



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
KŌMIKINA MĀLAMA KAHO'OLAWE

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Testimony of
MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPĪ
Executive Director

Before the Senate Committee on

WATER & LAND

Monday, March 4, 2024
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 585 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION OF
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE FAITH KAHALE SAITO

Governor's Message No. 585 submits for consideration and confirmation, Faith Kahale Saito to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in the seat reserved for the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana. On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express my **strong support** and **recommend** for her confirmation.

Ms. Saito has a deep connection to Kaho'olawe as a long-time PKO member and a former KIRC employee. As a PKO member, she had led numerous community groups to Kaho'olawe for both cultural and work-related projects. She had also planned and coordinated several PKO trips to Kaho'olawe ensuring the safe and meaningful use of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve.

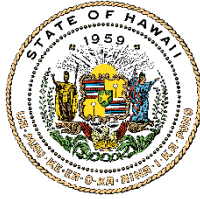
As a former KIRC employee, she worked as the KIRC Cultural Resources Project Coordinator where she ensured the protection of Kaho'olawe's archaeological, historical and cultural resources. Her other duties included coordinating and supporting Native Hawaiian Organizations in the continuing and expanding cultural reuse of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve. While at the KIRC, she was also trained in unexploded ordnance avoidance procedures, emergency safety procedures and boat operations. She was a highly skilled and reliable member of the KIRC staff.

In addition to her time with the KIRC, Ms. Saito's professional background includes working with Native Hawaiian youth at Honolulu Community College. There she has been very successful in counseling the next generation of Native Hawaiian leaders to become both educationally successful as well as culturally competent.

The KIRC will be truly fortunate to have the support and advice of Ms. Saito on the commission and strongly supports her confirmation.

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING 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
WATER AND LAND

Monday, March 4, 2024
2:00 PM

State Capitol Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

In Consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 585
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE KAHO'OLAWAE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, FAITH KAHALE SAITO
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2027

Governor's Message 585 submits for consideration and confirmation, Faith Kahale Saito, to the Kaho'olawe Reserve Commission (KIRC), for a term to expire 6-30-2027. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) supports this nomination.**

Faith Kahale Saito is the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO) representative to the KIRC. She has been with the PKO since her first trip to the island in 2002, eventually becoming a Kua leader. From 2009-2012 she staffed the KIRC as the Cultural Resources Project Coordinator, managing the cultural resources on the island.

Ms. Saito graduated with an MS in Counseling Psychology from Chaminade University. While at Chaminade, she worked as a Literacy Teacher and Senior Mentor at Hālau Kū Māna Public Charter School. After graduation, she started work with Nā Pua No'eau as the 'Aha 'Ōpio Alaka'i Program Specialist and stayed there until she went to work for KIRC. Since returning to O'ahu, she has worked for Honolulu Community College as a Native Hawaiian Counselor.

Ms. Saito is very active in her community. In addition to her volunteer work for PKO, she is a restoration volunteer for Lo'i Kalo Park and a community volunteer for Ho'oulu 'Āina, a nature preserve at the back of Kalihi Valley.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Faith Kahale Saito's confirmation as the PKO member on the Kaho'olawe Reserve Commission.

Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana
P.O. Box 39
39 Ala Malama
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

February 29, 2024

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land



RE: GM 585 Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of the Confirmation of Faith Kahale Saito to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

Aloha kākou,

I am writing on behalf of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana ('Ohana) to support Faith Kahale Saito's nomination to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) pursuant to HRS Chapter 6K Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Section 5. The statute provides that "(2) Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a list provided by the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana." The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana nominated Faith Kahale Saito (Ms. Saito), she began her service to the KIRC on February 26, 2024, was nominated as the Vice Chair, and has agreed to support KIRC in this capacity as the acting chair until the confirmation of the KIRC Chair by the Governor.

Ms. Saito's deep, personal connection with Kanaloa Kaho'olawe began in Fall 2002 with her first access with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana during Wehena Makahiki, the traditional Hawaiian ceremony dedicated to the god of prosperity and peace, Lonoikamakahiki, and carried out by the 'Ohana to bring restoration to Kaho'olawe. Since then, she has returned many times as a restoration volunteer and to participate in other cultural and religious ceremonies.

She has brought her family, students, and fellow community members to Kaho'olawe to join in the historical and the generational work needed to restore this sacred island. Ms. Saito is also actively involved in 'Ohana islands-wide meetings and continues to provide a unique, grounded perspective in all discussions.

Ms. Saito served as the KIRC Cultural Resources Program Coordinator from 2009 to 2012. Ms. Saito has served her community on O'ahu as the Native Hawaiian Counselor at Honolulu Community College for the past 11 years. She also has served on the board of directors for Waikiki Health since 2020 and has been a member of the National Academic Advising Association since 2018. Through this service, she has developed a strong understanding of land use and management, historic preservation, cultural resource management, and conservation. Serving in these capacities, she understands the components of business plans and management, volunteer programs, education and outreach, asset building, networking, and liability, which is necessary for the KIRC and commissioners to understand.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of Ms. Saito** to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Aloha 'Āina,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie L. Kamelamela'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Katie' being the most prominent.

Katie L. Kamelamela

Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana

GM-585

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 2:57:14 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol-Marie K Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I thank you for the opportunity to testify os GM 585 in strong support of the consideration and confirmation of Faith Kahale Saito as Commissioner to the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

Ms. Saito was a former staff member of the KIRC and is also an active member of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana. While on staff, I had the priveledge of working with her and found her passion and knowledge of the mission and tasks to restore Kahoolawe as the piko of the native culture was greatly needed on staff.

Mahalo for this oppportunity and I again ask that you confirm Ms. Saito as Commissioner to the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission.

Me kae aloha maluhia,

Carol-Marie Ka`onohi Lee, Ret. KIRC Administrative Officer

GM-585

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 3:53:47 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairperson Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee of Water and Land,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM585. I've known Faith Kahale Saito for over fifteen years and can confidently assure you that Miss Saito's appointment to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission is within the best interest of the island of Kaho'olawe and the people of Hawai'i. Miss Saito's strong moral character, deep sense of integrity, and her passionate care and aloha for the island of Kaho'olawe is clearly evident in her dedication to the island over the past couple decades, as Miss Saito is an active member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana as well as a former employee of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Thank you for your consideration. E ola Kaho'olawe!

Kelvin Ho
PO Box 769
Lawai Hi 96765

February 29, 2024

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefonte, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water & Land

RE: GM 585 Testimony in Support of confirmation of Faith Kahale Saito
To the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

Aloha Senators

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of Faith Kahale Saito's nomination to serve as a commissioner to KIRC. She was nominated from our Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and is an excellent choice. I have been an active member for over 30 years and have witnessed Kahale's commitment and excellence in both ceremonial accesses as well leading a multitude of diverse groups on work accesses.

She has served as KIRC's Cultural Resources Program Coordinator for over 3 years and was very proficient in ensuring cultural asensitivity and value on this most sacred of places in Hawaii. Her current position at HCC as a counselor for Native Hawaiians is an expression of her ability to communicate extremely well with people and her commitment to strengthening the values of Aloha 'Āina. She has demonstrated a fluency in understanding land use management, physical and cultural resource management, enviromental conservation and volunteer programs.

Faith Kahale Saito is a loving mother committed to ensuring her children are allowed access to our most sacred places and the need for protecting them. She has the full support of our Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana. Mahalo for the chance to give voice to this truth.

Mahalo
Kelvin Ho

GM-585

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 12:18:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Hatakeyama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

As a citizen of Maui County, I strongly support the commissioning of Faith Kahele Saito. Faith's professional and cultural experience will be an asset to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Mahalo,

Matt Hatakeyama

Maui County

GM-585

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 1:38:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lopaka White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kukulu ke ea a Kanaloa

GM-585

Submitted on: 3/1/2024 1:42:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Ref Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission - FAITH KAHELE SAITO

GM-585

Submitted on: 3/3/2024 1:38:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikiala Pescaia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

I would like to express my full support for the nomination of Faith K. Saito to be commissioner of the Kahoolawe Island Reserve. She brings an incredible amount of knowledge and expertise of the island, its history, the practical management and the relationships Kaho'olawe has with community members, organizations and the government. As a long standing member of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, her volunteerism to advance aloha aina is unquestionable. Her work as a cultural program manager, with full working knowledge of the archeological, scientific, environmental and cultural assets allow her to have informed, comprehensive and thoughtful contributions to all arenas of discussion surrounding the present and future management of Kaho'olawe. Her pleasant and respectful demeanor has often explained challenging topics to a variety of stakeholders with grace, and brings a high level of respect and integrity to all levels of conversation. The KIRC will benefit from her presence and participation and propel the work entrusted to the staff to carry out. I echo my FULL SUPPORT of FAITH KAHALE SAITO to be appointed to the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission. Mahalo KIR Commissioner Pescaia.

GM-585

Submitted on: 3/3/2024 1:52:50 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Namaka Whitehead	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

I offer this testimony in **strong support of GM585**, consideration and confirmation of Faith Kahale Saito to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I have known Kahale personally and professionally for over 20 years in my work as a conservation professional, a steward of ‘āina, and a member of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana. I am very familiar with the work of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission, as a former Commissioner myself, and am confident that Kahale is an excellent choice for this important role and kuleana. Kahale has extensive knowledge of the resources, history, rules, and operations of the reserve, along with a deep personal and cultural connection to the island of Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe. She is a collaborative leader who builds bridges between those with different perspectives, celebrates the strengths of others and empowers those around her to do their best work.

I humbly ask this committee to support the nomination of Faith Kahale Saito to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Amber Nāmaka Whitehead, PhD

Pāpā, South Kona

GM-585

Submitted on: 3/3/2024 1:55:41 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylee Mar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing to support Faith Kahale Saito’s nomination to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) Ms. Saito’s deep, personal connection with Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe began in Fall 2002 with her first access with the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana during Wehena Makahiki. Since then, she has returned many times as a restoration volunteer and to participate in other cultural and religious ceremonies. She has brought her family, students, and fellow community members to Kaho‘olawe to join in the historical and the generational work needed to restore this sacred island. Ms. Saito is also actively involved in ‘Ohana islands-wide meetings and continues to provide a unique, grounded perspective in all discussions.

Ms. Saito served as the KIRC Cultural Resources Program Coordinator from 2009 to 2012. Ms. Saito has served her community on O‘ahu as the Native Hawaiian Counselor at Honolulu Community College for the past 11 years. She also has served on the board of directors for Waikiki Health since 2020 and has been a member of the National Academic Advising Association since 2018. Through this service, she has developed a strong understanding of land use and management, historic preservation, cultural resource management, and conservation. Serving in these capacities, she understands the components of business plans and management, volunteer programs, education and outreach, asset building, networking, and liability, which is necessary for the KIRC and commissioners to understand.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Ms. Saito to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Aloha ‘Āina,

Kylee Pomaika'i Mar

GM-585

Submitted on: 3/4/2024 7:38:43 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleialoha Lum-Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President

and Members of the Senate

Thirty-Second Legislature

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

I am writing this letter in support of Gov. Josh Green’s nomination of Faith Kahale Saito to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (GM No. 585). I have known Kahale for almost 20 years, having first worked with her at the Nā Pua No‘eau Center for Gifted & Talented Native Hawaiian Children at the University of Hawai‘i and then for the last decade, working alongside her at the Hulili Ke Kukui Hawaiian Center at Honolulu Community College. Kahale is one of the most community-centered individuals I know. Moreover, she is passionate about Kaho‘olawe and has a clear understanding of the role it plays in revitalizing the lāhui.

Kahale’s role in higher education brings a unique and necessary perspective to the commission. She has impacted many lives at our campus and dozens of students, faculty, and staff have been changed by their experiences on the island. She is an innovative strategist and a strong leader. As a commissioner, I believe she will ensure that fair and pono decisions are made in the best interest of Kaho‘olawe and the community. To conclude, I am in full and strong support of Ms. Saito’s confirmation to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission.

‘O wau iho nō me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Kaleialoha Lum-Ho

Assistant Professor & Coordinator of the Hulili Ke Kukui Hawaiian Center at Honolulu Community College

