Box 4753
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96745



aloha 'aina

February 14, 2025

Committee on Water and Land
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Hawai'i State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 550 / Nomination of Alexandra Kelepolo
to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I wholeheartedly endorse the nomination of Alexandra "Alex" Kelepolo to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. In 2013 Kohanaiki 'Ohana worked closely with Alex to successfully acquire 325 acres of land at O'oma through the Public Access Open Space Program and continues to steward the land to restore the native ecosystems through the County Maintenance Fund Grant Program.

Alex worked for the County of Hawai'i, Finance Department administering the Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission and program "PONC". She was instrumental in laying the foundation to what has evolved into one of the most successful government funding programs in the State of Hawai'i to protect and preserve our natural and cultural resources, native wildlife habitat and ensuring lands remain open space in perpetuity. Alex worked closely with the Legacy Land Conservation Program "LLCP" during her time with the County PONC program. LLCP funds contributed to PONC's success by providing matching funds for multiple fee simple and/or conservation easement acquisitions in the County of Hawai'i.

Alex's passion and dedication in the community is endless; you will find her volunteering with her ohana any chance she gets. She currently is interim commissioner on the Legacy Land

Page 2

Conservation Commission, President of Moku O Keawe Land Conservancy, Board of Director for E Mau Nā Ala Hele, Secretary and Committee member for Toys for Tots and a member of the Zonta Club. She recently completed a five-year term as a commissioner with the County of Hawai'i, Public Access Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission.

Alex's experience working with community, non-profits, government and ohana to protect, preserve and steward these lands and her knowledge of the LLCP is invaluable and will make her a great asset to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Eoff". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Karen Eoff

Vice Chair, Kohanaiki 'Ohana



Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

PO Box 1801, Kealahou, HI 96750 & PO Box 790637, Paia HI 96779

Celebrating 28 years of protecting Hawai'i's native wildlife
through research, education and conservation.

Hawai'i State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Attn: Committee on Water and Land (Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair; Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair)

26 March 2025

Re: Governor's Message No 5500 -- Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALEXANDRA KELEPOLO, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Hearing Date / Time: Friday, March 28, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and fellow Senator members of the Committee on Water and Land,

As an active non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of Hawai'i's wildlife for the past 28 years, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund (HWF) would like to wholeheartedly support the nomination of Alexandra Kelepolo for the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

HWF team members have worked alongside with Alex for well over a decade, supporting the County of Hawai'i's "PONC" (Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission) program and cleaning remote beaches along the Ka'u coastline. Alex has both worked and volunteered for the County of Hawai'i, Finance Department administering the Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission "PONC" and stewardship ("maintenance") program since its establishment. She was instrumental in laying the foundation to what has evolved into one of the most successful government funding programs in the State of Hawai'i to protect and preserve our natural and cultural resources, native wildlife habitat and ensuring lands remain open space in perpetuity. During this time with the County PONC program, Alex worked closely with the Legacy Land Conservation Program "LLCP". Since the beginning, LLCP funds contributed to PONC's

success by providing matching funds for multiple fee simple and/or conservation easement acquisitions in the County of Hawai'i.

Alex's passion and dedication in the community is endless; you will find her volunteering with her 'Ohana any chance she gets. We can confirm that she has spent countless hours helping us to pull plastic pollution off the rocky shoreline, or to research TMK for land acquisition efforts across the island. Until her term ended in December 2024, Alex was the Chair of the County of Hawaii's Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission ("PONC"), and is currently the President of Moku O Keawe Land Conservancy, and also serves on the Board of Directors for E Mau Nā Ala Hele, Toys for Tots and a member of the Zonta Club. As of February 2025, she is also a volunteer Board member (Director) with Hawai'i Wildlife Fund.

Alex's experience working with community, non-profits, government and 'Ohana to protect, preserve and steward these lands and her ample knowledge of land acquisition efforts, including both PONC and LLCP is invaluable. In addition, her experience with easements in her career allow her to be well versed to assist with land acquisition and protection efforts. Alex is a pleasure to be around and adds value to whatever she focuses her attention on, and she will undoubtedly be a wonderful asset and team member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Founded in 1996, HWF is a nonprofit organization with a mission to conserve Hawai'i's native wildlife through research and education. We engage and inspire our communities through outreach, education, conservation and habitat restoration activities, conducting environmental research, supporting community-based management efforts, and initiating advocacy campaigns.

Please join us to recommend Alex Kelepolo for the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. *Me ka mahalo pumehana,*



Megan R. Lamson, M.S.

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund – Kealahou, Hawai'i
President & Hawai'i Program Director



William "Bill" G. Gilmartin

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund – Kealahou, Hawai'i
Co-founder & Director of Research, Emeritus



Jodie R. Rosam, M.S.

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund - Nā'ālehu, Hawai'i
Plant Program Manager



Nohealani K. U. Ka'awa

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund - Nā'ālehu, Hawai'i
Ka'ū Resources Specialist

LATE

Kohala Lihikai

P.O. Box 76
Hawi, Hawai'i 96719

March 20, 2025

RE: Strong Support for Alexandra Kelepolo's Appointment to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission

Aloha, Chair and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

Ms. Alexandra Kelepolo is highly qualified to serve effectively and with integrity on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. We strongly recommend her appointment.

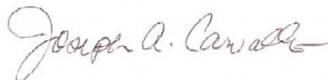
Kohala Lihikai is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving North Kohala's important open spaces and public access ways. We were founded by five community nonprofits and groups to further their decades of work, especially with respect to coastal preservation.

Without a doubt, Ms. Kelepolo's work has made a tremendous difference to the North Kohala community's efforts to preserve our cultural, agricultural, and ecological heritage. She has a very humble but effective way of helping to advance community driven initiatives and has worked with a wide range of professionals to protect and conserve important community properties around Hawaii Island.

Ms. Kelepolo was responsible for establishing the highly effective Hawaii County Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resource Conservation program, which has preserved 11,000 acres to-date. Alexandra coordinated the purchase of numerous conservation purchases and conservation easements and has been responsible for the monitoring of the care of these lands once purchased. She understands the nuts and bolts of real property conservation purchases, what it takes to steward properties, as well as experience with a variety of land uses that have deepened her on-the-ground understanding of effective and respectful management of cultural and natural resource management.

Ms. Kelepolo's expertise and experience are a perfect match for the Legacy Lands Commission. Please appoint her to the Commission as soon as possible.

Malama na Lihikai o Kohalanei,



Joseph A. Carvalho
Chairperson

Regenerative Organic Probiotic Practices Hawaii
P.O. Box 198900
Hawi, HI 96719

LATE

March 25, 2025

RE: Support for Alexandra Kelepolo for Legacy Land Conservation Commission

Aloha, Chair and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Regenerative Organic Probiotic Practices Hawaii is an agricultural nonprofit project on Hawaii Island. We have witnessed the success of Ms. Alexandra Kelepolo's work at the helm of Hawaii County's Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resource Preservation Commission (PONC). She not only was a critical reason why the program is so successful due to her work to standing up the program, but later as a Commissioner and Chair of PONC, she has demonstrated that she has the requisite leadership abilities and knowledge, skills, and experience to be considered for and appointed to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Ms. Kelepolo has volunteered her time to serve with numerous community organizations and on boards, including helping to found a land trust dedicated to preserving agricultural lands and important conservation properties. Her background and experience with a variety of land uses, preserving natural and cultural resources as well as important ag lands will make her an excellent Commissioner.

We endorse Alexandra Kelepolo and urge you to appoint her to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Respectfully,

Clarence A. Baber
Clarence A. Baber

Regenerative Probiotic Practices Hawaii

GM-550

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 9:11:38 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai Kākou,

My name is Scott Fisher, and I am writing to demonstrate my unqualified support of Ms. Alexandra Kelepolo’s nomination to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. I have known Ms. Kelepolo for over a decade in my position as Director of ‘Āina Stewardship for the Hawai‘i Land Trust . During this time, I have always found Ms. Kelepolo to be incredibly professional, considerate, extremely knowledgeable and always demonstrating the highest levels of integrity and commitment to Hawai‘i’s ‘āina and community. I know that Ms. Kelepolo will serve our community with a degree of professionalism that will benefit all of the people of Hawai‘i, particularly as she has been serving on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission since July of 2024. The people of Hawai‘i are fortunate to have people like Ms. Kelepolo selflessly serving our community, and I strongly support her nomination. If you have any questions about my testimony, please do not hesitate to contact me at Scott@hilt.org.

‘o wau iho nō

Scott Fisher

GM-550

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 10:14:14 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Keoni Fox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting written testimony in support of the nomination of Alex Kelepolo to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. I have worked with Alex for over eleven years in my role as a board member for the Ala Kahakai Trail Association and Ho`omalua Ka`u. During this time, Alex has been a staunch advocate for the preservation of cultural and natural landscapes on Hawaii Island. Alex was instrumental in helping to develop the County of Hawaii, Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Program (PONC). Although she left the County to work for a local utility company, Alex continued to support the program by serving on the Hawaii County PONC Commission and volunteering her time doing malama `āina work with various community organizations. I admire her passion and professionalism. She will be a great asset for the State Legacy Land Conservation Program.

Mahalo, Keoni Fox

March 26, 2025

Committee on Water and Land
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Hawai'i State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 550 / Nomination of Alexandra Kelepolo
to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission
Hearing Date / Time: Friday, March 28, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.
Location: Via Videoconference and Conference Room 016

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I would first like to introduce myself. My name is Anginette (Angie) Onaka. I have been a civil servant with both the County and State of Hawaii for over 25 years. For more than 15 of those years, it has been my honor and privilege to have known and worked with Alexandra "Alex" Kelepolo. From the day we met, Alex's character, heart and passion have been second to none in the workplace as well as in the area of conservation. Alex has worked endless hours (examples listed below) to pursue her passion of conservation and community service. Her knowledge and experience are supreme, and she is an asset to any and all committees and/or organizations she serves. Alex is the "real deal" when it comes to "Living Aloha". Her humility and personal values permeate all that she is involved with. Because of this, I wholeheartedly endorse the nomination of Alexandra "Alex" Kelepolo to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Alex has worked for the County of Hawai'i, Finance Department administering the Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission and program "PONC". She was instrumental in laying the foundation to what has evolved into one of the most successful government funding programs in the State of Hawai'i to protect and preserve our natural and cultural resources, native wildlife habitat and ensuring lands remain open space in perpetuity. Alex worked closely with the Legacy Land Conservation Program "LLCP" during her time with the County PONC program. LLCP funds contributed to PONC's success by providing matching funds for multiple fee simple and/or conservation easement acquisitions in the County of Hawai'i. Alex recently completed a five-year term serving on the PONC Commission.

Alex's passion and dedication in our community is endless. In addition, the long list of "assigned duties" she has, you will still find Alex volunteering with her ohana any chance she gets. She is currently interim commissioner on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, President of Moku O Keawe Land Conservancy, Board of Director for E Mau Nā Ala Hele and Hawaii Wildlife Fund, Secretary and Committee member for Toys for Tots and a member of the Zonta Club of Hilo.

Alex's experience working with community, non-profits, government and ohana to protect, preserve and steward these lands and her knowledge of the LLCP is invaluable and will make her a great asset to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Mahalo and Humble Regards,

Anginette "Angie" Onaka

Moku O Keawe

March 26, 2025

Committee on Water and Land
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice-Chair
Hawaii State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing to you today regarding the nomination of Alexandra “Alex” Kelepolo’s to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Truly, you could not find a person more committed to land conservation and caring for the irreplaceable lands and waters of Hawaii than Alex.

After working for 20 years for Wyoming’s TNC program, in 2011, I became the acquisition specialist and later, the Hawaii Island Director for the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust. I am quite knowledgeable about the legal requirements in protecting land, but I was completely unfamiliar with the flora and fauna in my new home. Alex was invaluable to me in getting me up to speed – she knows the land and understands the challenges we face in protecting this magical place. Alex is so personable and relates easily to people across a diverse spectrum of interests. She helped administer the Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission (PONC), later becoming a member of the Commission and more recently was the Chair of PONC. Alex is familiar with all the conservation programs, non-profit organizations, and governmental agencies in Hawaii and has worked in some capacity with most of them. She also knows the people who head these organizations, as well as those individuals who are critical to the success of conservation efforts. As President of Moku O Keawe Land Conservancy, Alex works “on-the-ground” with the landowners and helps them decide how to conserve their lands in perpetuity.

Alex Kelepolo not only has years of conservation experience and knowledge, but she also has the ability to work with community members, conservation organizations, government agencies and others in a non-confrontational manner, always seeking solutions that lead to successful conservation outcomes.

I unreservedly recommend Alexandra Kelepolo to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. I know Alex will be an outstanding member of this Commission.

Sincerely

Janet R. Britt
77-213 Mahiehie St.
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
Janetbritt50@gmail.com
808-937-1694

GM-550

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 8:19:31 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/28/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Kai Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Esteemed members of the Senate Water and Land Committee,

As a currently serving member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, I have had the great pleasure of working with Alexandra Kelepolo over the last couple of years. This past year was her first as a Legacy Land Commissioner. Her deeply knowledgeable input and handling of, at times, delicate situations has been masterful. Her voice is a valuable asset to the functioning of the commission. Please confirm her nomination.

me ka pono,
Kai Lucas