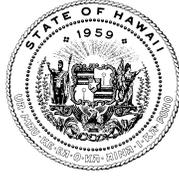


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawai'i*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. LAMBERT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON MARCH 6, 2025 AT 1:00PM IN CR 224

IN SUPPORT OF

GM 590

for consideration and confirmation to the
Hawaiian Homes Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, **ARCHIE KALEPA**,
for a term to expire 6-30-2028

March 5, 2025

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Archie Kalepa as Commissioner for the island of Maui on the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC).

Mr. Kalepa's service to Native Hawaiians and Hawai'i is apparent through his work as an honored waterman, navigator, emergency medical responder, mentor, and community activist. Mr. Kalepa is a keen listener who understands the challenges faced by the beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended (HHCA), as well as the management needs of Hawaiian Home Lands.

With over 30 years of experience in professional mentorship and promotion of self-sustaining communities, DHHL is certain Mr. Kalepa will be an asset to the HHC in forming policies that best serve beneficiaries. Mr. Kalepa served a vital role in the urgent response and recovery efforts following the Lahaina Wildfire that occurred on August 8, 2023. As relief and recovery efforts continue within the State of Hawai'i for the island of Maui, DHHL is sure that Mr. Kalepa will excel as a Commissioner representing the HHCA beneficiaries (lessees, applicants, and other beneficiaries) of Maui.

As an emergency responder, Mr. Kalepa has the natural urgency to act and serve. As an experienced waterman and mentor, Mr. Kalepa "reads the water," "listens to the land," and teaches others how to create and sustain safe communities. As a wayfinder

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
March 5, 2025
Page 2 of 2

who successfully participated in the Hōkūle‘a Worldwide Voyage, DHHL knows Mr. Kalepa’s team leadership skills will help DHHL navigate the “rough waters” of challenges that are inherent to the work of the HHC, the DHHL, the beneficiaries of the HHCA, and the collective work that is necessary to fulfill our mission.

DHHL looks forward to continuing to work with Archie Kalepa on the Hawaiian Homes Commission and we respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

HO`OMANA PONO, LLC
Mamua Kānaka

Attn: Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, Chair, Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Honorable Joy A. Buenaventura, Vice Chair, Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Member, Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Member, Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Honorable Samantha DeCorte, Member, Hawaiian Affairs Committee

March 3, 2025

Re: **GM590 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the HHC**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Hawaiian Affairs & Water!

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Archie Kalepa.

Archie is a Lahainaluna graduate, a 5th Generation Lahaina resident as well as an amazing waterman, Archie was inducted into the Hawai'i Watermen's Hall of Fame. Known for Big-Wave Surfing, Archie developed innovative techniques using water sleds and Jet Skis to improve ocean safety.

It's that "Innovative Spirit" that attracted us to Archie. With his wealth of knowledge of the oldest sport known to Nā Kānaka, to his navigational skills with the Polynesian Voyaging Society, to his work back on ***Da`Aina*** in Kahoma Valley on Maui. We find in Archie someone who understands the very Purpose of the Hawaiian Homes Commissions Act (HHCA) of 1920, as amended 1921.

Under the Kali Administration, Archie, as a member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC), wholeheartedly grasped the concept, and now ***Indigent native Hawaiian Pilot Project*** that unites Vacant Unmanaged Hawaiian Homelands, with Indigent native Hawaiians who CANNOT qualify for a Homestead, based upon their economic status.

HO`OMANA PONO, LLC
Mamua Kānaka

Archie was one of seven (7) Hawaiian Homes Commission member that voted for our Pilot Project, and we are eternally grateful to Archie for his Mana`o and support. The time has come to move our Kānaka Nation forward. With Archie helping to guide us forward, we can move out of the doldrums that have kept Wait-listers locked out of the Homesteads ownership process.

Please “advise and consent” the appointment of Archie Kalepa to the HHC.
Mahalo Nunui.

De Mont Kalai Manaole

De MONT Kalai Manaole, Co-Manager
Ho`omana Pono, LLC
86-044 Hoaha St.
Wai`anae, HI 96792
Phone: (808) 726-5753
Email: Hoomanaponollc96792@gmail.com

The Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands (AHHL) is a national waitlist governed association founded in 2009, a member of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA). The AHHL is a Homestead Beneficiary Association (HBA) registered with the U.S. Department of Interior, meeting the federal definition under 43 CFR Part 48.6. Dedicated to *Ending the Hawaiian Home Land Waitlist* by pursuing reforms and delivering services that create success for native Hawaiians to homestead and build mercantile businesses.

March 5, 2025

To: Committee on Hawaiian Affairs (HWN)
Chair - Senator Herbert M. “Tim Richards”, III
Vice Chair - Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura

Re: Support for confirmation of Hawaiian Homes Commission, /Archie Kalepa

Please accept this letter of support to **GM 590 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission for Archie Kalepa term to expire on 06-30-28.**

It is imperative that we continue our collaborative approach with each Island Hawaiian Homes Commissioner to engage with lessees on Hawaiian Homes Trust Lands. We are in a critical time where the voices of more than 29,000 beneficiary waitlisters—who eagerly await their birthright award - must be included in future discussions. Mr. Kalepa continues to work side by side with waitlist beneficiaries in escalating decision-making processes. This is proving to be an essential step to finding solutions that address the rising cost of housing as well as overcoming financial hardships during these challenging times.

As a homesteader he has shown his resilience & perseverance following the 2023 Lahaina Fires. His leadership shows that he possesses a strong foundation rooted to the community of which he serves. Navigating through all facets of government is vital to focus on the greater need. Together we are committed to provide guidance to uphold the tenants of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921.

With the mounting kuleana facing Hawaiian Homes Commissioners who are tasked to deliberate the housing crisis, budget cuts, skyrocketing cost to build homes. We believe Mr. Kalepa’s commitment to preserving Hawaiian culture, & his steadfast support to the development of self-reliant communities will usher a new & fresh approach in his decision making.

Mahalo nui for your consideration to support Archie Kalepa

Me ke aloha nui,

Kainoa Lei MacDonald

Kainoa Lei MacDonald - AHHL, Secretary & SCHHA Maui/Lana‘i Mokupuni Council

GM-590

Submitted on: 3/4/2025 1:28:39 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Tancayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in FULL Support of GM 590.

Mahalo,

Michelle

GM-590

Submitted on: 3/4/2025 1:31:03 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erman Tancayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support of GM 590

Mahalo

GM-590

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 2:18:21 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the nomination of Archie Kalepa to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Archie is a well respected community leader for Maui.

GM-590

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 11:34:44 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Germaine Meyers	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee.

My names is Germaine Meyers. I'm a Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead Lessee.

I humbly provide COMMENTS in regards to GM591 as it relates to the advise and consent of Archie Kalepa's appointment to the Hawaiian Homes Commission as the Maui Commissioner.

My primary concern to his appointment is Interim Kalepa's potential absence over a period of a year to participate in Hokule'a's 50th Birthday voyages in 2025. I don't know if this is true. Some in the community have shared this potential conflict and absence that Interim Commissioner Kalepa had shared with community members.

If a Commissioner plans to be absent for numerous Commission meetings, I've concerned about the lack of representation for the island they represent. Only Oahu have 3 Commissioners due to the high population of beneficiaries on Oahu. Hawaii island have 2 Commissioners to represent East Hawaii and West Hawaii. But Maui have only one Commissioner to represent the entire island, the same as Molokai, and Kauai.

However if Interim Maui Commissioner Kalepa plans to remain on Maui to engage with DHHL beneficiaries throughout the years of the appointment, now through 2028, and consistently attend monthly Hawaiian Homes Commission meetings and monthly community meetings on each island, I Stongly Support his confirmation as Maui Commissioner on the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Ke Akua pu,

God Bless All of You

LATE

GM-590

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 1:20:33 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Herrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai Senators,

I humbly ask that you confirm Archie Kalepa as the Maui Commissioner to the DHHL.

Archie has proven to be a genuine individual who deeply cares for the needs of the Beneficiaries of the HHCA. Please allow him to continue to work for the good of Maui, and the pae aina.

Archie Kalepa would make an excellent permanent member of the DHL Board of Commissioners.

Mahalo nui,

Janice Herrick

Paukukalo Hawaiian Homes Lessee

LATE

GM-590

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 2:00:19 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leatrice Burrows-Nuuanu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support Lawrence Lasua's confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission

LATE

GM-590

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 6:37:40 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Kaleikini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenavetura and honorable members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. I strongly support the consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. Archie Kalepa to the Hawaiian Homes Commssion.

LATE

GM-590

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 7:00:13 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis L. Neves	Testifying for Hawaiian Homes Commissioner	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

LATE

GM-590

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 8:18:07 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makai Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Archie Kalepa on his confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.