



# United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service  
Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail  
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March 19, 2024

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

Subject: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 641 / Nomination of Elizabeth Robinson to the  
Legacy Land Conservation Commission

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

This is to convey the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail's support for the Governor's nomination of Elizabeth "Beth" Robinson to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Beth is an active member of the North Kohala Access Group (NKAG). The NKAG is affiliated with Hawaii County's North Kohala Community Development Plan. Conservation land protection and acquisition is a major focus of the NKAG. I attend their monthly meetings and observe that Beth's performance has contributed significantly to the many successful conservation land acquisitions in the North Kohala District.

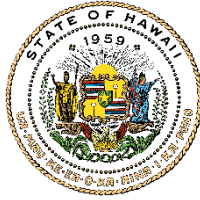
As a realtor broker for Hawaiian Life, Beth has years of experience in land acquisitions. Her firm has a focus on conservation land acquisitions as well. As such, she has practical and technical expertise in the complexities of the entire spectrum of land acquisition processes in Hawaii. She understands and values how open spaces and conservation lands contribute to the well-being of the community and environment. She brings this understanding and her professional skills to her public engagement service to the community of North Kohala and to the Hawaii islands.

Please consider approving a seat for Beth Robinson on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. I am confident that she will make significant contributions to the mission and purpose of the Commission. Mahalo a nui loa for providing this opportunity to support Ms. Robinson.

Superintendent

**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 KP KANAKAOLE**  
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**

**Friday, March 22, 2024  
1:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 642  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
ELIZABETH ROBINSON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2028**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 641 to appoint Elizabeth Robinson to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (Commission). Ms. Robinson resides in the County of Hawai'i and possesses scientific qualifications (Ph.D. in resource management), as well as "membership in a statewide agricultural association" (Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association), thus fulfilling the Commission membership requirements of subsections 173A-2.4(a), -2.4(a)(1), and -2.4(a)(4), Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

As a respected professional realtor with a strong background in financial management and strategic planning, Elizabeth can add new dimensions of analysis to Commission investigations and deliberations. Her commitment to the program is already evident in the testimony that she's submitted to the legislature over the last few sessions, supporting measures that would boost the buying power of the Land Conservation Fund. Appointing her as a commissioner would greatly benefit fellow commissioners, Department staff, program constituents, and decisionmakers.

The Department strongly supports Governor's Message 641 and recommends that the Senate confirm the appointment of Elizabeth Robinson for a four-year term on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this nominee.



Senate Committee on Water and Land

Date: March 22, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: CR 229 & via videoconference

**Re: SUPPORT – GM641, Elizabeth Robinson, Legacy Land Conservation Commission**

Aloha e Luna Ho'omalua Inouye, Hope Luna Ho'omalua Elefante, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike:

Hawai'i Land Trust (HILT) **SUPPORTS** Elizabeth Robinson's nomination for the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Beth's extensive experience and dedication to conservation make her an ideal candidate for this vital role.

Beth has been a valuable collaborator with HILT for many years, diligently working on property purchases and agricultural conservation easements. Her steadfast commitment to supporting traditional Hawaiian agriculture aligns with our organization's mission and values. Beth's contributions have been instrumental in advancing our efforts to conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources.

From our experiences working together, HILT has greatly benefited from Beth's insightful perspective and nuanced understanding of land use planning in Hawai'i. Moreover, Beth's remarkable ability to listen to communities and individuals ensures that all voices are heard and considered in decision-making processes.

In summary, HILT believes that Beth's expertise, dedication, and collaborative spirit make her an outstanding candidate for the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. We wholeheartedly endorse Beth's nomination and believe her appointment would greatly benefit Hawai'i's conservation efforts.

Mahalo,

**'Olu Campbell**

President and Chief Executive Officer

**GM-641**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 6:45:25 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joe Carvalho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Joseph Carvalho, born and raised in North Kohala. I first met Ms. Robinson in 2006 where she was a huge help in creating the North Kohala Community Development Plan for the Hawaii County Planning Department. Since then I have had the wonderful opportunity of seeing her being immersed and accepted as part of the local culture. She is a very capable person, intelligent and well organized. She can readily grasp a situation and develop well accepted solutions. Managing ideas with a group of people is one of her strong points. She also is a good listener making sure she understands exactly what's being said.

Ms. Robinson is chairing the Kohala Community Planning group which is updating the 2008 Kohala Community Development plan which the county asked us to do. It's in process and gathering current community ideas via 'talk stories' which has aided in coming up with an updated plan.

Its an honor working with Ms. Robinson and her dynamic personality and intelligence would be a great asset to the State Legacy Land Commission.

**GM-641**

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 9:24:47 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President and Members of the Senate

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

I am submitting testimony in support of Elizabeth Robinson to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. I have known Beth since moving to Kohala, Hawai'i Island over 6 years ago. It was clear from the start that Beth is deeply committed to our community, to Kohala, to the respectful stewardship of 'āina. She has helped introduce me to the deep issues and community members who care deeply about addressing these issues. She is not only a long-standing, active community member herself, but she is also gifted in activating service in others. As the Director, Conservation and Legacy Lands for Hawa'i Life coupled with her work on community planning and public land access, Beth will bring a diverse perspective to the work of the commission including advising BLNR on projects.

Thank you for considering Beth Robinson to the Commission!

Sincerely,

Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Water and Land Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the nomination of Beth Robinson to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (GM 641).

I have served as a member of the Board of Hawaii Land Trust (HILT) since 2012, including a term as Board Chair. As you know, Hawaii Land Trust is a non-profit organization committed to working with private landowners, community groups, community leaders and government partners to protect Hawaii's precious lands. With HILT having over 20,000 acres in perpetual conservation, over these years I have seen multiple occasions where funding from the Legacy Land Conservation Program was essential to the success of a conservation project. The Commissioners play an essential role in determining the applications with highest conservation values and allocating the available funds wisely. I believe that Ms. Robinson would be a valuable addition to the Commission.

I am also the Founder and CEO of Hawai'i Llife, an independent, Hawai'i-owned real estate brokerage that was built on the principle that as *Hawai'i* Life we have an obligation to this place, culture, and people. Ms. Robinson has been with the firm since 2009. That year one of her listings was in a location identified by the North Kohala community as a priority for preservation She withdrew as listing agent but continued as a volunteer working with the community and Trust for Public Lands to keep that important 'āina protected. From that point on, community members and property owners began to seek her out with similar properties to preserve. After almost a decade of this work and many conversations about how to share our conservation expertise more broadly, I took the step of naming Beth Robinson to a newly created position as Hawai'i Life's Director of Conservation and Legacy Lands in 2018.

In this position Ms Robinson has collaborated with community and non-profit groups hoping to protect and steward important lands, assisted clients with agricultural conservation easements, and helped multiple owners see the value of engaging in the lengthy and often complex process of selling their properties in a conservation transaction. She has a wealth of experience with, and passion for, conservation properties state-wide and has my highest endorsement to use that experience in service to the public on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mat Beall". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matthew G. Beall