TESTIMONY GM 232



February 16, 2010

Via Regular and Electronic Mail

Senator Clayton Hee Chair, Committee on Water, Land, Ag, Hawaiian Affairs Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

> Re: Response to request for written statement; Oahu Island Burial Council confirmation;

Testimony – G.M. No. 232

Honorable Senator Hee:

Aloha! I express my appreciation for the opportunity to respond to your request for a written statement to address various questions. Please accept this statement as my testimony regarding my confirmation (hearing: Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010, 2:45 p.m.; Conf. Rm. 229, WLA).

I wish to be a member of the Oahu Island Burial Council (OIBC) to assist the state with its legal and cultural responsibility for the proper care of *na iwi kupuna*. Our company – Hawaii Reserves, Inc., a land management company on the windward side – also believes in the importance of good corporate citizenship via community service.

I perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the OIBC to determine preservation or relocation of previously identified Native Hawaiian burial sites, and to make recommendations to the State Historic Preservation Department regarding the appropriate management, treatment, and protection of such sites. In doing so, I understand that members are called upon to balance the interests of proper respect and care for the *iwi* of our ancestors with modern activities.

My Native Hawaiian background, legal training (Univ. of Hawaii, May 1996), and three plus decades in the state on the Big Island and Oahu help qualify me for this role. I believe that I am generally patient and thorough, and yet also flexible and empathetic; these qualities should

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help me understand and properly decide the issues that are presented to the council. If confirmed, during my term of service I hope to help provide a fair hearing to all parties and to exercise good judgment in the applying the spirit and letter of the law to each particular case.

In the event that a conflict of interest arises during my service as a member of the OIBC, I would make the conflict known to the council and to the State Historic Preservation Department, and follow the counsel and guidelines of the State Ethics Commission, including recusal where appropriate.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement and testimony. Please feel free to contact me at (808) 293-9201 should you have any further questions.

Mahalo nui,

Steve Keali'iwahamana Hoag, Esq.

Director of Administration

& Assistant to the President

February 16, 2010

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

RE: GM 232

Dear Senator Hee:

I wish to give my full support for the confirmation of John S.K. Hoag to the Oahu Island Burial Council. I know Mr. Hoag personally and professionally, and find him to be a man of integrity and competency. He is a man of sound judgment, and will serve the Council well. I encourage your approval of his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Former Chair, Oanu Island Burial Council

TESTIMONY GM 232 (END)