



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Leimana DaMate, Executive Director

Before the Senate Committee on
Water and Land

Wednesday, May 13, 2020
1:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In **SUPPORT** of
GM 760, Keith Robinson
Relating to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee

The Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC) stands in strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee, GM Keith Robinson for consideration and confirmation to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on June 30, 2024.

Keith Robinson is the grandson of Elizabeth Sinclair who purchased Ni'ihau in 1864 from the Kingdom of Hawaii, and this private ownership was passed down to her descendants with the mandate that the owners protect and perpetuate the native Hawaiian culture, practices, traditional beliefs and values of the indigenous people of the island. More importantly, she promised on behalf of herself and all her descendants to take care of the people perpetually. Comprised of pure native Hawaiians, Niihau has remained culturally untouched by the outside since 1864, a total of 156 years. The protection of the Robinson Family is so stringent that their unique Hawaiian dialect continues to this day and has never wavered.

Mr. Robinson, along with his brother, Bruce Robinson and his descendants continue to care for Ni'ihau and its inhabitants. And, just as importantly, the Robinson family continues to keep their promise. They have also preserved the endemic natural resources of Ni'ihau, some found nowhere else in the world. Keith Robinson is an honorable, just and compassionate man, a historian who has preserved the unique identity of the island, and a man, who through the wishes of the people of Ni'ihau, continues along with his brother Bruce Robinson, to uphold sacred promises and remain their konohiki.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure. We are honored to have him as the member of AMAC who maintains his kuleana to his people.

Respectfully yours,

Leimana DaMate, Executive Director
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From: Mahealani Cypher <malamapono744@aim.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:37 PM
To: Linda Menda <l.menda@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Re: WTL GMs

Aloha mai kakou!

We are re-submitting our support for the following nominees to boards and commissions, for the Wednesday, May 13, 2020, meeting:

GM550 - Dawn Chang, LUC - SUPPORT

GM584 - Wesley Yoon, BLNR - SUPPORT

GM670 - Jonathan Scheuer, LUC - SUPPORT

GM756/757 - Frances Kaluhiwa, `Aha Moku Advisory Committee - SUPPORT

GM758/759 - Godfrey Akaka, `Aha Moku Advisory Committee - SUPPORT

GM760/761 - Keith Robinson, `Aha Moku Advisory Committee - SUPPORT

GM762/763 - Lewellyn Kaohelauii, `Aha Moku Advisory Committee - SUPPORT

GM 764/765 - Manuel Kuloloio, `Aha Moku Advisory Committee - SUPPORT

GM 766/767 - Robert Luuwai, `Aha Moku Advisory Committee - SUPPORT

GM776/777 - Cedric Bertelmann, Kane`ohe Bay Regional Council - SUPPORT

GM 778 - Frederick Reppun, Kane`ohe Bay Regional Council - SUPPORT

GM7808 - Angela Hiilei Kawelo, Natural Area Reserves System Commission - SUPPORT

We had neglected to include the following two nominees:

GM752/753 - Anthony Pacheco, `Aha Moku Advisory Commission - SUPPORT

GM754/755 - Charles Young, `Aha Moku Advisory Commission - SUPPORT

We have attached letters for some of these nominees which apparently did not show up during our attempts to submit our testimony earlier.

Mahalo for letting us know of the mistakes in our submittals today.

A hui hou,
Mahealani Cypher, Chair
Government Relations Committee
Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

GM-761

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 10:53:25 AM

Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-761

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 5:23:27 PM

Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua DeMello	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

My comments on this nomination is not directed at the nominee but rather at the process for which nominations were provided to the legislature.

The Aha Moku Advisory Committee Final Rules of Practice and Procedure adopted by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, effective October 20, 2016, provides for the process for nominations. Part 1, section 1-2 states:

" The committee shall consist of eight members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate **from a list of nominations submitted by the 'aha moku councils of each island**. Oversight of the committee shall be by the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources. The committee members shall vote for the committee chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its members."

My question is, did the Governor provide his list of nominees from a list submitted by the Aha Moku Councils? If not, these nominations cannot be supported by the legislature based on procedure alone.

This will be a comment that I repeat for each nominee under each GM number.