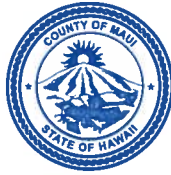


ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
Mayor

WILLIAM R. SPENCE  
Director

MICHELE CHOUTEAU McLEAN  
Deputy Director



COUNTY OF MAUI  
**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

April 10, 2015

Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair  
Committee on Water and Land  
State Capitol, Room 231  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Senator Thielen:

**SUBJECT: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 834, NOMINATION TO THE  
KAHO`OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony regarding GM 834, my nomination to be the chair and County of Maui's representative of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as a KIRC commissioner for the past four years and I respectfully ask for your support of my nomination to serve a second term. A copy of my resume is attached for your information. In response to the specific questions posed in your April 9, 2015 letter, please consider the following:

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission?

I would like to continue serving on the KIRC because I first made a commitment to Kaho`olawe in 2005, when I was first hired by the KIRC. The Island Reserve, and the people who work toward its restoration, are truly inspiring. When I was first asked to join the new administration of Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa in 2011, I struggled with the decision to leave the KIRC, so I requested the Mayor's consideration to serve as the County's representative on the KIRC to continue to be involved with such an important and unique mission.

Having worked for the KIRC for more than five years, I am thoroughly familiar with KIRC's day-to-day operations from administrative, policy, program and field perspectives. I am also thoroughly familiar with the "big picture" issues that the KIRC faces, including the future transition to a Native Hawaiian sovereign entity. With a degree in Political Science and many years of government experience as an analyst and administrator, along with work as a wildlife rehabilitator and several years learning hula and Hawaiian culture, I believe that I have a broad background in understanding the large spectrum issues that the KIRC has to manage.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission?

Beyond the broad statutory duties provided by HRS 6K, I perceive the role of commissioners to be: continuing and expanding the safe and meaningful access to Kaho`olawe for all of Hawai'i's

people; providing clear policy direction to the KIRC staff; continuing and improving relationships with stewardship organizations, most notably the Protect Kaho`olawe `Ohana, and their cultural use of the Reserve; ensuring the KIRC's financial viability; overseeing the appropriate and consistent administration and application of applicable statutes and rules; and, given the remoteness and inherent dangers of Kaho`olawe, protecting the interests of the State of Hawai`i and County of Maui.

- (3) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

If my nomination is confirmed by the Senate, during my second term on the KIRC, I would like to see the KIRC secure a permanent source of revenue; for the next two years, this appears to be in reach through HB500 HD1 SD1, SB1299 HD1 and/or HB438 HD1 SD1. Mahalo for your support of these measures!

I also wish to work with the KIRC and Kaho`olawe's many stakeholders to begin implementation of *I Ola Kanaloa!: A Plan for Kanaloa Kaho`olawe through 2026*. This new strategic plan will take us to the 50-year anniversary of the first occupation of Kaho`olawe by Native Hawaiians who eventually succeeded in having the island returned to the people of Hawai`i.

A third goal bridges the first two goals noted above: again working with Kaho`olawe's many stakeholders, KIRC needs to plan for some degree of appropriate revenue-generating activities to move toward fiscal sustainability.

- (4) Is there any other information regarding your experience and background that you believe should be considered by the committee?

I believe that in my tenure as a commissioner and as chair, I have been fair, responsible and effective. KIRC has maintained a presence at the Legislature every session over the past four years, familiarizing legislators with KIRC's programs, operations and financial needs; this has resulted in what looks to be the first-ever direct state funding in support of KIRC's day-to-day operations and activities. These efforts have been successfully undertaken by KIRC staff at the direction of the commission; during this time, the commission has also worked with KIRC staff to decrease the annual operating budget to be as efficient and responsible as possible. I would sincerely appreciate serving a second term as commissioner and as chair.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your consideration of my nomination.

Sincerely,



MICHELE MCLEAN  
Deputy Planning Director

## MICHELE CHOUTEAU McLEAN

### ➤ PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

**Deputy Planning Director.** County of Maui, Hawai`i.

Oversee budget and personnel issues; coordinate departmental functions with other governmental agencies; facilitate the management of four departmental divisions; assist with the staffing of meetings of eight departmental boards and commissions and three County Council committees (January 2011 – present).

**Deputy Director / Policy Advisor.** Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission, Maui, Hawai`i.

Responsible for: procurement, budgeting and purchasing; conducting performance evaluations; coordinating interaction with Congressional delegation and State Legislature; supervising operations; administering program grants (Deputy Director: March 2008 – January 2011 / Policy Advisor: August 2005 – March 2008).

**Land Use Planner.** Smith Development, Maui, Hawai`i.

Responsibilities included land use planning, project management and coordination, governmental and public relations, administrative and technical support (April 2002 – July 2005).

**Consultant.** Chouteau Consulting, Maui, Hawai`i.

Sole-proprietorship providing planning, governmental and public relations services, with a focus on environmental sensitivity, cultural respect and community orientation (October 1999 – April 2002).

**Legislative Analyst.** Office of Council Services, County of Maui, Hawai`i.

Served as primary legislative staff for several County Council committees handling planning, public works, economic development and environmental issues (May 1995 – September 1999).

**Senior Research Analyst.** Republic Research Committee, Washington, D.C.

Directed Congressional Task Forces; specialized in social domestic policy; organized press briefings and press conferences; researched, drafted and promoted legislative proposals (October 1989 – August 1992).

**Press Secretary / Special Assistant / Legislative Assistant.** United States Congress, Washington, D.C.

Spokesman, initiated and scheduled interviews; assisted Chief of Staff, served as liaison between Senator and staff members; drafted legislation, monitored Congressional activity (August 1987 – September 1989).

### ➤ ACADEMIC PROFILE

**University of Phoenix.** Wailuku, Hawai`i.

Graduate studies in M.B.A. program (October 1999 – February 2001).

**Vassar College.** Poughkeepsie, New York.

A.B. Degree in Political Science (May 1987).

### ➤ COMMUNITY PROFILE

**Paia Town Association.** Maui, Hawai`i.

Member of the Board of Directors (2014 – present).

**Maui Food Bank.** Maui, Hawai`i.

Member of the Board of Directors (2012 – present).

**Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission.** Maui, Hawai`i.

Chair and Commissioner (Maui County Representative) (2011 – present).

**East Maui Animal Refuge.** Ha`iku, Hawai`i.

Member of the Board of Directors (1994 – 2009; President, 2006 – 2009) and Volunteer (1994 – 2009).

**Pukalani Hula Hale.** Pukalani, Hawai`i.

Member (August 1997 – July 2003).