

GM918

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, NOA EMMETT ALULI, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.



GM918

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Commissioner on the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee NOA EMMETT
ALULI, for a term to expire June 30, 2015.
Senate Committee on Water, Land, & Housing**

April 17, 2012

2:00 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM 918, which would confirm Noa Emmett Aluli as Commissioner on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC), for a term to expire June 30, 2015.

Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli has been devoted to the return and rehabilitation of Kaho'olawe for over three decades and was a founding member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO). In 1976, Dr. Aluli led a group in protest of the bombing of Kaho'olawe and in 1986 led the PKO in signing a consent decree with the U.S. Navy granting access to the island and requiring the Navy to protect and begin rehabilitating historic and cultural sites. Dr. Aluli served on the Kaho'olawe Island Conveyance Commission where he assisted in establishing the terms for the return of Kaho'olawe to the State of Hawai'i. He has also served as a founding member and the original chairperson of KIRC since its inception in 1993.

During his tenure with KIRC, Dr. Aluli has gained invaluable institutional knowledge and understanding of the unique natural and cultural resources management issues facing Kaho'olawe. He has also been heavily involved in many of the rehabilitation projects including overseeing the work on the Ala Loa trail, rebuilding the Hale Halawai, and establishing a water catchment system to revegetate native plants. Dr. Aluli has demonstrated a commitment to the preservation of the cultural traditions on this 'āina by facilitating the makahiki ceremonies on Kaho'olawe since the early 1980s; moreover, he is strongly committed to the perpetuation of Hawaiian cultural values and leadership as he has personally selected and trained new leaders within the PKO on the island history and culture and has mentored many young Hawaiian doctors.

Dr. Aluli's service on KIRC is invaluable to the preservation and rehabilitation of Kaho'olawe. Moreover, the other members and commission as a whole are enriched by his generous wisdom and dedication.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to PASS GM 918. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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MĀNOA

April 9, 2012

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

**Testimony of Ibrahim G. Aoudé
in SUPPORT of GM918**

**Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Noa Emmett Aluli to the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is Ibrahim G. Aoudé, Professor and Department chair at the Department of Ethnic Studies—UHM, and I am submitting testimony in **support of GM 918 to** confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

• Please share how you know Emmett and the qualities and experience that he has which would make him a good commissioner

I have known Dr. Aluli since 1978 in my capacity as an educator at the Department of Ethnic Studies at UHM. Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D. has served as the Chair of the KIRC during 4 terms. He is being nominated to serve just one more term in order to bring closure to this stage of management of the island by the State of Hawai'i. He wants to support the transition of leadership on the KIRC to the next generation. He also wants to lay the groundwork for the transition of the management of the island to the sovereign governing Native Hawaiian entity in coordination with the initiative of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission.

He is a founding member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana. Dr. Aluli is a physician in family practice on Moloka'i with the Moloka'i Family Health Center since 1976 and Medical Director with the Moloka'i General Hospital since 1995. He is a director with the Tides Center, a national non-profit charitable foundation based in San Francisco.

- Dr. Aluli is committed to managing Kanaloa Kaho'olawe as a sacred cultural reserve for the Hawaiian Nation.
- Aluli has dedicated his life to the protection and healing of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe. He has provided the continuity for the island, the 'Ohana and the KIRC - through every stage of the island's transformation - the struggle to stop the bombing; the unexploded ordnance clean up; the restoration efforts of the State of Hawai'i through KIRC.
- Aluli has kept the community connected and engaged with Kanaloa Kaho'olawe at each stage.
- Dr. Aluli is a healer: of Native Hawaiian families as a physician; of the 'āina in his 36 years of perseverance to end military use heal and restore Kanaloa Kaho'olawe; and of the Kanaka Maoli as they move to re-establish a sovereign governing entity.
- Dr. Aluli provides leadership that is inclusive, visionary, compassionate and respectful.

April 9, 2012

To: Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

**Testimony of Noelani Goodyear-Kaopua
in SUPPORT of GM918 Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Noa Emmett Aluli
to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is Noelani Goodyear-Kaopua and I am submitting testimony in support of GM 918 to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of **Noa Emmett Aluli** to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I first met Dr. Aluli in 1993, when I went to Kaho'olawe for the first time as a university student. From the very first moment, his aloha, knowledge and leadership impressed me and my other friends on our trip. Since that trip, I did not have much of any personal contact with Dr. Aluli, but I continued to watch his steadfast leadership in guiding the PKO and the process of forming the KIRC. Dr. Aluli's experience on and his commitment to the island are unmatched. About a year ago, I had the great privilege of interviewing Dr. Aluli for a web-based video documentation project on the "early warriors" of the movement to stop the bombing on Kaho'olawe. In that interview, his great love for the island and his desire that more people be touched by the power of Kaho'olawe came shining through.

Dr. Aluli is a respected elder and healing professional within the Hawaiian community. I sincerely hope you will confirm his nomination.

Na'u me ka 'o ia 'i'o,
Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua
Assitant Professor, Political Science
(808) 221-4220
Email: goodyear@hawaii.edu



April 11, 2012

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING

TESTIMONY OF DAWN N.S. CHANG, PRINCIPAL OF KU'IWALU CONSULTING

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 918 (GM 918)

**GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NOA EMMETT ALULI
KAHO'OLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dawn Chang, and **I strongly support the nomination of Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D. to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC)**. I have known Dr. Aluli for over 25 years in varying capacities. I first worked with Dr. Aluli as the former Deputy Attorney General advising KIRC during the transition of Kaho'olawe from United States Navy's control to the State of Hawai'i. Second, in my capacity as a cultural and legal consultant as the Principal of Ku'iwalu, I've sought Dr. Aluli's valued counsel as a Native Hawaiian community leader on various issues. And, finally I've gotten to know Emmett over the last 25 years as dear friend who I respect for his unconditional commitment and dedication to the Hawaiian people and in particular to the healing of Kaho'olawe.

Dr. Aluli was unanimously selected as the KIRC Chairperson to lead the State of Hawai'i in its negotiations with the U.S. Navy on the return and restoration of Kaho'olawe. He provided consistent strong leadership for many years as the former chair of the KIRC. At times, as the Chairperson, he was faced with daunting challenges in balancing the passion and demands by the Hawaiian community to provide greater access to Kaho'olawe against the harsh realities of the hazardous conditions on Kaho'olawe which required KIRC to limit access. It was not an easy role for anyone to assume, but Emmett fully accepted the kuleana of leading the stewardship of Kaho'olawe. It has been his strong cultural foundation and unwavering commitment to the vision of healing Kanaloa Kaho'olawe for generations that have yet to be born that calls him to continue to serve on the KIRC.

I respectfully ask that Dr. Aluli's nomination receive the consent of your committee, and be forwarded to the full Senate for confirmation.

**PROTECT KAHO‘OLAWE ‘OHANA
P.O. Box 39
Kaunakakai, Hawai‘i 96748**



April 11, 2012

**Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Testimony of Joshua Kaakua on behalf of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana
in SUPPORT of GM918
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the
Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha e Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing. On behalf of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (‘Ohana), I am submitting official ‘Ohana testimony in **support of GM918 Confirmation** of Gubernatorial Nominee, NOA EMMETT ALULI, to serve on the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

Much is known about the quality and authenticity of Dr. Aluli’s commitment, ‘ike, and service to Kanaloa-Kaho‘olawe. He was the former chair of the KIRC, a founding member of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, and has always been a positive, visionary leader in touch with the community. In this testimony, the ‘Ohana would like to share why we selected Dr. Aluli to serve another term and why we think his most important work is yet to come.

For this nomination, the ‘Ohana conducted an extensive discussion and selection process at our Islands-wide retreat in July 2011. Many of the younger, “next generation” kua or backbone members of the ‘Ohana were and are eager to serve on the KIRC. Two other younger members, Ms. Namaka Whitehead from Kamehameha Schools, and Mr. Kaliko Baker from UH Manoa Kawaihuelani Department of Hawaiian Language are currently serving as commissioners. Dr. Aluli accepted the results the ‘Ohana’s process – the call for a connection between the old and the new, and the call for Dr. Aluli to bring the relationships, vision, and community voice to the KIRC for one last term.

This is a critical time for the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission and the State and future sovereign entity needs the most qualified people with the right intentions to serve. The KIRC needs someone that understands the history, future, transition, and sacred trust of Kanaloa-Kaho‘olawe. We need a Commission that can navigate the transition of Kaho‘olawe to the Native Hawaiian entity in coordination with the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission. We need a Commission that will set policy decisions that improve accountability, and fiscal, cultural, and natural resource management. We need a Commission that has the network, leadership, and engagement to generate sustainable resources and fundraising at all levels. Finally, we need a Commission that has the support, communication, and following of the next generation of leaders and future community. The Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana feels that Dr. Emmett Aluli is the best fit to complement and strengthen the Commission to accomplish its important kuleana.

Mahalo for your attention to the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana testimony in support of Dr. Aluli's nomination.

Aloha 'Āina

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JK' followed by a stylized flourish.

Joshua Kakaia
Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana

Digitally signed by JOSHUA
KAAKUA

Date: 2012.04.11 13:41:19 -10'00'

'Ahahui Malama i ka Lokahi

P.O. Box 720
Kailua, HI 96734

April 11, 2012

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Testimony of Charles K. Burrows in SUPPORT of GM918 Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

I'm Charles K. Burrows and I am submitting testimony in **support of GM 918** to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. I've known and worked with Dr. Emmett Aluli as a commissioner for the KIRC from 2002 through 2008 and previous to that time as a Kamehameha Schools science teacher when I first took students to Kaho'olawe Island for ecological and cultural field studies in 1981 and in subsequent years. Dr. Aluli has always had the passion, administrative skills, and knowledge of the island's ecological and Hawaiian cultural history to protect and conserve this wahi pana for all in Hawaii today and for the generations to come.

Under his leadership as the founding member of the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana and as the chairperson on the KIRC for four terms, he has wisely guided the transition from the militarization of the island by working closely with the Naval commandment and private weapons disposal contractors to remove as much as possible the unexploded ordinance and other military hardware from the island to the greening and healing of the island both culturally and ecologically. There is no other person than Dr. Aluli who possesses the institutional knowledge of the historical happenings and resource management of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe for the past 40+ years.

I strongly endorse and support the confirmation of Dr. Aluli to serve one more term as a commissioner for the KIRC in his final transitional leadership to formulate the guiding policies for the cultural uses and stewardship values of Aloha and Malama Aina for this sacred place that will be eventually transferred to a Sovereign Native Hawaiian governing entity.

Mea Kealoha Pumehana,
Charles K. Burrows, Ed.D
'Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi, Co-President

April 10, 2012

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Testimony of Tamra A. Probst in SUPPORT of GM918 & GM919
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Noa Emmett Aluli and Christopher Kaliko
Baker to the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is Tamra Ashlee Probst and I am submitting testimony in support of GM 918 & GM 919 to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli(GM 918) and Christopher Kaliko Baker(GM 919) to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve.

I believe that the significant combination of an instructor of Hawaiian Language from the University of Hawai'i and a physician within the generational context of kupuna allow for an ideal transition of important leadership for Kanaloa Kaho'olawe allowing for capable decision making and setting the bar for our future generations.

Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D. is a physician with the Moloka'i Family Health Center, Medical Director with the Moloka'i General Hospital, as well as the Director with the Tides Center, a national non-profit charitable foundation. Aluli is committed to managing Kanaloa Kaho'olawe as a sacred cultural reserve for the Hawaiian Nation as he is a founding member of the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana.

Christopher Kaliko Baker is an instructor of Hawaiian language at the Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge and is a practicing advocate in projecting Hawaiian identity as the key to survival of Hawaiians in modernity.

Baker and Aluli are all affiliated with Native Hawaiian organizations in the broader community which allows necessary dialog between our communities and Kanaloa Kaho'olawe. Furthermore both appointees are spiritually grounded in our Native Hawaiian traditional cultural practices. These characteristics are vital in implementing Kanaloa Kaho'olawes' cultural plan designed by the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation.

Focusing on an objective to restore the islands natural and cultural resources must come from experiences and expertise concerning Native Hawaiian peoples and land. I feel confident that together these individuals' expertise provides a well-rounded collection of both scientific and cultural knowledge and will have a positive contribute to decision-making concerning Kanaloa Kaho'olawe.

Special mention to Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli is appropriate in conclusion to this testimony as he has dedicated his life to the protection and healing of Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe. Dr. Aluli has been involved with Kaho‘olawe from the beginning stages to our current focuses in its entirety; from stopping the bombing, to the ending of military use, to our present efforts of restoring natural resources and continued perpetuation of Hawaiian culture upon this wahi pana. Noa Emmett Aluli understands the importance of persevering through difficult challenges as he is a recognized leader of the Hawaiian Sovereignty and Aloha ‘Āina Movements. He is a needed leader that will bring people together as we move to reestablish a sovereign governing entity.

I would like to mahalo this committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of these appointees.

Tamra A. Probst

ane Wick

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2012 12:14 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org
Subject: Testimony for GM918 on 4/17/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 4/17/2012 2:00:00 PM GM918

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hardy Spoehr
Organization: Papa Ola Lokahi
E-mail: hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org
Submitted on: 4/12/2012

Comments:

Papa Ola Lokahi strongly supports the appointment of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. He has dedicated his life to spearheading efforts to restore the `Aina o Kanaloa. His participation on the KIRC, provides that entity with a vital link to the community which has worked long and hard to not only restore the `aina but by doing so, also restoring the health and wellbeing of all of us who call Hawai`i home. Thank you.

April 12, 2012

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING

TESTIMONY OF KAPONO CHANG

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

2:00 P.m

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 918 (GM918)

RELATING TO THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

My name is Kapono Ikalā'i Chang. I am native Hawaiian and a graduate of Stanford University and Kamehameha Schools. **I strongly support the nomination of Dr. Emmett Noa Aluli as the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).**

When I was a freshman at Kamehameha Schools, Kapālama Campus, I had the honor and privilege to go on a Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana ('Ohana) access with one of my classes. That visit changed my life. My family has always instilled upon me that we have a kuleana to mālama i ka 'aina. I really understood what that meant when I went to Kaho'olawe with the 'Ohana. From the time we left Mākena beach, the 'Ohana gave us a safety and cultural orientation, to the time we landed on Kaho'olawe, it was all about working together as our own 'ohana to heal Kaho'olawe. It was hard work, but I learned not only about taking care of the land, but more importantly about taking care of us as Hawaiians. The 'Ohana over the years has helped me to understand that my kuleana is to give back to this community and heal people. Uncle Emmett Aluli in particular has been a great mentor and it has been through his unselfish kōkua that I would like to pursue a medical degree. I have worked closely with him at his Moloka'i clinic and his patients. Just as his patients needs him as their Kauka, Kaho'olawe needs his leadership and guidance on the KIRC and I fully support his nomination.

Upon my return from my first journey to Kaho'olawe, I wrote this poem and I would like to share it with you as it gives you a glimpse of how Kaho'olawe and the 'Ohana have changed my life:

Nā 'Eha o Kaho'olawe (The Pains of Kaho'olawe)

The 'āina is no longer my flesh,
it was ripped from my body
and washed out to sea.
What are left are my bones.
Fractured by un-earthly craters.
detonated by greedy foreigners,
allowed by a "Joint Resolution."
The sun still rises at Haleakalā,
where my clouds once dwelled.
With rain no longer touching my skin,
I am barren and dry.
The kānaka are my friends,
the Navy my enemy,
ke Akua my creator,

nā 'Aumakua my protectors.
All have been evacuated.
I have been damaged,
now called a hazardous site.
Where are my people?
Are they coming back?
The trees and plants are sprouting,
but my time is growing old.
Slowly my face is being repaired,
while my mana is ready to return.
What are left are my stars, winds, and currents,
smoothing down my pōhaku.
I give my people life to live,
but they throw bombs on me to die.
Aloha is a gentle breeze,
creeping onto my bloody waters.
The pono was left on Maui,
while the hewa was placed on me.

My name is Kaho'olawe,
and these are my pains.

TESTIMONY OF
STANTON ENOMOTO

On GM 918, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING

April 17, 2012

Aloha Chairperson Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairperson Solomon, and members of the Committee. Governor's Message No. 918 nominates Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to serve on the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in the seat reserved for a representative of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO). I am providing this testimony as an individual to express my strong **SUPPORT** for Dr. Aluli and confirmation by your Committee.

Over 35 years ago, Noa Emmett Aluli helped lead a group of Native Hawaiians in occupying Kaho‘olawe to protest of the island’s bombing by the U.S. Navy and to create Kaho‘olawe as the public symbol illustrating Hawaiian issues and an ethic of caring for the land or malama ‘aina. Since that time, he has lead the PKO through a court-ordered Consent Decree was signed by the U.S. Navy and the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, led by Noa Emmett Aluli, which granted access to the island and required the Navy to protect historic and cultural sites, clear surface ordnance, begin soil conservation programs, eradicate goats and limit future ordnance training to the central part of the island; and

For over 30 years since 1980, the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, led by Noa Emmett Aluli, has facilitated access to Kaho‘olawe for Native Hawaiians and the general public for religious, educational and scientific activities; and

In 1990, Noa Emmett Aluli was appointed to the congressionally established the Kaho‘olawe Island Conveyance Commission to identify terms and conditions for the return of the island to the State of Hawai‘i; and

In 1993, the Legislature of the State of Hawaii created the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve and Noa Emmett Aluli was appointed as a founding member and original chairperson of the KIRC. During his tenure, he oversaw the conveyance of Kaho‘olawe back to the State of Hawai‘i and established the vision for the Reserve that calls for restored land and ocean and the island serving as the “crossroads of past and future generations, from which the native Hawaiian lifestyle is spread.” In that regard, Dr. Aluli led the KIRC in the development of its plans, future use, ocean management, cultural protocol, and environmental restoration. Further, under the leadership of Dr. Aluli, the KIRC adopted significant and innovative policies that incorporate Native Hawaiian values in areas relating to access, culture, education, and burials; as well as promulgate administrative rules to better protect the ocean resources through Native Hawaiian

cultural practices. Additionally, Dr. Aluli oversaw the U.S. Navy's unexploded ordnance and environmental cleanup of Kaho'olawe and the return of the island to State control in 2004.

On a personal level, I have known Dr. Aluli for nearly 17 years and have worked for him nine of those years during my past employment with the KIRC. He has been a leader, mentor, colleague, and friend. Additionally, I have witnessed his interactions with fellow Commissioners, KIRC staff, various government officials, and countless stakeholders in the community and in each of these instances, he steadfastly represented the interests of Kaho'olawe; not only its long history, but also its vision for the future as a pu'uhonua and wahi pana. Upon confirmation by this Committee, I believe he will continue his work on the KIRC in a similar manner.

As you are all aware, Kaho'olawe will soon be entering a new era. The remainder of the Congressionally-appropriated Kaho'olawe Island Trust Fund will soon be exhausted and pose daunting challenges for continued operations, management, access and restoration activities. Further, the Hawai'i State Roll Commission is commencing the groundwork for establishing a Native Hawaiian governing entity which upon recognition will assume management control of the Reserve as mandated by HRS §6K. Unexploded ordnance is still present on Kaho'olawe and in its surrounding waters and its safe cleanup and removal is a continuing responsibility of the United States. I am certain there are other challenges and issues as well.

As the KIRC faces this new future, it will need to make hard decisions and undertake actions that depart from past practices. In doing so however, it will be critically important that the Commission not lose sight of the island's history and the struggles and sacrifices made by so many to see Kaho'olawe cared for by nā po'e Hawai'i in a manner that recognizes the island and ocean of Kanaloa as a living spiritual entity. In this regard, I believe Dr. Aluli is the only person who can represent such a perspective as he is the institutional memory of the island. Therefore, it will be especially important that his voice is heard in the Commission's deliberations and that he is a part of the decision making.

Again, I strongly support the confirmation of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2015. Through his commitment to Native Hawaiians and life-long understanding of Kaho'olawe make him distinctively qualified for the position.

Mahalo piha for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

April 12, 2012

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

**Testimony of Kelson Poepoe
in SUPPORT of GM918
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Noa Emmett Aluli to the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is Mac Poepoe and I am submitting testimony in **support of GM 918** to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I've known Dr. Aluli all my life, and I've always admired his strength, loyalty and perserverance in his efforts to care for and promote best practices in traditional Hawaiian management for Kaho'olawe Island. As the resource manager for the entire Northwestern coast of Moloka'i stretching from Nihoa to Ilio point, I know the kind of vision and planning it takes to revitalize an area, Dr. Aluli has demonstrated that he would be the best choice to make the decisions necessary to transition leadership because of his long association and experience with Kanaloa Kaho'olawe. The experience he brings would be invaluable to the next person that steps into his formidable and capable shoes.

Please consider and support the nomination of Dr. Aluli .

Kelson Poepoe
Resource Manager- Hui Malama 'o Mo'omomi

April 9, 2012

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

**Testimony of Marcus Kawika Iwane, MD
in SUPPORT of GM918
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Noa Emmett Aluli to the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is Dr. Marcus Kawika Iwane and I am submitting testimony in **support of GM 918** to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

After graduating from Kamehameha Schools, I chose to pursue my bachelors degree at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. During college, I became involved with Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and had the opportunity to meet Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli. Through various huaka'i to the island of Kahoolawe with Dr. Aluli, I began to realize how my culture, 'āina and health of our Native Hawaiian community are all connected. It was with my continued studies and repeated involvement with Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, I began to realize that many indigenous populations suffer from significant disparities in health care and health outcomes. In Hawaii, Native Hawaiians suffer from amongst the highest rates of health disparities such as heart disease, diabetes, high cholesterol and obesity. During my school session breaks, I would travel to Molokai to visit 'ohana and while there, Dr. Aluli graciously allowed me to shadow him in clinic.

While shadowing Dr. Aluli, I began to learn how important it is to care for our local community and how so many rural communities are medically underserved. In addition, I was able to observe how Dr. Aluli interacts with and is able to form a bond and trust with his patients and their families. At the same time, Dr. Aluli exemplifies the skills to practice medicine while staying true to his na'au and culture with the dedication to the protection and healing of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe. Dr. Aluli has been a role model, mentor, friend and colleague for me. He is one of the main reasons why I chose to pursue a career in medicine. After attaining my bachelors degree, I completed medical school at the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine and now continue to serve our local community as an Internal Medicine physician.

Currently, I am completing my residency training with the University of Hawaii Internal Medicine Residency Program with the aim to continue to serve our Native Hawaiian community through primary care. I will never forget Dr. Aluli's words: "*The health of the land is the health of our people is the health of our nation.*" As a Native Hawaiian physician I only hope to one day become a kauka that is as dedicated, compassionate and caring for the health of our People and land as Dr. Aluli. Appointing Dr. Aluli to the

Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission will ensure continued healing of our Native Hawaiian families as a physician and of our 'āina in his 36 years of perseverance to end military use to heal and restore Kanaloa Kaho'olawe.

Malama pono,

Marcus Kawika Iwane, MD

April 7, 2012

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Testimony of Raymond E. Kong, Esq.

in SUPPORT of GM918

**Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing,

I am submitting testimony in **support of GM 918** to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I have known Dr. Aluli for almost eighteen years. When we first met, I was a senior in high school at Kamehameha Schools. I learned of his devotion to Kaho'olawe and what the island means to Native Hawaiians. The following year I went off to college on the East Coast. Even while attending Brown University, I was influenced by Dr. Aluli and his interest in protecting Kaho'olawe. With a group of other students from Hawaii, we formed an independent study group to discuss various issues surrounding Hawaii, including the end of bombing on the island. When I returned home for the summer, I worked as a summer clerk for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. My primary task that summer was to listen to recordings of Board Meetings and to prepare meeting minutes. I quickly learned of the issues surrounding negotiations with the Navy regarding clean up of the island, along with learning about how important the island could be to future generations of Native Hawaiians. I had a unique insight, for someone my age, about KIRC and it's purpose.

The goals of KIRC and Dr. Aluli's vision for Kaho'olawe are shared. They are complementary as if they came from the same place. I realize that this is because they do indeed come from the same place. They come from the very foundation and groundwork that was laid out before there ever was a KIRC. They come from the blood and sacrifice from the protector's of Kaho'olawe when providing that protection could cost you your life. This special bond between Kaho'olawe and Dr. Aluli runs deep within his soul.

As I graduated from college and then went on to law school, I continued to learn about the progress being made with the island's cleanup and with Dr. Aluli's continued involvement. Somehow, during those years, I took for granted and perhaps never really understood the devotion and dedication required to support something the way that Dr. Aluli has and continues to support Kaho'olawe.

Now, as a lawyer for the past ten years, I view things from a new perspective. I am aware of the legal lawsuits relating to the accident off of Kaho'olawe, having read the complaints and spoken with Dr. Aluli about them. What is clear, is that Dr. Aluli's dedication is unwavering and that his involvement with Kaho'olawe is extremely important now, when the KIRC and the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana are facing a legal challenge.

As with every Board of every corporation, non-profit, or other organization, the goal is to populate it with dedicated individuals who will provide strategic guidance and experience. There are few who can provide as much strategic vision, guidance and experience to the KIRC as Dr. Aluli, when it comes to the island.

Dr. Aluli, as a physician, has provided for the physical care of his patients. As a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, he has shared in providing for the well being of Kaho'olawe. As a kupuna, his life experiences and his experiences involving Kaho'olawe will be highly beneficial to the KIRC. And because they already share a mutual set of goals for the island, his selection and confirmation should be welcomed.

Through participation on the Board, Dr. Aluli's knowledge and experience can be passed on to the next generation of leaders and future beneficiaries of Kaho'olawe. His involvement on the Board would be a tremendous asset and benefit to the KIRC, Kaho'olawe, and Native Hawaiians.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

April 10, 2012

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Testimony of **Christopher McLeod**

in **SUPPORT of GM918**

**Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is Christopher McLeod and I am submitting testimony in **support of GM918** to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I have known Emmett Aluli since 1979, when we met on the Hopi Reservation, where I was producing a documentary film on the impacts of U.S. government energy policy, and Emmett was consulting with Hopi elders after his occupation of Kaho'olawe in protest of U.S. Navy bombing. Since that time, in dozens of subsequent professional and personal exchanges, I have witnessed Emmett's almost superhuman commitment to and love for an island he is still ready to give his life for. I have watched Emmett serve his community with humor, skill and selflessness as a healer, doctor and counselor. His knowledge of Hawaiian culture informs every action, and is a priceless resource that enriches his wide, deep extended family. I have walked Kaho'olawe with Emmett and listened to his profound knowledge, heard his vision for caretaking a sacred place, felt the aloha aina he practices with each step and breath, and experienced his mentoring of young people from Hawai'i and beyond. At more than one KIRC meeting, I have marveled at Emmett's diplomatic skill, attention to detail, and care for the professionals he works with to chart a wise course for Kaho'olawe. I can think of no one who is better prepared to continue and complete his service as a commissioner on the KIRC.

I urge you to confirm the appointment of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission so that he may serve just one more term in order to bring closure to this historic opening stage of management of the island by the State of Hawai'i. Emmett has well earned the opportunity to support the transition of leadership on the KIRC to the next generation. He fully deserves your support and your vote to lay the groundwork for the transition of the management of the island to the sovereign governing Native Hawaiian entity in coordination with the initiative of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission.

Dr. Aluli is committed to managing Kanaloa Kaho'olawe as a sacred cultural reserve for the Hawaiian Nation, and this is a commitment of international significance.

Mahalo for your attention to my testimony in support of Dr. Aluli's nomination.

April 9, 2012

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

**Testimony of JoAnn 'Umilani Tsark,
Research Director of Papa Ola Lōkahi and
Program Director of 'Imi Hale Native Hawaiian Cancer Network
in SUPPORT of GM918
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Noa Emmett Aluli to the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is JoAnn Tsark and I am submitting testimony in **support of GM 918** to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Dr. Aluli's experience and track record in land stewardship and social justice are long standing (see attachment). I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Aluli over the past 24 years in community and national health initiatives and I would like to personally speak to Dr. Aluli's leadership in Hawaiian Health and highlight his contributions in three areas: innovation, advocacy, and service and their importance to the role of KIRC Commissioners, who are entrusted with the kuleana to "manage the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve while it is held in trust for a future Native Hawaiian sovereign entity."

Innovation. Dr. Aluli led and conducted landmark research in cardiovascular disease among Native Hawaiians which included; the Moloka'i Heart Study – Na Pu'uwai in 1985; the Moloka'i Diet Study – Ho'oke 'Ai in 1987 and the Native Hawaiian Heart Health Initiative – Hua Kanawao ka Liko (2002-2010). The first two studies played a critical role in providing the first Hawaiian-specific data on the heart health crises in our Hawaiian communities. Findings from these studies were incorporated in the Native Hawaiian Health Care Act in 1988 and the subsequent reauthorized Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act in 1992, and in other Hawaiian health research and programming. More important, these studies represented a major shift in how research in Hawaiian communities should be conducted. Dr. Aluli convened the Na Pu'uwai Research Committee in 1985, comprised of Moloka'i, Lāna'i and Kalaupapa community representatives to lead these research initiatives, modeling research that was--for Hawaiians, by Hawaiians. It was a clear demonstration of the importance of community involvement in research to address community health concerns. It was unheard of to have community-based and community-driven research back then, but today, it is a recognized and valued methodology nationally for addressing health disparities research.

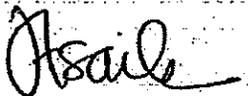
Advocacy. The research studies produced new knowledge about the risk factors that contribute to the high rates of heart disease among Hawaiians. Dr. Aluli applied this

knowledge to raise awareness among his Hawaiian medical colleagues, first by organizing and helping to establish the 'Ahahui o na Kauka, Native Hawaiian Physicians Association in 1998. He then proceeded to conduct 'aha, gatherings, on all the islands with funds from the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institutes of Health, to inform them about heart disease among Hawaiians and to involve his fellow kauka in community health. The majority were not engaged in community service outside of their private practice. These gatherings were successful in engaging over 60 Hawaiian physicians from across the state, raising awareness about heart health among Hawaiians and building capacity among younger Hawaiian health professionals, like myself, and medical students who were tasked with organizing, coordinating and recording these meetings. Two monographs from these meetings were produced and distributed by the NHLBI, putting national recognition and awareness to Hawaiian health concerns.

Service. Dr. Aluli has served the Moloka'i community as a primary care physician for over 30 years. When I met him in the 1980's he was often the only physician on island and one of the only physicians taking Medicaid patients. Over and above his busy community clinic practice, he was instrumental in helping me conduct the first breast cancer screening on Moloka'i in 1988. With a van equipped with a portable mammography machine, 240 women were screened on island over a 3 day period. Dr. Aluli took it upon himself to list and track each of the women. Five cancers were detected and the demonstrated acceptance of screening among women on island motivated The Queen's Medical Center to install a mammography unit at Moloka'i General Hospital. His medical career has been one of dedication and commitment to the Moloka'i community. Also, he is generous with his time for colleagues like myself who value his perspective on community health and community-based research. He does countless presentations to students and colleagues both locally, nationally and internationally. He brings a perspective shaped by experiences few have had.

Let me conclude my testimony by recognizing the unique perspective and skills that Dr. Aluli brings to the Commission. Stewardship of 'aina cannot be viewed separate from stewardship of the health of our people. Few have demonstrated Dr. Aluli's ability and history of doing both.

Mahalo piha,



JoAnn Tsark

Papa Ola Lōkahi

Contact: 526-1700 jtsark@imihale.org

Attachment

Background Info:

Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D. has served as the Chair of the KIRC during 4 terms. He is being nominated to serve just one more term in order to bring closure to this stage of management of the island by the State of Hawai'i. He wants to support the transition of leadership on the KIRC to the next generation. He also wants to lay the groundwork for the transition of the management of the island to the sovereign governing Native Hawaiian entity in coordination with the initiative of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission.

He is a founding member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana. Dr. Aluli is a physician in family practice on Moloka'i with the Moloka'i Family Health Center since 1976 and Medical Director with the Moloka'i General Hospital since 1995. He is a director with the Tides Center, a national non-profit charitable foundation based in San Francisco.

- Dr. Aluli is committed to managing Kanaloa Kaho'olawe as a sacred cultural reserve for the Hawaiian Nation.
- Aluli has dedicated his life to the protection and healing of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe. He has provided the continuity for the island, the 'Ohana and the KIRC - through every stage of the island's transformation - the struggle to stop the bombing; the unexploded ordnance clean up; the restoration efforts of the State of Hawai'i through KIRC.
- Aluli has kept the community connected and engaged with Kanaloa Kaho'olawe at each stage.
- Dr. Aluli is a healer: of our Native Hawaiian families as a physician; of our 'āina in his 36 years of perseverance to end military use and restore Kanaloa Kaho'olawe; and of our people as we move to re-establish a sovereign governing entity.
- Dr. Aluli provides leadership that is inclusive, visionary, compassionate and respectful .

April 6, 2012

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

**Testimony of Luciano Minerbi
in SUPPORT of GM918
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Noa Emmett Aluli to the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC)**

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is *Luciano Minerbi* and I am submitting testimony as an individual and an expert in my field of urban and regional planning in **support of GM 918** to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of *Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli* to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I have known Dr. Noa Emmet Aluli for many years since young and old Hawaiians organized into the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO) movement to stop the bombing, promote clean up, and environmental restoration of Kaho'holawe Island to become a place of perpetuation of Hawaiian traditional, customary, subsistence, and religious practices.

Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D. has served as the Chair of the KIRC during 4 terms, so he has the experience on the management and administrative tasks of the KIRC. He is being nominated to serve just one more term in order to bring closure to this stage of management of the island by the State of Hawai'i.

I am aware that Dr. Aluli wants to support the transition of leadership on the KIRC to the next generation and to the sovereign governing Native Hawaiian entity in coordination with the initiative of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission.

I had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Aluli on various occasions as I have worked with other Hawaiian leaders, practitioners, professionals in promoting the incorporation of Hawaiian culture in the planning process in the State of Hawai'i, in conducting contemporary subsistence lifestyle in the Hawaiian Islands, in subsistence research and fishpond restoration on Molokai for the Governor's Task Force and more recently on the design of the management plan for the Protection of Papohaku Dunes on West Molokai for OHA and DLNR.

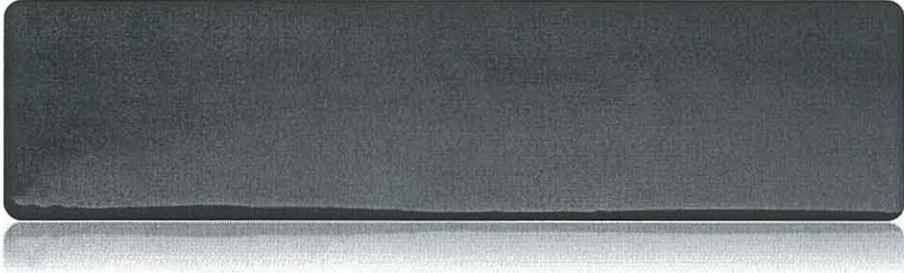
In the above work I had the opportunity to seek Dr. Aluli views and advise and I concur that he indeed provides leadership that is inclusive, visionary, compassionate and respectful and that he has the understanding to work with community groups and agencies at the planning and administrative task of island management.

I am confident that he is consistent in working at retaining Kaho'olawe as a sacred cultural reserve for the Hawaiian Nation as he has the important institutional memory of the stages of the island's transformation (the 'Ohana organization to stop the bombing, the unexploded ordnance clean up; the restoration through KIRC).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luciano Minerbi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "L" and a trailing flourish.

Luciano Minerbi
2444 Hihiwai St. No. 2005
Honolulu, HI. 96826



Pualani kanakaole kanahele 1110 auwae road hilo, hawaii
96720

Senator Dela Cruz
Senator Solomon
Senator Galuteria

Dear Senators,

It is my pleasure to write you at this time to express deep appreciation for your tireless work and decisions you are expected to initiate and complete in the time required. It is a comfort to know that your choices this year will be the result of digested wisdom steeped in months of discussion, deliberation and integrity for the object of concern.

I write in regards to the island of Kanaloa, Kaho  olawe which island tolerates the burden of long abuse by way of military and ranch use. Despite this constancy of abuse and neglect for the last 100 plus years it still bares the remnants of ancient wisdom and spatial connectivity. It is a treasure in Hawaiian cultural connection.

The bravado of the Protect Kaho  olawe   ohana and later the support of the Kaho  olawe Island Reserve Comm was the attention the island needed to maintain its life and recelebrate its existence. I sincerely recommend the name of Dr. Emmett Aluli as Commissioner for the island as a continuum for transparency of cultural connection. Dr. Aluli has supported the island since its inception and has passionately given selfless time, effort, wisdom and aloha to maintain the uniqueness of the island. It is with great satisfaction to myself to know of his willingness to continue to guide the movement of the island towards longevity.

I have been involved with the island from 1985 till today and and have seen the moods and splendor that island produces. Please reflect upon the above recommendation positively for the

sake of the Kanaloa, Kaho  olawe. I thank you for your
consideration.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Na  u n   Pualani K. Kanahale
edithkana003@hawaii.rr.com

'Apelila 5, 2012

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

**Testimony of Leimomi Wheeler
in SUPPORT of GM918
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Noa Emmett Aluli to the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is Leimomi Wheeler and I am submitting testimony in **support of GM 918** to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

• Please share how you know Emmett and the qualities and experience that he has which would make him a good commissioner

Background Info:

Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D. has served as the Chair of the KIRC during 4 terms. He is being nominated to serve just one more term in order to bring closure to this stage of management of the island by the State of Hawai'i. He wants to support the transition of leadership on the KIRC to the next generation. He also wants to lay the groundwork for the transition of the management of the island to the sovereign governing Native Hawaiian entity in coordination with the initiative of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission.

He is a founding member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO). Dr. Aluli is a physician in family practice on Moloka'i with the Moloka'i Family Health Center since 1976 and Medical Director with the Moloka'i General Hospital since 1995. He is a director with the Tides Center, a national non-profit charitable foundation based in San Francisco.

- Dr. Aluli is committed to managing Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe as a sacred cultural reserve for the Hawaiian Nation.
- Dr. Aluli has dedicated his life to the protection and healing of Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe. He has provided the continuity for the island, the PKO and the KIRC - through every stage of the island's transformation - the struggle to stop the bombing; the unexploded ordnance clean up; the restoration efforts of the State of Hawai'i through KIRC.
- Dr. Aluli has kept the community connected and engaged with Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe at each stage.
- Dr. Aluli is a healer: of our Native Hawaiian families as a physician; of our 'āina in his 36 years of perseverance to end military use and restore Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe; and of our people as we move to re-establish a sovereign governing entity.
- Dr. Aluli provides leadership that is inclusive, visionary, compassionate and respectful.

April 6, 2012

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Testimony of Stephen K. Morse

in SUPPORT of GM918

**Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Noa Emmett Aluli to the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Chairperson Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is Stephen K. Morse, and I am submitting testimony in **support of GM 918** to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I have been a friend of Dr. Aluli for over 40 years, and in January of 1976, participated with he and 7 others in a symbolic occupation of the Kaho'olawe in protest of the U.S. Navy's continued use of the island as a bombing target. That singular event and subsequent efforts to stop the bombing and desecration of Kaho'olawe had profound and different affects on our lives. While I continued to support stopping the bombing and return of Kaho'olawe to the State, the events that led to the disappearance and presumed death of our friends George Helm and Kimo Mitchell in 1977, deeply troubled me and forced me to re-examine and re-direct my priorities in helping Native Hawaiians achieve social and economic justice.

But, I observed in awe and have been truly amazed by Emmitt's resolve over the past 35 years to have the island returned to the people of Hawaii and created as a cultural preserve for future generations of Hawaiians. Through his quiet leadership and charisma, and at great personal sacrifice, he steadfastly helped steer the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana through the long, exhausting legal and political battles that culminated with the return of the island in 1994, and its restoration that continues today through the efforts of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

What he has helped accomplish has changed the course of modern Hawaiian history for the greater good of all. For his unselfish commitment and stewardship to preserve "Aloha Aina", I am honored to be his friend, and I believe the State of Hawaii should be honored to have him continue to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to support my friend, Dr. Noa Emmitt Aluli.

Aloha.

April 8, 2012

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT FOR GOVERNOR ABERCROMBIE'S APPOINTEES TO THE
KAHO'OLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION - AMBER NAMAKA WHITEHEAD
CHRISTOPHER KALIKO BAKER AND DR. NOA EMMETT ALULI

Aloha mai e Senators Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing and Senator Galuteria and members of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee

My name is Maile Meyer and I am submitting testimony in support of Governor Neil Abercrombie's appointees to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Amber Namaka Whitehead, Christopher Kaliko Baker and Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli.

I have had the great honor of going "on Island" several times. It is difficult to adequately describe what spending time on Kaho'olawe does for the soul of a Hawaiian. It is a transformational experience. There are people who have made sure that the rebuilding of a Hawaiian lāhui comes from a healing place, so that, in the end, the role Hawaiians play in the world is grounded in cultural tenants that have served our people for generations.

Namaka, Kaliko and Emmett are three individuals that make sure the work of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission continues to be grounded in what is pono. I am so touched that the mentoring that is at the root of how we learn as a people is being re-enforced by the presence of young and old in these appointments. Emmett as a mentor to Namaka and Kaliko is the best combination.

Each candidate stands strong, Namaka as a western/hawaiian steward of native land and cultural practices, Kaliko as a Hawaiian language kumu and orator, and Emmett as a health professional and healer as well as a leader in the aloha 'āina and Hawaiian sovereignty movements.

On the KIRC, we need committed leadership. These three appointees are committed to managing the island as a Native Hawaiian cultural reserve and implementing the culture plan for Kanaloa Kaho'olawe designed by the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation. In addition, these three appointees are spiritually grounded in our traditional cultural practices of Lonoikamakahiki and committed to the revival and flourishing of diverse Native Hawaiian cultural and spiritual practices on Kaho'olawe. To have this caliber of appointees willing to serve, and with the depth of knowledge and experience as well as the passion, is profound. I feel so grateful that they have stepped up and I know that they will served the needs of Hawaiians, and therefore, all people.

On a personal note, Dr. Aluli is family to me. As my first cousin, I have known him throughout my life as a man of great courage and conviction. He has dedicated his life to the protection and healing of Kaho'olawe. When I was a young child, I remember conversations around kitchen tables filled with young, passionate Hawaiians selfless in their determination to regain our ways and our places. Emmett was always at that center, I can say for my family, the Meyer 'ohana and our extended family, the Aluli 'ohana that through every stage of the rebirth of Kaho'olawe, Emmett has been a steady, presence. Our gratitude to Governor Abecrombie and to each of you for confirming his nomination as well as that of Namaka and Kaliko.

With gratitude,

Maile Meyer
Native Books/Nā Mea Hawai'i

~~Dane Wicker~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 5:31 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: hcasurf33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM918 on 4/17/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 4/17/2012 2:00:00 PM GM918

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hilary C Arakaki
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hcasurf33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/16/2012

Comments:

Uncle Emmet Aluli has dedicated more years to Kohemalamalama o Kanaloa than I've been alive. His aloha, patience, fortitude, strength, and knowledge for this aina this wahi pana are priceless. I fully support his appointment as he will be of inestimable value and a special presence which all can benefit from.