



February 27, 2023

President
Richard Soo

Secretary/Treasurer
Jackie Burke

Board Members
Linda Ahue
Duane Hewlen
Puni Kekauoha
Alfred "Bobby" Willing
Helen O'Connor

President/CEO
Kali Watson

Senior VP
Patti Barbee

To: Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Chair, Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Hawaii

Re: Governor's Message 524 – Nomination of Kali Watson, DHHL

Responses to Questions:

(1) A description of your experience with respect to the scope of responsibilities for DHHL and the Commission, or any related field;

I served as the head of DHHL and the Commission from 1995 to 1998 under Governor Ben Cayetano State Administration. Prior to that, as State Deputy Attorney General from 1979 to 1984, I was assigned to DHHL and oversaw the commercial and industrial properties. On occasion I was asked for legal opinions or advice regarding the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, HRS and case law.

(2) An assessment of your strengths and weaknesses;

My strengths are based on my experience having headed up DHHL, continuing to support the program through my nonprofit Hawaiian Community Development Board and twenty years of private development experience. My weaknesses would be not being well versed in all the current problems, programs and DHHL and wait list beneficiary demands.

(3) An assessment of the department's strengths and weaknesses. Please include an explanation of how the department's strengths may be best utilized, as well as how the department's weaknesses may be improved;

The department's strengths lay in its land base and statutory entitlements derived from our State Constitution, HRS and case law. It also lay in Act 279 funding, along with other available funding. It may be best utilized by aggressively pursuing development of the 20 projects identified in the Strategic Plan and approved by the Hawaiian Home Lands Commission. Leveraging the funds is going to be key to expanding the unit counts. Another strength, as was done in Nanakuli to develop the Nanakuli Village Center, are the beneficiaries themselves and their homestead associations that have long been organized and knowledgeable about their respective regions and issues on the ground in community. I plan to work with the various organizations to move their plans forward.

The department's weaknesses revolve around its' lack of capacity. It needs more staff, but staff with various expertise and experience to move the program forward. It needs better technology to improve the communication with its wait listers and existing homesteaders. It needs to work better with all the pertinent government agencies, service providers, financial institutions, and developers.

(4) An overall vision for the department, specifically what goals can be accomplished within the next four years and what types of annual benchmarks can be used to evaluate the department/agency's progress towards those goals;

My vision for the department moving forward is to facilitate a massive infusion of housing throughout the State with the ancillary services and improvements provided by the Alii Trusts and OHA. This collective effort will invigorate and make the homesteading communities a place where its beneficiaries want to be - a place where the beneficiaries can raise their families in a healthy, economically vibrant, educationally and culturally active community – a place where the beneficiaries can feel secure, work, play and look forward to a bright future.

For the next four years, an annual and simple benchmark would be the number of lots issued by DHHL, and the number of homes built by DHHL's developer partners, homesteaders themselves and Habitat for Humanity or self-help entities. Another benchmark will be what the Hawaiian Trusts do in the homesteads.

(5) The department's top budgetary priority for the biennium;

The top budgetary priority is obtaining "sufficient funds" under Article XII of our State Constitution. There are four purposes listed with budgetary amounts identified. I am tasked with justifying the requested amounts, which I will do. This budget was prepared by the past administration and I need to show the adjustments that are warranted and consistent with my goals of moving the program forward. Homestead Lot Development which is Purpose 1, is obviously a priority since funding is for development of 773 lots that were previously awarded and not covered by the Act 279 money. Homestead Loans is Purpose 2, which my priority would be for a pilot allocation to fund and open the first farming and ranching loan program.

Rehabilitation Programs is Purpose 3, which my priority is to provide funding to the various homestead associations for kupuna and rental housing projects.

Operating/Administrative Costs which is Purpose 4, is another top priority because it provides the personnel and professional service funds needed to implement my major initiatives overall and in Act 279, which the Legislature has tasked the Department to accomplish within three years.

(6) An assessment of the department staff's morale, including the turnover rate for personnel; and

It needs a boost. There are not enough people in place and the ones working are exhausted. There has been minimal turnover, but the bigger issue is the vacancies and need for overall increase staffing to efficiently use the Act 279 funds.

(7) Any foreseeable possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service in the department and how you would overcome them.

My nonprofit Hawaiian Community Development Board has done several projects on DHHL lands over the years. For example, HCDB is currently doing the Ulu Ke Kukui renovation project with NAHASDA funds from DHHL. Therefore, any actions involving any of HCDB projects, including oversight by DHHL, will be independently monitored. I will also recuse myself from any needed action by the Commission.

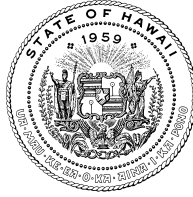
Pupuka I Holomua,



Kali Watson

President/CEO

Hawaiian Community Development Board



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of
Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawaii

Before the
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Thursday, March 16, 2023
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 524

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 524, the appointment of Kali Watson to serve as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

Kali previously served as the Chairperson of DHHL from January 1995 to December 1998. During this time, Kali was instrumental in working with the State Legislature to approve and fund a \$600 million settlement between DHHL and the State of Hawaii, which included the transfer of over 16,500 acres of lands to the Hawaiian Homes Trust. He also helped with coordinating the development of over 3,100 residential homestead lots and the transfer of over 900 acres of federal land into the Hawaiian Homes Trust under the federal Hawaiian Homes Recovery Act of 1995.

Kali has over 40 years of experience with Hawaiian issues, including his work on the 1978 State Constitutional Convention, as Deputy Attorney General for the State of Hawaii, and served as legal counsel for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Since 2000, he has led the Hawaiian Community Development Board, a non-profit he helped establish, whose mission is supporting and promoting housing, community, and economic development projects that benefit families living on Hawaiian Home Lands and communities across our State.

For these reasons, I am confident that Kali Watson has a proven record and the experience to lead DHHL during this critical time.

Mahalo for your consideration.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, March 16, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 524
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE KALI WATSON FOR CHAIRPERSON
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

Governor's Message 524 proposes to confirm as the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kali Watson, for a term to expire 12-31-2026. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department recognizes that Mr. Kali Watson has held positions as the President/CEO at the Hawaiian Community Development Board, Project Director at Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead Community Association, and Project Director at Kahikolu Ohana Hale O Waianae.

He has extensive experience with housing developments in Hawaiian communities and legislation advocacy. The skills and relationships that Mr. Watson has built for the benefit of Hawai'i residents make him an ideal candidate for the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 524.



Ka Moku'aina 'O Hawai'i Aha Moku O Pae'Aina

State of Hawai'i Aha Moku

P. O. Box 621

Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Testimony of the Hawaii State Aha Moku

Before the Senate Committee on

Hawaiian Affairs

Thursday, March 16, 2023

1:00 PM

Conference Room 016

IN SUPPORT of GM 524 – KALI WATSON

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, KALI WATSON, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) supports this Gubernatorial Nominee.

Based on his extensive experience in government policymaking, legislature, zoning and planning in the State of Hawaii, Aha Moku supports Kali Watson as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. But more than his expertise in leadership is his open-door policy to native Hawaiians. He is a native Hawaiian who was raised with the traditional values of his culture. He is respectful to Kupuna which is critically important to Hawaiian beneficiaries. Mr. Watson is well-versed in the Hawaiian Homes Act as he once held this position and truly understands Prince Jonah Kuhio's mandate to care for his people by putting them in homes on their lands.

Aha Moku works with native Hawaiians on all the main Hawaiian Islands. In speaking to beneficiaries on Moku O Keawe (Hawaii), Moku O Piilani (Maui), Nana'i Kaula (Lana'i), Kakuhihewa (O'ahu), and Manokalanipo (Kaua'i), there was not one who opposed Mr. Watson's nomination.

Further, I have known Mr. Watson since our scholastic years at Kamehameha Schools. I also, personally speak to the integrity, principles and morality that he has held since we were children. This was proven when we were adults and I held the honor of being a Hawaiian Homes Commissioner in the early 2000's. Even then, Mr. Watson worked diligently for the beneficiaries on his own. Like Prince Kuhio, from birth, he has followed his destiny of being a true public servant to his people. His love for us is well-known!

Thank you for the opportunity to sharing our mana'o with you. We strongly support Mr. Watson's nomination as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and urge his confirmation.

Respectfully,

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/Executive Director

Hawaii State Aha Moku

808-640-1214

Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov

Pae'Aina: Moku O Keawe, Moku O Piilani, Moku O Kanaloa, Nana'i Kaula, Moloka'i Pule O'o, Moku O Kakuhihewa, Manokalanipo, Ka'Aina O Kawelonakala

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'Ī
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHAHA

March 16, 2023

To: The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 16 & Videoconference, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Re: G.M. 524; Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, KALI WATSON, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

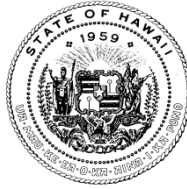
The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations **strongly supports** the confirmation of Kali Watson as Chairperson to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

Mr. Watson possesses the experience and knowledge to successfully lead the DHHL. Mr. Watson served as the DHHL Director and Chairperson during the administration of Governor Benjamin Cayetano from 1995 to 1998 where he successfully coordinated the development of over 3,100 Hawaiian Homestead lots and the State Legislature's approval and funding of a \$600 million settlement that included the transfer of 16,518 acres of State lands. As a licensed attorney, Mr. Watson has been at the forefront of Native Hawaiian issues for over 40 years and has served in numerous legal capacities, including work at the 1978 State Constitutional Convention; Legal Counsel for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Deputy Attorney General; Chairman of the Hawaii State Housing Directors and Administrators; and President and CEO of the Hawaiian Community Development Board.

DHHL has a waitlist of roughly 28,700 applicants seeking homesteads. We believe the critical and demanding issues that DHHL faces requires Mr. Watson's extensive experience, passion, and resolve for providing Native Hawaiian families with affordable housing options and economic opportunities.

Mr. Watson's stellar reputation and commitment to uphold DHHL's sacred trust and responsibility for Native Hawaiians is without question.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 524.



TESTIMONY BY:

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Thursday, March 16, 2023
1:00 P.M.
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
State Capitol

In consideration of
Governor's Message 524
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of
Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kali Watson

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports the confirmation of Kali Watson as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

Mr. Watson received his J.D. from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and B.A. from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He has a strong background in community development and has a proven record of building housing.

The critical and demanding issues that DHHL faces will require the thoughtful consideration, focus, and resolve. His commitment to uphold DHHL's sacred trust and responsibility for Native Hawaiians is without question, and the reason we support his confirmation. The DOT looks forward to working with Mr. Watson to deliver on the housing and improvements our native Hawaiian communities deserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM524
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of
Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, KALI WATSON, for a term to expire 12-
31-2026.

SENATOR MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: 3/16/2023

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the nomination of Kali
3 Watson as Director, Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DAGS), for the State of Hawaii.

4

5 Mr. Kali is strongly positioned to provide leadership to DHHL on day one of his tenure, given
6 his experience as Director in the 1990's. His commitment to the welfare of Native Hawaiians
7 continued after state service with the non-profit Hawaiian Community Development Board, and
8 his work as an attorney in the public and private sector further demonstrates his passion for
9 Hawaii and will no doubt propel DHHL and its beneficiaries forward .

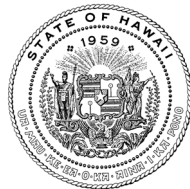
10

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

12

13 **Offered Amendments:** None

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 524

March 16, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Room 016 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, KALI WATSON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-2026.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Kali Watson to the position of Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

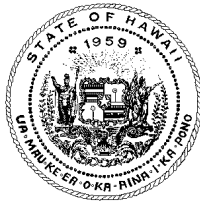
Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Mr. Watson is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Mr. Watson has extensive experience working with the Hawaiian community and developing housing projects for the Hawaiian families. He also previously served as the Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands from 1995-1998. His work experience will benefit the DHHL and the State; therefore, I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William F. Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 524
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF KALI WATSON
TO BE THE CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS

By
Tommy Johnson, Director

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 16, 2023; 1:00 p.m.
CR 016 & Via Video Conference

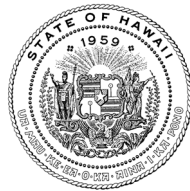
Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Kali Watson as the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

Mr. Watson has over four (4) decades of work experience in both the private sector and state government. His experience in state government is particularly noteworthy because he has served in positions of increased duties and responsibilities, complexities, and authority. Mr. Watson's vast experience in several fields of government work coupled with his knowledge of the operations of the DHHL, make him uniquely qualified to be the Chairperson of the DHHL.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony support of Governor's Message 524 and the confirmation of Mr. Wilson.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 524

March 16, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Room 016 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, KALI WATSON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON 12-31-2026.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Kali Watson to the position of Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

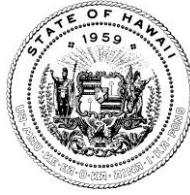
Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Mr. Watson is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Mr. Watson has extensive experience working with the Hawaiian community and developing housing projects for the Hawaiian families. He also previously served as the Director of the DHHL from 1995-1998. His work experience will benefit the DHHL and the State; therefore, I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 524
NOMINATION OF KALI WATSON, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Tuesday, March 16, 2023

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Favella, and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of Governor Josh Green's nomination of Kali Watson as Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and as Chair of the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

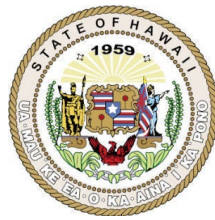
Mr. Watson has worked with the Hawaiian homesteading community for most of his life as DHHL director from 1995 to 1998 and through his nonprofit Hawaiian Community Development Board which with its partners has built or refurbished more than 1,400 affordable home on O'ahu and Maui

Mr. Watson's stated goal is to fulfill the mission of the Hawaiian Homestead Commission Act to place Hawaiians into homes on Hawaiian Home Lands and as DHHL Director he would use funds provided by the legislature to achieve that mission.

With his track record of service and stewardship, I am pleased to support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

Michael S. Vincent
Deputy Director
Administration

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

VACANT
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 524
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF KALI WATSON
TO BE THE CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS

By
Jordan Lowe, Director

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 16, 2023; 1:00 p.m.
CR 016 & Via Video Conference

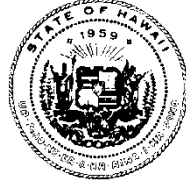
Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Kali Watson as the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

Mr. Watson's has extensive work experience in both the private sector and state government. His experience in the sensitivity of the nature of this department is particularly noteworthy because he has served in positions of increased duties and responsibilities, complexities, and authority with Hawaiian homestead and community development projects. Mr. Watson's experience in several fields of government work coupled with his knowledge of the operations of the DHHL, make him uniquely qualified to be the Chairperson of the DHHL.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony support of Governor's Message 524 and the confirmation of Mr. Wilson.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

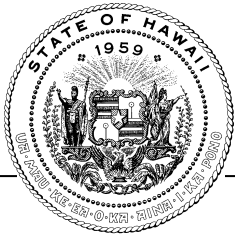
Thursday, March 16, 2023
1:00 PM – Room 016, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
GM 524
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE CHAIRPERSON,
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KALI WATSON,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-2026

Honorable Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 524, to consider and confirm Kali Watson to the position of Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

It is truly my honor and privilege to be working alongside with him and there is no doubt in my mind that he will continue to bring a fresh perspective on how to deliver services, improve the experience of those we serve, and strive to maximize taxpayer dollars efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 524. We humbly request your favorable consideration.



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
DIRECTOR

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <https://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
SCOTT GLENN, Director

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 16, 2023, 1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of
GM 524

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of
Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, KALI WATSON, for a term to expire
12-31-2026.**

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Kali Watson to serve as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

Mr. Watson is a long-time leader on housing and Hawaiian affairs since his prior tenure as the Chairperson of DHHL and Legal Counsel at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs through his time in the private sector. His experience positions DHHL to move quickly on the Governor and Legislature's priorities, including DHHL's historic funding opportunity, to meet the critical needs of DHHL's beneficiaries.

For these reasons, I humbly ask for Mr. Watson's confirmation as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 524,
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE KALI WATSON

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
ADJUTANT GENERAL,
DIRECTOR OF HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY,
AND HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR

MARCH 14, 2023

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Favella, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

I am Major General Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, and Homeland Security Advisor, Department of Defense, State of Hawaii.

I respectfully submit testimony in **SUPPORT of GM 524**, relating to the Gubernatorial Nomination of Kali Watson, Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Mr. Watson has an impressive background supporting the Hawaiian community and is an ideal candidate to lead the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. He brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in land related matters in Hawaii, particularly in the areas of community development and Hawaiian Homestead planning, and ceded land negotiations as an attorney. He has also served at the most senior levels in both the public and private arenas with his expertise uniquely focused on the development of Hawaiian Homelands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Mr. Watson's expertise and experience in executive management coupled with his familiarity in providing legal counsel to entities such as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Board of Trustees, will prove to be invaluable to creating needed homes for native Hawaiians.

Mr. Watson is a respected leader in the community and among his peers. He has served on numerous non-profit organizations in various roles as president, director, and chairman. He is a local graduate from the UH Richardson School of Law, and he has dedicated nearly 20 years to public service. Mr. Watson will provide unique and balanced insight, experience and expertise in understanding and working with and for key state government offices and non-profit organizations who support native Hawaiians, as well as an understanding in how to plan and develop housing projects and work with the state legislature. He has already demonstrated throughout his career that he cares deeply about our islands and helping Hawaiians. I trust he will be committed to bettering our state and is ideally prepared to make decisions that will help our native Hawaiians.

I would be honored to serve with Mr. Watson and am confident he will be a pillar to help lead our state into the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

MG Kenneth S. Hara: kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1001.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau

P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540

FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

In consideration of G.M. No. 524

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, gubernatorial nominee, Kali Watson

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

DATE: Thursday, March 16, 2023
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of the confirmation of Mr. Kali Watson as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

Given his past leadership role with DHHL, his experience as a deputy attorney general who provided legal counsel to DHHL, and his experience with other native Hawaiian programs and initiatives, I am confident that Mr. Watson has the knowledge, experience, and leadership abilities to successfully move DHHL forward. I believe Mr. Watson is prepared and committed to effectively address the challenges facing DHHL and am confident that he will do a great job.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 524.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

GOVERNORS MESSAGE NO. 524

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KALI WATSON**, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, Kali Watson, as the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands. Mr. Watson's on-the-ground experience over the past 20 years in building housing, commercial projects, community centers, and other improvements and working with native Hawaiian communities and organizations, agencies, architects/engineers and contractors will serve him well in meeting the enormous challenges placed upon the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Respectfully requesting your vote to confirm Kali Watson's nomination to serve as the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



TESTIMONY ON GM 524
CONFIRMATION OF KALI WATSON AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION AND
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT

Aloha, Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on the confirmation of Kali Watson.

Chair of Hawaiian Home Lands and Director of the Department is a tough, tough job. Kali Watson is an excellent candidate to guide the department at this point in its history. There is no time to quibble with this choice.

To become a truly effective director of any of the State departments takes one to two years in the best of circumstances. Directors have to totally understand and internalize the mission and practices of the Department; they have to appreciate the complexities of the Federal, State and County laws that govern their work; they have to get to know the affected public for whom the department works . . . and, equally important, they have to be able to direct all the little things that make a department function: understand how to manage at least 200 employees stretched over all islands of the State, negotiate with unions, write budgets, appreciate the processes and people of all the other departments with which they have to work. Ask any department head, new to the job; one year, maybe two is absolutely necessary to be effective.

The next chair of Hawaiian Homes does not have two years to understand the job. By the end of two years, the next Chair has to encumber \$600 million. In the best of times, even with a superior well-oiled staff and no distractions, that job is nearly impossible. These aren't the best of times. There are key vacancies in the Department that have to be filled; there are multiple other goals that will distract the Director's attention; the beneficiaries' and the public's expectations are high. The next Director absolutely has to understand this job from day one. Kali Watson is one of a very small handful of people with the experience and skills to effectively do it.

I worked side by side with Kali for four years when he led the department from 1994 to 1998. He knows the job. More important, he's smart and he's tough. If he accepts the job, he won't back down from accomplishing the task you lay before him. He inspires good work. He knows how to lead.

When Kali's term ended in 1998, he dedicated his life to working with the native Hawaiian community in both the development of affordable housing and in the development of economic investments that serve the community. His commitment to the native Hawaiian community did not end with the end of his term as Chair. I expect Kali could have made much more money and enjoyed a quieter life as an attorney in the business world, but that's not where his heart resides. His heart is right here, in the homestead communities.

Able, knowledgeable of the task, committed, ready. Kali Watson is a solid choice and I urge your confirmation of him as the next Chairman of the Commission and Director of the Department.

Ray Soon
Past DHHL Chair/Director, 1998-2002

Testimony of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
to the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 16, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In consideration of
GM 524
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, KALI WATSON, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella and Members of the Committee.

I support the appointment of Kali Watson to serve as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

Mr. Watson has previously served as the Director of DHHL and Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission. He also has other extensive leadership experience in both the public and private sectors which will continue to be beneficial to the State should he get confirmed. He is also a fellow graduate of the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for Mr. Watson's confirmation as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 11:08:48 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Senator Maile Shimabukuro,

I am writing to you and the State Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee to inform you that I am in full support of Mr. Kali Watson as our next Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Chairman.

As a Hawaiian Home Lands Beneficiary, I would like to extend my Mahalo's to Governor Josh Green for his choice as our next Hawaiian Homes Commission Chair. I have known Mr. Watson for many years, as the former DHHL Chair and also as a businessman. He has extensive experience in the daily operation to sustain the needs that is required and demanded from DHHL beneficiaries. He possess a clear knowledge of the HHC Act in it's entirety. I feel that Mr. Watson will also be respectful towards the existing staff, where he will only allow a safe and healthy working environment. He has the patience and compassion necessary to lead the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and its Beneficiaries.

Your support in confirming Mr. Watson as the next DHHL Chairman is very much appreciated. His honesty and experience will be vital to lead the Department moving forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

Commissioner Zachary Helm
Island of Moloka'i



KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

March 13, 2023

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
And Members, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
415 South Beretania Street, Room 222
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Confirmation of Kali Watson as Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Aloha Senator Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

We, the members of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, are writing to express our strong support for Kali Watson as the next Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Kali has demonstrated a deep commitment to the well-being and empowerment of the Hawaiian community throughout his career. He has a wealth of experience in both the public and private sectors, which provides him with the experience to handle the massive \$600 million DHHL appropriation. His experience has given him a keen understanding of the challenges facing the Hawaiian community, as well as the skills needed to develop effective solutions.

In addition to his professional experience, Kali has a strong track record of community engagement and advocacy. He has worked tirelessly to support Hawaiian culture, language, and traditions, and has been a vocal advocate for the rights of Hawaiian homesteaders. He has also been a leader in efforts to promote sustainability and environmental stewardship, which are critical issues for the future of our community.

We believe that Kali is uniquely qualified to lead the Department of Hawaiian Homelands at this critical time. His vision for the future of the department is rooted in a deep understanding of the needs and aspirations of the Hawaiian community. Kali has supported our cultural preserve concept in Ha'ikū Valley where Hawaiian families settled centuries ago, many related to the kahuna and chiefs from the area. Ha'ikū Valley was once home to an active flourishing Hawaiian community and heiau, where 'akua were worshiped for agriculture and rain, and also where ali'i lived and worshiped. Our civic club is confident that Kali has the skills, experience, and commitment to empower the Hawaiian community and keep our needs at the forefront of his vision.

We urge the members of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands to confirm Kali Watson for the position of Chairperson, and we stand ready to support him in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Naumu, Pelekikena
Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is one of the largest in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs nationwide. Ko'olaupoko HCC is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians and providing leadership and scholarships. Its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart."



March 14, 2023

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
The Senate of the State of Hawai'i
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Mr. Kali Watson, gubernatorial nominee as the Director of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide support for Mr. Kali Watson's nomination as chair of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. I first met Kali in 1998 when he was Chair of DHHL while our firm was developing the Waiehu Kou Phase II homestead.

Kali is respected both inside and outside of the department. The relationships that Kali has built will serve him well as he returns to lead the department during this time of great opportunity.

Additionally, he brings to the department his experience as a private sector developer. His past experiences provide him a rare skill set to lead the dedicated DHHL team to get beneficiaries on to the 'āina and into homes.

Thank you for your service to the State of Hawai'i.

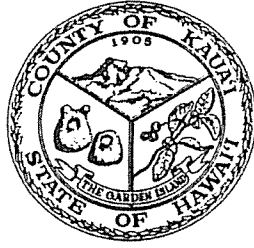
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Everett Dowling", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Everett Dowling

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Bill DeCosta
Ross Kagawa



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 14, 2023

**TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALII
COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

**GM 524, Gubernatorial Nomination of Kali Watson as the
Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**

Thursday, March 16, 2023

1:00 p.m.

**Conference Room 016
Via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong SUPPORT of GM 524, Gubernatorial Nomination of Kali Watson as the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Council Vice Chair of the Kaua'i County Council.

Mr. Watson is a longtime, respected leader that has demonstrated his success in bringing community economic development and housing projects to our homesteader communities. His experience and leadership as a prior Department of Hawaiian Homelands Director and Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) Chair will allow him to effectively serve in those roles again.

Further, Mr. Watson has demonstrated to me in a recent virtual meeting with Hawaiian Homelands Trust (HHT) waitlistee beneficiaries a deep and thoughtful understanding of the kinds of support, trust and empowerment that trust beneficiaries of today require. Most importantly, I believe he has the insight and empathy needed in serving and working collaboratively with trust beneficiaries.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Kali Watson's nomination as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

KIPUKAI KUALII
Council Vice Chair, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:mn

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 15, 2023

TO: Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro , Chair
Honorable Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice-Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs (HWN)

FROM: Tasha Kama
Councilmember

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tasha Kama".

DATE: March 15, 2023

SUBJECT: **Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the
Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial
Nominee, KALI WATSON, for a term to expire 12-31-2026
(GM 524)**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor Green's appointment of Kali Watson as Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

I **SUPPORT** the Governor's nominee for the following reasons:

1. He has experience with the subject matter and the department given his previous appointment to this position in a prior administration.
2. He has direct experience with the development process for affordable housing having developed Hale Makana O Nanakuli and Hale O Pi'ikea (Maui).
3. He brings to the Department his knowledge of the development process and the combined viewpoint of having previously managed this department and being a developer.

For the foregoing reasons, I believe that Mr. Watson is eminently qualified and has the needed energy to expedite decreasing the waitlist. As such, I support the Governor's nomination.

As Maui County has not discussed nor taken a formal position on Mr. Watson's nomination, I am submitting this testimony as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

**TESIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
GM 524**

Thursday, March 16, 2023, 1:00pm, Rm.016, Videoconference

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Kali Watson**, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice-Chair, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. I am Pauline N. Namuo, Oahu Commissioner of the Hawaiian Homes Commission. I am submitting my testimony in support of **Kali Watson** for the position of Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

I support Kali to lead the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. We are at an important point in time in which we need someone with the knowledge, experience, and courage to help our beneficiaries. There is no time to waste. As a former Director of the department, he has the knowledge and expertise necessary to move the department forward immediately. As he has also indicated to us, he will be action oriented and do his best for the Trust and work collaboratively with others to get things done and improve what needs attention.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Kali Watson. Your significant authority of Advice and Consent to this gubernatorial nominee will hopefully agree so we may move forward, together, for all beneficiaries of the Trust.

Respectfully submitted,
Pauline N. Namuo



**Testimony of PBR HAWAII & ASSOCIATES, INC.
to the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs (HWN)
in Support of gubernatorial Nominee, KALI WATSON,
for Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (GM 524)**

March 16, 2023

R. STAN DUNCAN, ASLA
President / Chairman

RUSSELL Y. J. CHUNG, FASLA, LEED® AP BD+C
Executive Vice-President / Principal

VINCENT SHIGEKUNI
Senior Vice-President / Principal

GRANT T. MURAKAMI, AICP, LEED® AP BD+C
Senior Vice-President / Principal

KIMI MIKAMI YUEN, LEED® AP BD+C
Vice-President / Principal

CATIE CULLISON, AICP
Vice-President / Principal

TOM SCHNELL, AICP
Principal

THOMAS S. WITTEN, FASLA
Chairman Emeritus

W. FRANK BRANDT, FASLA
Founding Partner

RAYMOND T. HIGA, ASLA
Associate Principal

MARC SHIMATSU, ASLA
Associate Principal

DACHENG DONG, LEED® AP
Associate Principal

NATHALIE RAZO
Associate Principal

ANN MIKIKO BOUSLOG, PhD
Project Director

RAMSAY R. M. TAUM
Cultural Sustainability Planner

MICAH McMILLEN, ASLA, LEED® AP
Senior Associate

ETSUYO KILA
Senior Associate

GREG NAKAI
Senior Associate

NICOLE SWANSON, ASLA
Associate

1001 Bishop Street, Suite 650
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-3484
Tel: (808) 521-5631
Fax: (808) 523-1402
E-mail: sysadmin@pbrhawaii.com

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Mr. Kali Watson and the confirmation of his appointment to serve as Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

PBR HAWAII & Associates, Inc., based in Hawai'i for over 50 years, is active in all aspects of Land Planning, Landscape Architecture, Environmental Studies, and Graphic Design. PBR HAWAII has had a long relationship with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and has had the privilege of working with Mr. Watson when he served as Director of DHHL under a previous Administration. Under Mr. Watson's leadership, DHHL accomplished:

- development of over 3,100 residential lots on Hawaiian Home Lands;
- State legislature's approval and funding of the \$600 million State and DHHL settlement, including the transfer of 16,518 acres of State lands to make the DHHL trust whole; and
- passage and transfer of over 900 acres of Federal lands into the trust under the federal Hawaiian Home Lands Recovery Act of 1995.

Mr. Watson has been Director of DHHL before and will have less of a learning curve to familiarize himself with DHHL's important initiative of serving its beneficiaries (including on those on the waiting list).

PBR HAWAII is honored to submit this testimony in strong support of Mr. Kali Watson, and we ask your committee to confirm his appointment as Director of the DHHL. Mahalo nui loa.

Sincerely,

PBR HAWAII & Associates, Inc.

R. Stan Duncan, ASLA
President

printed on recycled paper

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Imanaka Asato
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

March 15, 2023

Representative Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Representative Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

RE: **GM 524- CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS**
Hearing date – March 16, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

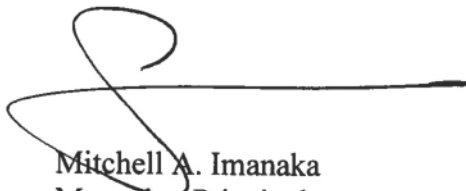
Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella and members of the committee,

I am submitting this letter in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 524 appointing **Kali Watson** to serve as director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). I have known the nominee for over 30 years, as he is quite active in the development of much needed homes and infrastructure primarily serving Native Hawaiian communities.

Given the length and depth of his service to the community in these areas, and having served in this very capacity early on in his career, he will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table at the very moment that our community needs it. ***He will be able to hit the ground running,*** without the need to educate himself about DHHL, the issues at hand, and what needs to be done to move the agenda forward.

Accordingly, I stand in **strong support** of this nominee and urge an early confirmation.

Mahalo Nui,



Mitchell A. Imanaka
Managing Principal



HAWAIIAN HOMESTEADERS ASSOCIATION INC.

P.O. Box 698 Kula, Hawai'i 96790-0698

March 13, 2023

TO: Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Kurt Fevella and
Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

MEASURE: SB 303
Thursday, March 16, 2023
1:00 pm
Conference Room 016

SUBJ: Testimony in Strong Support of GM 524

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Fevella and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. My name is Perry Artates, President of the Waiohuli Hawaiian Homestead Association, Inc (WHHA), and I submit the following testimony in strong support of GM524.

Waiohuli Hawaiian Homesteaders Association, Inc. (WHHA) was established in 1999 and received its 501c3 designation in 2005. In 2006, WHHA created a community strategic plan to promote interaction, education and sustainability. Through guidance from the Department of Hawaiian Home Land's (DHHL) "Kulia I ka Nu'u" program, WHHA became adept to pursuing the necessary resources to develop their current community center facilities. By leveraging partnerships with procured contractors and professionals, WHHA has development a template for community-based economic development opportunities and is currently expanding its vision to do larger scale initiatives supportive of the DHHL's primary mission. WHHA's ability to realize its vision and efforts of nearly 20 years is highly contingent on the continued support of DHHL.

WHHA strongly believes that the "po'o" of DHHL must be one with first-hand experience in working with Hawaiian Home Land beneficiaries, operational knowledge of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and State government, a compassionate business mind set and a political will to exercise all the powers and authorities entrusted to DHHL.

WHHA believes that Mr. Kali Watson has these attributes and more. Kali will hit the ground running. Kali will position DHHL to be a leading housing developer in the State. Kali's business acumen and success with homestead community development gives WHHA optimism that we too can make our community better. WHHA stands in strong support of Mr. Kali Watson for Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Home Land.

Perry Artates
President
Waiohuli Hawaiian Homesteaders Association, Inc.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 10:21:38 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathaniel Kinney	Testifying for Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters	Support	In Person

Comments:

We would like to write in support of the nomination for Kali Watson as Chairperson for DHHL. Kali's experience as a former Chairperson and his experience as a developer would help transform DHHL to finally address the housing needs of native Hawaiians.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:07:21 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Hodson	Testifying for Waimea Hawaiian Homestead Assoc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association, Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation & HBA "Waimea Nui" Confirms Support of the appointee. It is our belief that Watson has the administrative knowledge as a past Director of DHHL and Beneficiary knowledge working with an HBA in Nanakuli that gives him the necessary understanding from both sides to properly administer the HHCA the way it was designed to do. We are at a point with our native people that someone new who has to learn the system is not acceptable. We feel Watson is not the best candidate, but he is who the governor appointed, and it is our belief that he has the knowledge, experience and the wisdom to adequately fulfill the mission of Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole.

The HHCA created a series of funds. The purpose of one of these trust funds is the "rehabilitation of native Hawaiians, native Hawaiian families, and Hawaiian homestead communities," which shall include "the educational, economic, political, social, and cultural processes by which the general welfare and conditions of native Hawaiians are thereby improved and perpetuated."

Putting our people on the land is paramount in fulfilling the purpose of the act, but let it be clear, that the purpose is for our rehabilitation! Bring us back to who we once were! We were a **socially** accepted communal people of an "Ahupua'a", we were free to practice our culture and **cultural** beliefs, we were **economically** solvent within our Kingdom, we were **educated** in our ways and the western ways simultaneously, we were **Politically** sovereign and represented by our Kingdom of Hawaii constitution and Kingdom Government.

Once again, we believe that Watson understands this and will collaborate with HBA's to move the process of our rehabilitation forward

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 11:51:23 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De MONT Kalai Manaole	Testifying for Ho'omana Pono, LLC	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kākou!

My name is De Mont Kalai Manaole, Co-Manager of Ho'omana Pono, LLC & we stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Kali Watson, as Director for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands ("DHHL"), as well as Chair of the Hawaiian Home Lands Commission ("HHC").

We are very familiar with the long history that Kali & his team has when it comes to putting native Hawaiians in Homes.

For Ho'omana Pono, LLC, we are committed to seeing that the "Death-List" comes to an end in our life time.

Which is why we initiated the: "Kānaka 'Aina Reclamation of Hawaiian Home Lands Movement". We, Nā Kānaka, have collectively practiced "patience for over 102 years since the HHCA has been enacted.

We're done with waiting, so we felt compelled to take direct action, utilizing the Political Protest Doctrine, to demonstrate our Protest against this very Hawaiian Affairs Committee & the HHC.

Each member of this legislative body is supposed to represent the so-called "Voice of the People!" & not your own self-serving voice.

When this Hawaiian Affairs Committee recognized that 2/3rds of all the submitted testimony supported Ikaika Anderson for Director of DHHL, we felt that you gave us the proverbial finger, when you rejected the will of the majority.

Our Protest is also aimed at the HHC who claims that their so-called "Master Plan" for the \$600 Million went through Beneficiary Consultation, which is a 100% FABRICATION!

We are over 28,000 strong on the "Death-List". There is NO EVIDENCE that we were consulted.

We stand ready to file our "BREACH of TRUST" federal lawsuit, which we hope to win an injunction to STOP ANY FURTHER SPENDING of the \$600 Million, until we have the chance

to conduct discovery, to prove that the claims made in our name ("Beneficiary Consultation") is FALSE!

We look forward to our day in Court, so we can prove that the HHC falsified it's claim of "Beneficiary Consultation" for the \$600 Million..

However, we now have hope that Kali Watson will be the right leader who will look to peacefully end this conflict, rather than prolong the Protest through fighting a lengthy legal battle.

Mauna Awakea has awakened Nā Kānaka & we will NOT be lulled into silence no more.

Therefore, we are starting with this August Legislative body, by pleading with you to STOP standing in our way. You can do this by giving OUR CHOICE, Kali Watson, your approval to "Advise & Consent" & through your FULL SENATE VOTE!

Mahalo Nunui,

De Mont Kalai Manaole,

#WeStandWithKaliWatson #EndTheDeathListNow

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 1:23:22 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juanita Brown Kawamoto	Testifying for Kalihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Kalihi Palama HCC urges the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs to support the nomination of Mr. Kali Watson as the Director of the Dept of Hawaiian Home Lands. Mr. Watson is very qualified having previously served in this position 1995-1998, and as President/CEO since 2000-present of the Hawaiian Community Development Board Honolulu, HI. We have no doubt that he will hit the ground running with plans to execute the \$600M approved by the legislature last year to address the needs of Native Hawaiians on the wait list.

Respectfully, Juanita Brown Kawamoto, Pelekikena



KAINALU SURF SHOP
89-102E5, Farrington Hwy
Waianae, HI 96792

March 14, 2023

Aloha e Senate Hearing Committee,

As an existing tenant of the Nanakuli Village Center in West Oahu, owners of Kainalu Surf Shop have known and worked with Kali Watson since 2018. It brings us great pleasure to extend our full support for Kali Watson to Chair the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Our experience, both professional and personal, in working with Kali Watson, has been extremely positive. This relationship has been instrumental in working through the delicate matters of our Homestead community, as it relates to the mercantile development aspects of trust lands. Kali Watson worked hand-in-hand with our community leaders to alleviate concerns and has gone far beyond the normal to assist Native Hawaiian owned businesses to thrive under challenging circumstances, such as the global COVID-19 pandemic. Without his expertise and compassion, Kainalu Surf Shop would not exist, today. Overall, his ability to mitigate delicate issues at the lowest levels to help both beneficiaries and surrounding communities, have been instrumental in the continued success of the Nanakuli Village Center.

As a community, we are very grateful for the work Kali Watson has committed to our Homestead, the largest in the State of Hawaii. His vision and expertise are helping to solve Opportunity Zone limitations, by expanding access to daily necessities and affordable housing. Challenges, existing throughout all homesteads across the state.

In strong support, we applaud Governor Green's excellent selection. The Department of Hawaiian Homelands urgently needs Kali Watson to lead and allow for his capacity to help all Beneficiaries.

For questions or concerns, please contact Keoki Aiwohi at (808) 628-4044.

Mahalo nui loa,

Keoki Aiwohi

Keoki Aiwohi

Aloha kakou a pau. I am Kauilani Almeida a native Hawaiian beneficiary of HHCA 1920, 42 STAT. 108, amended July 9, 1921, a lessee and the President of the Hawaiian Home Lands Community Association (PPHLCA) located in the ahupuaa of Waiakea, South Hilo, Island of Hawaii. I am writing in strong support of Mr. Kali Watson because he worked with our community back in 1995 to assist in bettering the conditions of beneficiaries when he signed THE FIRST DHHL General Lease agreement with a developer which included a two-part BENEFIT CONTRIBUTION of a) funds that was assigned to the Panaewa Homestead community most impacted by their development; AND b) a benefit, which stated that the tenants (sub lessees) needed to provide training and employment opportunities in their businesses for Native Hawaiians. Chairman Watson in 1995 signed a 14 acre community forest parcel, the first ever 30 year license to PPHLCA/ Haola Inc to develop the Kamoleao Health and Wellness Center using the forest as part of the healing of mental health for all kanaka 'oiwi, rehabilitating our beneficiaries through health and wellness. He's already proven to this community that he wants more community involvement to build communities as well as provide shelter for the HHCA beneficiaries. In conversation with us, **he knows the job** that has to be done and he is accepting this **kuleana**. We vote to support Kali Watson, Appointee to be confirmed by the Senate. Mahalo nui

Piihonua Hawaiian Homestead Community Association

"Nurturing our Hawaiian Heritage"

March 15, 2023

Senate Affairs Committee

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair

Senator Kurt Favella, Vice-Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole

Senator Herbert Richards III

Senator Les Ihara, Jr.

RE: Support for Mr. Kali Watson, DHHL Chair

The Officers and Directors of the Piihonua Hawaiian Homestead Community Association (PHHCA) hereby endorse the appointment of Mr. Kali Watson to be the Chair for the Department of the Hawaiian Homes Commission as submitted for consideration by Governor Josh Green. We had the opportunity to meet and converse with him this past weekend regarding his qualifications, his history, his goals, and his responsibilities as the head of this Department. He addressed some of the shortcomings regarding the past practices of DHHL, from which he also been part of under the Cayetano Administration.

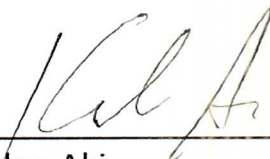
He made no excuses for himself, and his response was direct and to the point with very little hesitation in his answers. He addressed questions of his past practices as DHHL's Chair as well as various queries from the members on the Zoom audience. There were members from 6 East Hawaii Homestead Associations in attendance and almost all had comments and questions addressed to Mr. Watson. Many will be submitting their own testimony for his confirmation. Most were satisfied by his responses and had only one inquiry from Maui did he hesitated to answer but promised to get back to this individual for his answer.

In attendance, we also had Mr. Louis Hao, past OHA Trustee and Hawaii Island Representative for East Hawaii as well as Mr. Herring Kalua, past East Hawaii Commissioner for East Hawaii. They also made comments and addressed Mr. Watson's past association with him during this Zoom meeting. After the meeting, they both commented to some members of PHHCA that they will endorse his candidacy to the post of DHHL Chair.

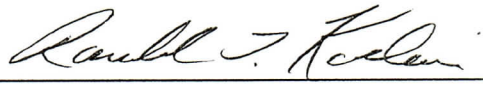
So, for us, an endorsement of Kali Watson to be the new DHHL chair by two senior members of our East Hawaii Community convinced us to support him. After all, these two Kupuna's have worked and socialized intimately with Mr. Kali Watson in the past and have convinced us to support his appointment as the new DHHL Chair.

A hui hou,

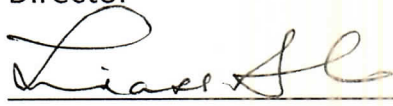

Jordan (Kama) LeeLoy
President



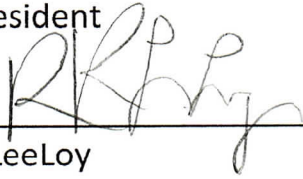
Kaleo Aki
Director




Ronald T. Kodani
Vice-President




LiAn Aki
Director



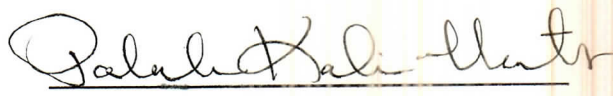
Kanoe LeeLoy
Secretary



Cara Dudoit
Director



Doreen Kodani
Treasurer



Poliahu Kalima-Motas
Director



Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry
Stabilization Fund PAC
2181 Lauwiliwili Street
Kapolei, HI 96707
Phone: (808) 845-6221
Website: www.hoeisf.com

March 16, 2023

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

GM524, Nominee Kali Watson for Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund Political Action Committee (HOEISF PAC). The HOEISF PAC is a non-profit labor management organization whose core mission is to represent the interests of the Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 and Hawaii's leading contractors and ensure that the industry is thriving and sustainable for the future.

We are writing in support of Kali Watson's nomination to lead the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL). As a former chairperson of DHHL, Mr. Watson clearly has the required knowledge and experience for this position. In addition, his background in housing and development is especially needed at DHHL during this critical time to ensure the efficient and effective disbursement of the historic financial investment from the legislature to build thousands of homes for Native Hawaiians.

We ask that you please support Kali Watson's nomination.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 12:04:49 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Cypher	Testifying for Koolau Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and Members:

The Koolau Foundation strongly supports the confirmation of Kali Watson to serve as director of the Department of Hawaiian Homes.

We observed his work both as former DHHL director and over the years since, and are pleased to learn that he is willing to return and serve once again.

We especially appreciated his efforts, long ago, when he designed kauhale homesteads in Makaha, which would have gardens in the center of the cluster so that homesteaders could grow their own food.

He was a man ahead of his time, and we feel his time has finally come.

We urge your advice and consent to move this matter to the full Senate.

Mahalo for considering our mana'o.



STANFORD CARR DEVELOPMENT, LLC

▪ March 15, 2023

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

RE: Testimony in Support – GM 524 Consideration and Confirmation
as the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Kali Watson
Hearing: Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 1:00 PM, Conference Room 016

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to express **support** for the appointment of Kali Watson as the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission that functions as the administrator of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) with responsibility to serve the beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust.

Kali Watson has *walked the talk* with a lifetime of advocacy for Native Hawaiian rights dating back to 1977 while attending the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law. His career path since law school totals 46 years with only a dozen years as a private sector attorney. During the remaining 30 plus years Kali has advocated for housing, community development, training, and economic development for Native Hawaiian communities.

In the 25 years since his prior tenure as DHHL Chairman, Kali has primarily focused on development of affordable housing where he has demonstrated his ability to deliver. In my opinion, Kali's successful track record paired with his prior experience at DHHL will provide the department with an opportunity to effectively and efficiently implement the \$600 million plan to address the needs of beneficiaries on the DHHL Waiting List.

Your consideration and confirmation of Kali Watson as Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission is requested. Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for Kali Watson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanford S. Carr', written in a cursive style.

Stanford S. Carr



THE KEAUKAHA PANA'EWA FARMERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 6844, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

TO: Chair Maile Shimabukuro
Vice Chair Kurt Fevella
Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

RE: Testimony in Support of GM 524 / Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, KALI WATSON, for a term to expire 12-31-2026 / March 16, 2023 Hearing.

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella & Senate Committee Members,

The Keaukaha Pana'ewa Farmers Association (KPFA) supports the confirmation of Kali Watson as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

KPFA represents over 1,000+ native Hawaiian Homestead beneficiaries and their 'ohana on agricultural Hawaiian Home Trust Lands in Pana'ewa, Hawai'i Island. KPFA is a Hawaiian Homes Commission Act Beneficiary Association and Homestead Association controlled by beneficiaries, as defined by the Hawaiian Home Lands Recovery Act, 109 Stat. 537. KPFA is registered with the U.S. Department of Interior, 43 CFR §§ 47.10 and 48.6.

Last week, Kali met with our East Hawai'i homestead leaders and stakeholders. He provided plans for DHHL in alignment with Hawaiian Homes Commission directives, as well as an innovative and expanded vision that would elevate DHHL's capacity and our homestead communities.

Kali has the grounded experience and style of leadership that DHHL needs. In his previous capacity as DHHL Chair, Kali led the department to build a record 3,100 homesteads in four years. Kali is well versed in DHHL statutory and regulatory mandates and more importantly, Kali's development experience would be an invaluable asset to the DHHL administration, Hawaiian Homes Commission, and our homestead communities.

We ask for your support to confirm Kali Watson as DHHL Chair.

Mahalo,

Maile Lu'uwai
President
Keaukaha Pana'ewa Farmers Association

IVAN M. LUI-KWAN

Pacific Guardian Center, Makai Tower
733 Bishop Street, Suite 1900
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

GM 524, Kali Watson

Gubernatorial Nominee to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Testimony in Support of Kali Watson's
Confirmation as Chairperson of Department of Hawaiian Homelands

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ivan Lui-Kwan. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the confirmation of Kali Watson as Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands ("DHHL").

Kali is highly qualified and well prepared to perform the duties of Chairperson of DHHL. He has developed an impressive reservoir of expertise as a result of a long and successful career in real estate development over approximately 28 years.

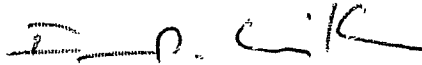
1. He served as Director of DHHL and Chairperson of HHC from 1995 through 1998. He understands and knows the principles, mission and strategy required to achieve the objectives of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.
2. He has earned the trust of many beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust through his work for and with beneficiaries on projects like the Nanakuli Village Center, consisting of a multi-purpose learning center, a 48-unit affordable rental housing complex, a WCCHC satellite health clinic and a commercial center. He has worked collaboratively with the SCHHA.

3. He understands well the organizational structure of DHHL and its staff requirements.
4. He is an accomplished real estate developer with many successful real estate projects to show for his hard work. He is President and CEO of the Hawaiian Community Development Board, and President and CEO of Hawaiian Community Development Enterprises, LLC.
5. As an attorney, Kali has the benefit of understanding the legal system. He has been an attorney in private practice and has served as a State of Hawaii Deputy Attorney General assigned to DHHL.

In addition to possessing the technical expertise, Kali is a good person with the values of an exemplary Native Hawaiian leader. He practices aloha and compassion, and is honest.

It is my firm belief that Kali will do an excellent job as Chairperson of DHHL, if confirmed. Please confirm Kali Watson as Chairperson of DHHL.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ivan M. Lui-Kwan', written in a cursive style.

Ivan M. Lui-Kwan

Mililani B. Trask
P.O.Box 6377,
Hilo, Hawaii,
96720

HEARING
Thursday, March 16, 2023
1:00 PM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference State Capitol

Testimony in Support of Kali Watson, Nominee for State DHHL Commission Chair

Aloha Legislators,

I am forwarding this testimony in support of Mr. Kali Watson who has been nominated for Chair of the State DHHL. I have known & worked with Mr. Watson for many years, we graduated together from the Kamehameha Schools in 1969, and for years we have worked together to support the needs of the DHHL waiting list, which now exceeds 28,000,

Mr. Watson has extensive knowledge & background in the DHHL trust lands and resources, the State of Hawaii's fiduciary obligations under the Act of 1921 (as amended) and the politics and financial realities in Hawaii. In addition, he previously served in this position, and has experience with and personally knows the Hawaiian Homestead Associations and beneficiaries from every island throughout our state.

When his term of service in the Cayetano administration ended, Mr. Watson continued to work for affordable housing solutions for Hawaiians.

Earlier this session, the Legislature rejected the first nominee for this position. The concerns expressed included: 1) the candidate had no knowledge of the Hawaiian Homes Act, 2) the candidate had no experience or background in the area of affordable housing, and finally, 3) that the candidate had no hands-on experience working with the Hawaiian homestead community, wait listers & Kupuna. None of these criticisms are valid when it comes to Kali Watson.

I strongly support the appointment of Kali Watson to lead the State DHHL and have no reservations when it comes to his capacity. We do not always agree on matters, but when differences arise, he is the first to seek & propose workable solutions. We need Kali Watson as DHHL Chair.

Aloha,

Mililani B. Trask

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 10:42:17 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wilfredo tungol	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and members of the committee:

My name is Wilfr'lis conedo Tungol and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Mr. Kali Watson's confirmation as Chair of DHHL.

Kali was my classmate in law school at the Richardson School of Law. We also served as deputies attorney general early in our legal career, with Kali assigned to be the legal counsel for OHA and I with the Labor Division. Kali did such a wonderful job as deputy for DHHL hat he was assigned to the Litigation Unit to help DHHL with litigation involving leases, construction disputes, and other litigation matters. He later was appointed by former Governor Cayetano to serve as Chair of DHHL.

Kali has the bredth and depht of experience and knowledge to move the DHHL forward. More importantly, he has the heart and compassion to help the Hawaiian people to receive their benefits sooner rather than later from DHHL's waiting list for homestead lots or homes. In his present capacity as executive director of a non-profit development corporation, he has partnered with other developers and the HHFDC to build affordable rental housing. He has the proven track record to help create more housing for Hawaiians with the \$600 million appropriated by the legislature

I ask you to act famorably on Kali's nomination as chair of DHHL.

Mahalo,

Wilfredo Tungol, Esq.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 3:32:52 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapua Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and Senators of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I am in opposition to the Confirmation of Kali Watson due to the following:

1. Watson was in charge of the DHHL at the time of a controversial incident on Kaua‘i that resulted in a death of a Hawaiian Homes Beneficiary and the family was not allowed to claim successorship.

2. Watson is not only the owner of a NOT for Profit Development Company, but also an owner of many other Development companies. This alone should raise Red flags as to an obvious Conflict of Interest Master.

3. Watson not only illegally tried to put a hole through the canal at Ma'ili'ili Stream, a major water estuary, but he would have succeeded in his efforts to Commit Illegally permitted and irreparable desecration had the community not called out to the Media for kōkua.

These are just the 3 main reasons why Kali Watson should Never have been a Chosen Candidate to the DHHL. And I am humbly asking that you thoroughly consider the consequences on our future generations that his appointment will possibly put into action.

Please Vote NO to Kali Watson for DHHL Director and Chair.

Mahalo me ke aloha,

Kapua Medeiros

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 12:09:45 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby Billionaire	Testifying for Kindom of The Hawaiian Post Office www.KHPO.org	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

P.P.S. Rember, during the confirmation hearing while Kali Watson is talking and promising blah blah blah, look into his right eye without looking away and tell me "what do you see?" Which "aumukua" do you sense inside his soul? If you sensed a snake "mo'o" lizard like I did, then you will already know what to do and how to vote. Would you let a snake into the hen house and put that snake in charge of housing your eggs, chicks, and chickens?

LATE

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 4:41:24 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Germaine Meyers	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Dear Chairwoman Shimabukuro, Vice Chairman Fevella and Members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

I'm in strong support of GM 524 relating to the confirmation of Kali Watson as the Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission and the Director for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for a term expiring on December 31, 2026.

Malama pono kekahi i kekahi,

Germaine Meyers

Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead Lessee

LATE

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Thursday, March 16, 2023

Support for GM524 Relating to Kali Watson

Good afternoon Senator Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. My name is Patti Tancayo Barbee, Senior Vice President of Hawaiian Community Development Board. I strongly support Kali Watson as the Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and Chairman of the Hawaiian Home Lands Commission.

Kali exceeds the qualifications for this position. Kali is a visionary that will bring experience, knowledge, and passion to this vital role. He understands the department's challenges, has a demonstrated track record of finding solutions, and has already returned thousands of native Hawaiians to the homeland. From a Hawaiian lawyer fighting for native rights to a past DHHL Director to an affordable housing developer, there is no other person better for the job. I am grateful that he accepted Governor Green's nomination.

I speak from a unique perspective and understand what qualifications are needed to be the leader of Hawaiian Home Lands. First of all, I am a beneficiary. I grew up on Hawaiian Home Lands in Ho'olehua, Molokai, and am on the waitlist. I understand how it feels to be waiting on the list for 30 years. I know how having Uncles and Aunties die on the list feels. Second, I have worked in the affordable housing field for over 30 years. I created a 100-million-dollar program with Fannie Mae. I conducted self-help projects, helped create Habitat for Humanity projects, and developed single-family homes on Hawaiian Home Lands. Today, with Kali at Hawaiian Community Development Board, we have developed the Nanakuli Village Commercial Center and Hale Makana O Nanakuli Affordable Rental Project on Hawaiian Home Lands, completed over 500 affordable housing units off of Hawaiian Home Lands, and have another 500 units are in escrow on Oahu, Kauai, and Maui. Hawaiian Community Development Board is one of the state's top non-profit developers.

I've known Kali for over 25 years. He has integrity and a sincere desire to help the poorest Hawaiian families. I first met in 2000, when I worked at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs as its Housing Specialist. He approached my desk and said, "I'm starting a non-profit that will focus on building affordable housing on Hawaiian Homelands. The first project I want to do is replace dilapidated houses." Then he handed me a report of all the houses ready to fall down but still had people living in them. I paused and said, "Do you know how difficult a project like this will be? These families probably have severe economic, social, and health problems." He said, "Yes, and that's why I want to do it. We need to help the neediest Hawaiian families first."

So, Kali and I rolled up our sleeves, dove into the trenches, and created our first project, Kauhalepono Home Replacement Project. We sent letters to every homesteader on Oahu and received hundreds of responses. We worked with hundreds of families, one on one. We helped families get jobs. We helped them repair their credit. We helped them get their GED. We helped them get dentures. We helped them apply for financing, get qualified for a construction loan and mortgage, helped them select a contractor, helped them get insurance, helped with temporary living arrangements, plus provided downpayments. We helped about 23 families in all, which took about 4 or 5 years. If anyone thinks that Hawaiian Community Development Board used grant monies set aside for some of the poorest homesteaders in Hawaii inappropriately, you are mistaken.

I am genuinely excited for the future of the native Hawaiian community with Kali at the helm at DHHL. Start ordering the o'o sticks. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 3:21:56 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KaheaFaria	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of nominee KALI WATSON as the Chairperson for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

No ka pono o ka lahui!

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/1/2023 3:58:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Kali Watson to become the Chairperson, Dept. of Hawaiian Homelands. He has a proven track record as the previous DHHL Chairperson and in his non-profit organization in helping native Hawaiians achieve home ownership.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/2/2023 8:22:20 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion K A Kapuniai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This title of item is interesting , , , , .

Governor recommends for Senate Confirmation, the Director of the Department of Hawaiian Homes Land, and that Director becomes the Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission

Thank you,

M Kapuniai

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/3/2023 5:55:52 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senate Committee on Government Operations
The Honorable Angus McKelvey, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

I write in support of Governor's Message 524.

Mr. Kali Watson has the experience, and the knowledge, to serve as capably as any in this position.

While his nomination seems more assured than the previous candidate's, it would take some serious *chutzpah* for the Seante to play the same hand twice with Mr. Watson (despite what some of our fellow gentiles have made of the word recently, *chutzpah* is not a remotely positive quality).

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
DP Armstrong

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/5/2023 5:50:12 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Myron Brumaghim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of Kali Watson as the next Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I have known Kali Watson for twenty years, as a integral member of the Nanakuli Boys and Girls Club, a board member of the Youth Challenge Foundation and developer of the Nanakuli Town Center and adjacent housing project. During these many years, he has also advocated, in a collaborative fashion, for the Hawaiian community. It is for these reasons and many more that I strongly support Kali Watson for the position. He will not disappoint you. Respectfully submitted, Myron Kamohoalii Brumaghim

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 7:13:23 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Oku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Sen.Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Sen. Fevella, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I support the consideration and confirmation of Kali Watson to serve as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/6/2023 12:52:59 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KK	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Committee members Ihara Jr., Keohokalole and Richards III

I/We are in support:

My ohana and myself, The Homesteaders including the ones on the wait list, since 60' 70's and 80's still waiting to be awarded. Generations are missing the opportunity to own a home, by that time we be old too qualify for a loan, or dead to enjoy our Hawaiian Home! Please make a difference!

Our message: Mahalo Governor Josh Green, Hawaiians across this state including Homesteaders and the ones on the wait list believe and support Kali Watson to lead DHHL as the Chairman, with his proven experience; selecting Kali Watson as the new DHHL Chairman, gives him the opportunity to lead by experience, and clean DHHL back to the departments mission statement.

Mahalo Kell KK -

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 11:19:14 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in STRONG Support of GM 524

Mahalo Hawaiian Affairs Committee

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/7/2023 11:39:09 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella and Members MAHALO for your time and consideration. I AM IN FULL SUPPORT of GM 524

Aloha

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 10:17:53 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair and Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair

My name is Nani and I oppose GM 524, Governor Green nominee for KALI WATSON as Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands

Green has made his plans clear for DHHL, and the type of person he is looking to place as Chairperson for DHHL is consistently NOT PONO. The statement that “Green announced Anderson's would-be replacement Wednesday, saying Watson has a proven record of housing Native Hawaiians that will help the agency realize a plan to spend \$600 million assisting beneficiaries of DHHL, which has around 28, 700 applicants on a waitlist for homesteads.” SHOULD BE ALARMING TO LEGISLATURE, THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSIONERS, AND ITS BENEFICIARIES!

There are so many conflicts of interest here, and I am surprised a developer that only minimally touched a fraction of the waitlist under his tenure would be reconsidered for the job. Not to mention DHHL already has a plan to develop homes and reduce the waitlist with the \$600 Mil. Green is only continuing to put all this funding in jeopardy with people he is not properly vetting in the benefit of Hawaiian Homes.

We need to stop these antics with the current administration, to stall and possibly risk the funds remaining in the general fund and not being distributed to DHHL for the beneficiaries. We have already had to many years of failure to our Native Hawaiian families. **Legislature needs to help put an end to the corruption that continues to undermine and strip our culture of cultivation and the ability to be good stewards of this A’ina.**

Where are now after all these years? As of 2020, there were only 575 acres (2650-2950 lots) available for residential homesteads on O’ahu the island with the most needs for our cultural restoration. 160 acres in Kapolei, 300 acres in Nanakuli, and 48 acres in Nanakuli.

According to the article listed below “as 2020 draws to a close, Native Hawaiians are still waiting for all of what was promised. The department has developed just 3,300 residential lots statewide since 1995, even as its residential waitlist has ballooned to 23,000”. To note 1995-1998 was under the watch of Kali Watson.

“While the state has added nearly 16,000 acres to the land trust, just a fraction were on Oahu, the island with the greatest housing demand. The state still owes another 1,300 acres to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands under the terms of its reparations bill, known as Act 14, an investigation by the Honolulu Star-Advertiser and ProPublica has found.”[The Government Promised to Return Ancestral Hawaiian Land, Then Never Finished the Job — ProPublica](#)

With this, I strongly I oppose Kali Watson as Chairperson for DHHL.

Thank you, Nani

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 8:10:06 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaylene Sheldon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Hawaiian Affairs Committee

To: Maile S.L Shimabukuro, Chair

To: Kurt Fevella, Vice-Chair

To: Members-Les Ihara Jr., Jarett Keohokalole, Herbert M. "Tim" Richards III

Malaki 12, 2023

Aloha kākou e Ka Komiko Hawai‘i:

‘O Kaylene Kauwila Sheldon ko‘u inoa. Aia au ke noho nei i ke ahupua‘a 'O Ka‘a‘awa. ‘O Ka'a'awa ko‘u ‘āina hānai, ‘O Kahuku ko‘u 'āina hānau. I ka makahiki 2002, ua waiho au i nā pepa palapala no DHHL. Ua komo au i ka nīnauele i kou ke‘ena a ha‘i ke kanaka DHHL, "A‘ole hiki mākou ke ‘ae i kou pepa palapala no ka mea, 'a‘ole ‘oia‘i‘o ka pilina koko Samuel Po‘okalani ko‘u Papa nui. Nui ka pilikia no DHHL, 'A'ole kōkua

kāko‘o au iā Kali Watson no HCC chair and Po‘oalaka'i no DHHL.

My name is Kaylene Kauwila Sheldon, I reside In Ka'alawa which is the land that raised me and I was born In Kahuku which is my birth land. In around 2002, i went to Department of Hawaiianhomestead lands for a review of my paperwork for Hawaiianhomestead lands. I was a struggling as a single Mom that took off from work to review my palapala. The lady said, "Oh

you cannot prove Pookalani is your great grandfather because your Papa doesn't carry the last name. You can't prove that you are 50% Hawaiian. I actually found an article in the OHA newspaper that proved Pookalani got into a fight with my great grandmother after she had given birth to my Papa. And the newspaper article stated that they were lovers. I also did a DNA ancestry testing that said I was 52% Hawaiian. This seems so silly going through all this red tape, rabbit hole, DHHL in my opinion and by facts has been untrustworthy for years. There needs to be a full evaluation team and a better process to determine eligibility requirements, and the beneficiaries should be able to vote who their chairperson should be not the Governor. I do not support Kali Watson as the Director for DHHL because of his ineffectiveness to change the process and his lack of empathy for kanaka on the wait list. I say this not out of disrespect but out of the history he's had in relation to DHHL. If he was so good then, why is the waiting list so long? Why do I have to go through hoops and cross red tape through this system? Why did my Uncle and my cousin die on the waiting list if Kali Watson is such a good nominee? Your Governor needs help in doing due diligence and research before he starts to appoint. Who is he listening to? Tell him to stop taking advice from the people with dollar bills on their mind, stop talking to the developers and start talking to the beneficiaries. If Kali Watson is appointed then this will affect the process of how Hawaiian homestead lands is managed, this will affect every island. Remind your Governor to listen to the deep mo'olelo of families living on Hawaiian homestead lands throughout the pae 'Āina not only in Honolulu. I ask this Committee to be agents of influence within this legislature. Years of corruption and let downs need to stop. Attached in the Hawaiian newspapers is the evidence that my papa nui had a relationship with my kūpunawahine nui that was overlooked by DHHL. Newspaper Article They were do focused on my last name not being inoa Hawai'i. Please talk to your Governor about nominating leadership that have the guts to take a stand and make changes.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kaylene Kauwila Sheldon

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/8/2023 10:10:55 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Regina Peterson(Nani)	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition of his nomination.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 4:20:10 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie K Akana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Laurie Akana, I am Kanaka and a registered voter, resident of HI. I am completely opposed to GM524 consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, KALI WATSON. He has had this position and did a below standard job. Residents died while he was in this position which tells me he doesn't put the need of beneficiaries first, but his own monetary gains.

For a former Director of DHHL to exploit the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and its beneficiaries, to make money for himself, is unconscionable. Don't put us the beneficiaries at risk of more financial loss under his leadership again. The people should have a say of who gets this position. His previous work record should be considered and its bad. Watson is currently in an active lawsuit for his personal decision making and put another person in thee hospital.

Every penny in profit that Kali Watson made was a **DIRECT COST TO BENEFICIARIES.**

That is not to mention:

1. The \$2 Million in costs to clean-up the 'Āina after his tenants
2. the effective "undercharging" of the rent for the lease.
3. the benefits of the lease that went to non-beneficiaries
3. his attempts to NOT PAY \$136K in BACK RENT.

This is NOT the person that should be trusted to look after the interests of BENEFICIARIES, and \$600 Million?

Please seriously consider the views of the people when making this decision. Why can't the beneficiaries choose a DHHL Chair? We want the control and decision making put back into our hands. We are educated and informed people and have the right to make decisions of how our funds should be spent.

Thank you for your consideration

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/8/2023 10:11:07 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in a opposition of his nomination.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/8/2023 10:11:14 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayla-hope	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to his declaration.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 1:54:20 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Howard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Aina!

I adamantly reject Kali Watson to the position of Hawaiian Homes Director. Give the young people that opportunity to establish themselves in the position of Director. Kali had his chance and my opinion, he didn't do the job that was necessary for the beneficiaries of the department.

. Cedric comes mind, Iokepa comes mind, Healani comes to mind, I'm sure Mililani would love a chance at this

. Robin Danner, wants the position so badly that she will place her self in the running if Kali misses his opportunity. Please..don't give in to her.

There are many others, I'm sure they are all out there.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

Aloha Aina!!

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 8:21:56 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in STRONG support GM 524.

We need strong leadership for DHHL to much time has passed since the last Chairman Aila in December

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 6:06:08 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayna Noelani Dabis-Tom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

‘A‘ALE for the confirmation of Kali Watson.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 6:14:00 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoekalani Shawney Dabis-Tolentino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

'A'ole for confirmation of Kali Waston

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 6:25:49 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 6:26:54 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer-Terry Sakura Potts	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We do not support Kali Watson.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:05:25 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nainoa Hoapili	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

'A'ole conformation for Kali waston for DHHL chair

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:07:52 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leipunahele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

'A'ole conformation for Kali Waston For DHHL chair

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 9:11:24 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leinaala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

'A'olé conformation for Kali Waston for DHHL chair

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/10/2023 10:13:35 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tonie C.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the confirmation of Kali Watson for DHHL Chair.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 6:30:15 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tevita L. Apina Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kakou,

I am writing this testimony in opposition of Kali Watson for DHHL chair for the following reasons:

1. \$2Million in costs to clean up the 'āina after his tenants
2. Effective undercharging of the rent for lease
3. Benifits of the lease that went to non-beneficiaries
4. Attempts to not pay \$136,000 in back rent

Mahalo,

Tevita L. Apina Jr

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 9:44:26 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nolan Okalani Tallett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition of GM524

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 11:38:43 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kukamakani Nhipali	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Against Kali Watson for DHHL Chair

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 12:52:36 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ciarra Paresa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No confirmation for Kali Watson for DHHL chair

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 2:10:32 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Ingram	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose confirmation of Kali Watson for DHHL Chair.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/11/2023 2:34:12 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Sandvig	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

‘A‘ole conformation for Kali Waston for DHHL chair

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 12:18:23 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronze Fonoimoana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Kalbi Watson as chair for DHHL!!!!

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 1:40:31 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shondell Dabis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the Confirmation of Kali Watson for DHHL Chair!

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 4:35:54 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francis Gaylen Apoliona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a former Public Information Officer under Chairman's Watson original tenure at DHHL, I wholeheartly support his Nomination once again as the Director and Chairman of the Hwaiian Homes Commission. He is an extremely dedicated public servant and tireless champion of native Hwaiian rights. He will insure that the Beneficiaries of the Hwaiian Homes Commission Act are priority one both for those on the waitlist and those currently residing homestead lots. Mahalo for your consideration on Mr. Watson's nomination. Sincerely, Francis Apliona

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 6:09:13 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Marquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou, My name is Malia Marquez and I'm from Maunaloa. I strongly recommend OPPOSITION to GM524, Kali Watson for Chair of our DHHL. His prior working record should be enough to NOT consider him for such a vital position. During his time at DHHL, his work in Mā'ili was NOT pono. He does not have the beneficiaries best interest in mind. I don't understand why we would want to go backwards? Not to mention he is in an ACTIVE lawsuit. Why must we settle for someone that is in trouble with the law? Its time to give DHHL a fresh start without the lepo from the past. It's time for a change. Mahalo for your time on this vital matter. Please OPPOSE GM524.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 8:28:50 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Kahui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Kali Watson to serve as the next DHHL Chairman.

Mr' Watson's leanthy legal and housing developer expertise makes Kali Watson the ideal candidate.

I wholeheartly support Kali Watson's to serve as the DHHL's chairman and direct DHHL in a path to success.

Mahalo Bo Kahui

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 8:52:47 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharleen Kahumoku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support of GM 524 as Kali Watson for chair

person DHHL.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 12:24:02 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In full support of nominee for his commitment to the Native Hawaiian community and affordable housing development. Recognized for his expertise and institutional knowledge on DHHL issues, he will bring fortitude and passion to a long-neglected department. I urge the committee to support Kali Watson's nomination to carry out the vision of our beloved Prince Jonah Kuhio and who embraces the kuleana to Hawaiian Homes Commission Act beneficiaries.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 2:35:34 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamalani Keliikuli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need someone to work for the people not against them and someone who is capable of getting our people off the waitlist and into homes!! Homes that aren't built to fall apart and who has the brain capacity of providing Hawaiians, loans to also fix and maintain their homes. If Kali was your choice then he should've corrected it when he was Director of DHHL now we suppose to give him another chance. I OPPOSE

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 4:31:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SYBIL LOPEZ	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a homestead leader on the island of Molokai, I am strong SUPPORT of GM 524, Gubernatorial Nomination of Kali Watson as the Chairperson of DHHL. I had the privilege and honor to share in a groundbreaking ceremony back in 1996 when Kali Watson was the DHHL chair for the Molokai High School athletic field dedication. I will always remember the direct and respected leader who demonstrated the heart of its beneficiaries.

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/14/2023 5:21:48 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I write in SUPPORT of GM 524 to confirm KALI WATSON as the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission and Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I have known Kali for nearly 20 years. In that time as a former Hawaiian Homes Commissioner and an Aide to both OHA Trustee Robert K. Lindsey, Jr. and OHA Trustee Keola Lindsey, I saw Kali move affordable residential development work forward on Hawaiian Home Lands for beneficiaries. I also witnessed him move commercial development forward for our West O‘ahu community which served not only the DHHL and OHA beneficiaries, but all who call West O‘ahu home.

He is motivated to serve. He has the development experience necessary to lead DHHL to expend the historic appropriation entrusted to DHHL by the Hawai‘i State Legislature. And he has prior experience as the Chairperson and Director and would be able to hit the ground running.

For these reasons and many more, I again share my SUPPPORT for GM 524 to confirm KALI WATSON as the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission and Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Kama Hopkins

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 7:41:13 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leona Leialoha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, as well as my entire 'ohana strongly oppose Kali Watson for DHHL director because it has already been proven he is for the development of DHHL lands to private entities thus will not be beneficial for waitlisters or homesteaders!

A'OLE!!!!

mahalo nui for your consideration of my testimony

Leona Leialoha

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 9:24:32 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beverly Pauole Moore	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in STRONG SUPPORT for Governor Nominee Kali Watson GM 524. Mr. Watson comes highly qualified and with many years of experience.

Mahalo

Beverly Pauole-Moore

Hawaii State Legislature
Hearing on March 16, 2023

Testimony in support of Kali Watson, nominee for the State DHHL
Commission Chair

Aloha kakou,

I would like to express my strong support for Kali Watson for the position of State DHHL Commission Chair. He is a man of integrity with the knowledge, expertise and commitment to fulfill the mission of the Dept of Hawaiian Homelands. Having previously held this position, Kali is well familiar with the Hawaiian Homes Act and the vision of its creator, Prince Kuhio, to provide our people with land and homes.

Having known Kali since our days at Kamehameha School, he is well respected by his classmates. He has shown his dedication to serving our people over the past decades and I believe he is supported by the Hawaiian community at large. It has been, and continues to be, an honor and privilege to know Kali.

Mahalo for allowing me to share my strong support for Kali Watson as DHHL Commission Chair.

With Respect,

Rosalind Leolani Solomon
808-214-4651
Hawnrozz@msn.com

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 10:47:05 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lena Suzuki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Kali for the simple reason of his actions to meet with us, and help find solutions to some of our issues in the moku Waianae.

March 15, 2023

RE: Support – Kali Watson Confirmation

Aloha e Councilmembers,

I am writing on behalf of Hawai'i Community Lending, Inc. (HCL) and its parent corporation, Hawaiian Community Assets, Inc. (HCA) to **strongly support** the confirmation of Kali Watson as the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. He brings with him extensive experience in affordable housing and community development, both on and off Hawaiian Home Lands, demonstrating he has the critical skills necessary to further the mission of the department at this unique time.

HCL and HCA are Native Hawaiian-controlled community development nonprofits with a shared mission to increase the capacity of low- and moderate-income communities to achieve and sustain economic self-sufficiency with a particular focus on Native Hawaiians. Our philosophy supports affordable housing, culturally-relevant financial education, and asset building and community lending programs to realize our mission. Since our founding in 2000, we have served over 23,000 individuals with free financial education and assisted more than 9,000 children and adults in successfully obtaining rentals, purchasing homes, or preventing foreclosure and eviction.

Our organizations have worked closely with Kali and his nonprofit, Hawaiian Community Development Board (HCDB), for over the last decade. We have assisted Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian families in becoming financially qualified for thousands of rental housing units and for-sale homes developed by the nonprofit. It is through this partnership that we have seen Kali and HCDB lead developments, establish partnerships, and leverage millions of dollars in public and private capital to build homes that are housing our local and Hawaiian people, affordably.

In 2012-13, we assisted with applications and qualifications for more than 250 families interested in the Hale Makana 'O Nanakuli rental housing project, the only such development of its kind on Hawaiian Home Lands. Today, families earning as little as \$25,000 annually call Hale Makana home, paying no more than 30% of their monthly income toward rent. The project has been identified as a best practice not only for its ability to leverage multiple sources of capital to reach affordability for households below 30% area median income, but also for its unique ownership structure in which the Nanakuli Homestead Association owns the property as a native Hawaiian beneficiary organization.

In 2015-16, our organizations worked with Kali and HCDB to create an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) program that supports homeowners and families in helping address the housing crisis in the City and County of Honolulu. Kali's involvement assisted in bringing together key partners from G70 to Honsador Lumber to Office of Hawaiian Affairs alongside our organizations and Hawaii Appleseed to implement the program. Kali led the effort to ensure the development of ADUs as an allowable activity on Hawaiian Home Lands, which has since influenced the department's promulgation of rules for secondary dwelling units.



1315 Kalaniana'ole Avenue,
Hilo, HI 96720
808-587-7656
www.hawaiicommunitylending.com

In 2017, our organizations assisted 69 native Hawaiian families in exercising their option to purchase rentals at the Ho'olimalima project in Kapolei. This was the first rent-with-option-to-purchase project in the State of Hawaii and was envisioned and led by Kali when he was Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. The project has received national attention from the National Association of Home Builders and families purchased the homes for less than \$77,000. This rent-with-option-to-purchase development approach has since been replicated on Hawaiian Home Lands and is being looked at by counties as a viable vehicle to assist families, who would normally be unable to qualify for a mortgage, to realize the dream of homeownership.

Most recently, our organizations have worked with Kali and HCDB to support the development of hundreds of affordable rental housing units in Maui County that will serve households at or below 60% area median income, including persons with disabilities, kupuna, and families.

Please move forward and approve Kali Watson's confirmation as Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. There is no reason to wait. He has proven himself to be a leader on affordable housing development in the State of Hawaii and possess the critical skills necessary to further the mission of the department at this unique time. Should you have any questions, please contact me directly at 808.587.7653 or jeff@hawaiiancommunity.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jeff Gilbreath'.

Jeff Gilbreath
Executive Director

LATE

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 1:52:58 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry-Lee L. Shibuya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Honorable Chair Shimabukuro,

I strongly support Mr. Watson as the new Chair for DHHL. Mr. Watson has the experience and forth right know how to operate DHHL Organization, with his leadership, effectiveness, determination and accountability to get the job done. I kindly ask your vote and support to allow Mr. Kali Watson a chance to oversee a much needed overhaul to DHHL Department... Or we all will die on the list, the people want results.

Malama Pono, Terry-Lee :)

LATE

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 3:12:28 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Taber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSITON TO KALI WATSON appointment as DHHL Chair

Aloha

I am writing in OPPOSITION TO KALI WATSON as DHHL Chair.

As a beneficiary that has been on the list for over 10 years, I do NOT agree with the REGURGITATION and RECYCLING of "past" DHHL employees, especially those that have taken on a "Developer" role. Prince Kuhio did not leave a legacy of Fiscal Entrapment, Financial Hardship or Selective Delegation to various entities, many of them NON Beneficiaries. DHHL is tasked with DISTRIBUTING LAND to the KANAKA, not furthering their suffering and injustice with further Economic ruin. A 500K mortgage is NOT SUSTAINABLE for ANY Beneficiary and it NOT the purpose of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act that Prince Kuhio advocated for. As a former mortgage banker, now disabled and struggling to raise our son here in Hawaii, I find myself thoroughly DISGUSTED with the absolute disregard that our Beneficiaries are subjected to DAILY. NOT ONCE has the Governor of Hawaii taken the time to address the Beneficiaries in regards to the appointments of leadership in the DHHL. Govenor Green could have been the first in History, yet chose to make decisions based on what HE felt was Pono, not the Beneficiaries or Lahui. Ikaika Andersons appointment and continued presence as acting Chair at DHHL is just another example of poor choice, and now we have another candidate being shoved down our throats. Where are the rights of the Beneficiaries of this Trust? WHY are we constantly being FORCED to ACCEPT optional candidates that would not have been on the list in the first place? As soon as I heard that Kali Watson was Gov Green "Back Up Choice" I immediately thought of Unko Kahale Smith and our Kupuna that suffered MANY indignities during the Watson administration at DHHL, so when will this FORCED COERCION of our people END? Kali Watson had two terms at DHHL, is there NO OTHER candidates to fill the need? Is this the best we can do for our Beneficiaries and the legacy that Prince Kuhio left us? It's time to STOP screwing the Beneficiaries and REJECT this Recycled leadership and if the STATE of HAWAII can't distribute these LANDS without subjugating our People into Financial Slavery with high Interest rates rising on the horizon with NO

chance of stopping, then perhaps it's time for the Beneficiaries to gather together and FILE A FEDERAL LAWSUIT, with Gov Green at the top!.... NO, A'OLE to WATSON

LATE

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 4:07:42 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kali Watson is a trusted partner serving the Native Hawaiian community. His leadership is needed with DHHL to streamline development for Hawaiian families utilizing the \$600 million in funding from the State Legislature. Hawaiians urgently need affordable housing development statewide and Kali Watson has proven commitment to this cause.

LATE

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 5:14:29 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Michael Flaherty	Testifying for Ikenakea Development	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is my honor to submit testimony in favor of Kali Watson, as Chairperson for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Kali is a truly remarkable individual who is kind, compassionate, deliberate, methodical and someone that knows how to get things done. I have worked side by side with Kali for the last 12 years as a partner, mentor and advisor. His devotion to his Hawaiian roots is beyond measure. After hiring serving as the Chair, over 20 years ago, and with the a successful career in public/private development and the addition of his youngest son to our partnership, his willingness to contribute his efforts and time to the beneficiaries on the request of Governor Green, is the most unselfish act. Although I am sad because he and I will not be able to work together and spend time together each day, I am incredibly excited and at peace knowing that his efforts in helping the beneficiaries on the waitlist will be his mission. Kali experience over the last 20 years has provided him the perfect skill set to implement the State's mission to administer the funds provided to help the Department and its beneficiaries.

Humble and Kind Regards -

Chris Flaherty

Ikenakea Development and 3 Leaf Holdings

LATE

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 9:57:09 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry OPPOSE GM524 for the following reasons:

One: Kali Watson and 2 other individuals are being sued by a minor for injuries he sustained in a canoe accident which Mr. Watson, et al was involved causing the minor with severe injuries and hospitalization and other medical attention.

With ALL the issues at DHHL, I believe Mr. Watson would not be up to the challenges and par on behalf of the 28,000 beneficiaries on the waitlist due to his personal lawsuit. The beneficiaries need someone at 200 % capacity acting and looking for their best interest.

Two: Kali Watson is a developer of a non-profit organization and has built many affordable housing in Waianae and on DHHL lands. Confirming him to be the next DHHL Chair will open easy access to new development of which he will gain a sizable wealth! His personal interest BEFORE the beneficiaries on the waitlist! Mr. Watson has expressed at a public meeting, that he is looking at ways of access funding for multiple sources for his new projects.

WHY IS THE LEGISLATORS REFUSING TO IDENTIFY THE 176 INDIVIDUALS WHO COMMITTED UNETHICAL PRACTICES LIKE HELEN WAI, HER SON, AND HPD OFFICER.

LATE

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/15/2023 10:15:39 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
scotty Reis-Moniz	Testifying for friends of Waimanalo	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Scotty Reis-Moniz (president) from FRIENDS OF WAIMANALO Nonprofit Organization a workforce development program for our beneficiaries to being a better qualified employee. We Strongly in support of Kali Watson as the new Chairman. The knowledge & experience Kali brings in the housing sector, land ,real estate and our needs for our beneficiaries Kali is the most qualified candidate for the job to take us into the future . Thank you

LATE

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 6:26:35 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Shinkawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Governor Josh Green's nomination of Kali Watson, as Chairperson of the DHHL, for a term expiring 12-31-2026.

LATE

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 6:27:48 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MaryAnn Omerod	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE the CONFIRMATION of KALI WATSON as the Chairperson, Department Of Hawaiian Homeland, INDEFINITELY.

My decision to oppose the nominee is based on the individuals past performance as Chair of DHHL.

LATE

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 6:51:20 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANNIE AUHOON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family and I are grateful for the opportunity provided at Hale Makana O Nanakuli Apts as one of the original tenants in 2014.

Today I am blessed to be a part of Management to provide service in the housing industry.

We are in need of more affordable housing on and off homestead lands..

Mahalo nui,

LATE

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 10:24:31 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beverly Wee Sameshima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Beverly Wee Sameshima and I am a licensed attorney in the State Bars of Hawaii, District of Columbia and California and have practised law since 1979. I am currently retired from the practice of law and at the time of my retirement, was the Chief of the Drug and Organized Crime Section for the United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii. I am a member of the Class of 79 of the William S. Richardson School of Law and was a law clerk to former Chief Justice William S. Richardson from 1979-1980. I have known Kali Watson since 1976 when we were both entering law school as members of the class of 1979. I am honored to call him friend and a distinguished member of our class. I unequivocally support his appointment as Director of DHHL. He has many characteristics which make him suited for this job, but among the prominent ones is: (1) his love and commitment to the Hawaiian community; and (2) his long term work in demonstrating this commitment. Unlike so many who tout their bona fides without much substance, Kali, in his low key and humble way has worked many years in the area of affordable and community housing for the Hawaiian community and this state. He is not one to brag about his accomplishments but even a cursory review of his resume and work speak loudly of this commitment. We are now in a period where our state has many financial resources which can assist in reaching our goals. Please do not pass up the opportunity to appoint someone who can make this happen,

Thankyou for considering my testimony and feel free to contact me should you have any follow up questions concerning my testimony

Beverly Wee Sameshima

LATE

Aloha e Chair Senator Shimabukuro & Vice Chair Senator Fevella and the honorable members of the committee on Hawaiian Affairs,...

I am Patrick L. Kahawaiolaa, a native Hawaiian, as defined pursuant to the HHCA,1920, as amended July 9,1921...42 stat. 108, 67th Congress and it's taken me several weeks to listen to the conversations of the Governor's nominee for the Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) interactions by Zoom appearances by the AHHL and the East Hawaii Homestead Association on March 11,2023... in which the questions asked was what would he do if selected to run the DHHL...

His answers were according to many was he was being forthright however in my humble opinion he failed to say ... HE AND HIS NON PROFIT HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD (HCDB) WAS IN A DISPUTE OVER A LEASE OR RIGHT OF ENTRY IN KALAELOA #603...for the last several years... and now this new governor WANTS him to run the same department he's been having a legal dispute with...?

Didn't his lease or ROE get CANCELLED by the same department he now would be in charge of...?

It is now PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE that the DISPUTE involved MONEY...? Is that so?

Will this committee ask those questions...?

There is a blatant abuse of power, trustworthiness and the integrity of a Hawaiian who this State is preparing to CONFIRM him as a director of a State agency called the DHHL...

I've read in recent news articles about this body could be making history good or bad if they did not confirm a director to this position on the Second attempt and if just about that then this body may be the ones with egg on their faces

Again the way to correct this situation is to CLEARLY MANDATE that the department he would be director of...PROVIDE an annual report to the legislature ANNUALLY... not make excuses of "lack of manpower" ... We the beneficiaries DEMAND transparency, honesty and TRUST that the Director, Staff cannot serve two MASTERS...the Commission too has fiduciary duties and this individual will be the head of the HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ...

I will be OBJECTING TO HIS CONFIRMATION for the above reasons...

If these monetary disputes with the Department occurred from lessees on the land they would have been gone a long time ago...

No Man is Perfect... many of us have issues... but to clearly defy the DHHL, the same department he once lead, by his own admission was back then didn't know enough of this department and how to develop homes to now clearly articulate the he is NOW A DEVELOPER and I now "know" the rules... you can enter your conclusion... for me it is NO TO HIS CONFIRMATION....

Knowing full I will still have to deal with him if this body sees fit to confirm him in spite of his clear shortcomings...

May the Great Ones bless you for who you are...

I can be reached at (808) 937-8217

'Owau

Patrick L. Kahawaiolaa

native Hawaiian advocate

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PK

LATE



March 16, 2023

Chairperson Shimabukuro and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Legislature

RE: Governor's Message No. 524 – urging confirmation of Kali Watson for Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

I urge your confirmation of Kali Watson as Chairperson, DHHL. I believe that Mr. Watson's record offers compelling evidence of his motivation, skills and readiness to serve in this important capacity. Mr. Watson has dedicated much of his professional career to addressing the needs of our lāhui. This includes:

1. Researching and documenting Native Hawaiian rights;
2. staffing the Hawaiian Affairs Committee of the State Constitutional Convention;
3. providing legal counsel to the DHHL as a Deputy Attorney General;
4. serving a prior term as Chairperson during which the Department created over 3,000 new homes;
5. advising the Office of Hawaiian Affairs on Ceded Land negotiations and Rice v. Cayetano litigation;
6. assisting private developers in developing housing on Hawaiian Home Lands;
7. directing housing projects in communities with high concentrations of Hawaiian population;
8. coordinating planning, design and construction for a multi-service center in Nānākuli; and
9. founding a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation to forge public-private partnerships to build low-income housing and mixed use projects.

Mr. Watson's trackrecord leads me to trust that:

1. He is motivated by deep empathy and a passionate commitment to serve our lāhui;
2. He possesses the requisite skills and experience for this position in the areas of law, government service, Hawaiian rights, real estate development and beneficiary issues.
3. He has a well established understanding of DHHL assets, stakeholders, issues and systems which gives him a vital advantage in his readiness for service and potential to produce immediate impact.

Kali Watson is an inspired choice to lead the Department of Hawaiian Homelands at this critical inflection point. I urge your favorable consideration and confirmation of his appointment.

Me ka ha'aha'a

Neil Hannahs

Neil J. Kaho'okele Hannahs
Founder & CEO

BEFORE THE SENATE HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MARCH 16, 2023

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 524

Aloha Chair Shimbukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee,

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Kōmike Kalai'āina submits the following written testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to GM 524 appointing Kali Watson as the Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. We have concerns with the controversy surrounding this nominee and how it will affect his ability to complete the important work and mission of DHHL especially with the clock ticking in regards to how much time is left to expend the \$600 million.

Here are list of our concerns:

1. How he handled the eviction of Hilbert Clarence Kahalelelua Smith on January 18, 1996 (<https://www.hawaiinasion.org/kahale-eviction.html>).
2. His refusal to pay his diliquent lease rent for a 5-acre DHHL property in Kalaeloa for months despite the fact that his non profit made millions from the DHHL properties he leased.
3. The current lawsuit against him by Kai Keuning who is on a "long road to recovery after several months in and out of the hospital" after being run over by a canoe (<https://www.khon2.com/local-news/surfer-files-lawsuit-against-dhhl-director-nominee-kali-watson/>).

There are so many well qualified and experienced Kanaka Maoli candidates who can hit the ground running that there is no need to keep recycling candidates like Mr. Watson.

Me ka 'oiai'o,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale
Public Affairs Officer, Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Kōmike Kalai'āina

LATE

Testimony in Support of Kali Watson, Nominee for State DHHL Commission, Chair
Aloha Legislators

I fully endorse Kali Watson as the next Chairman, Department of Hawaiian Homes
Lands (DHHL) for the following reasons:

- He is knowledgeable about the Hawaiian Homes Act of 1920 and 1921, so is able to hit the ground running in a high operation tempo environment and is able to balance State of Hawaii (SOH), Department of Interior (DOI), or Congressional fiduciary requirements with beneficiary needs.
- He served as the Chairman, DHHL from 1995-1998 and has the knowledge, skills and abilities, and experience to lead the Department and it's people well into the current term and beyond without needing "On The Job training" (OJT).
- He knows that the DHHL is undermanned and is working towards increasing staffing which will improve customer service/relations with beneficiaries across Hawaii, meet the planning and management oversight requirements for the recent Act 279 \$600M funding, and enhance the morale of an already overworked department staff.
- He has worked extensively with Native Hawaiians on various projects such as the Nānākuli Village Center, Kahikolu Housing Project, and Kauhalepono Replacement Home Project to name a few. Additionally, he has organized and supported various Hawaiian Community Development Boards bringing representatives together from government, industry and community in order to enhance Public-Private Partnerships aimed at improving the quality of life for all Hawaiians. Kali demonstrated a broad knowledge of funding to help various groups of beneficiaries be able to afford housing from home construction to rent to own.
- I participated on two recent zoom sessions that Kali conducted with the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homes Association (SCHAA) on March 5, 2023 and again with leaders and beneficiaries from the Big Island Hawaiian Homes Associations on March 11, 2023. I liked his approach of issuing leases without using home construction as a condition or obstacle for wait listers.

Kali Watson is competent, able and ready to lead the Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands and should be confirmed.

I have been on the DHHL Wait list for Big Island residential and agriculture since 1995.

Sincerely

William L Kapaku Jr

LATE

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 1:51:13 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

LATE

GM-524

Submitted on: 3/16/2023 2:39:13 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/16/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cora Schnackenberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We the waitlisters from Molokai will hold Mr. Watson's accountable to put us (waitlisters) on our land with water.

Mahalo,

Waitlisters of Molokai

Cora Schnackenberg