



*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 600 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND**  
**CONFIRMATION TO THE KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION OF**  
**GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JUSTIN KEONI SOUZA**

Governor's Message No. 600 submits for consideration and confirmation, OHA Trustee Justin Keoni Souza to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in the seat reserved for a representative of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express my **strong support** and **recommend** his confirmation.

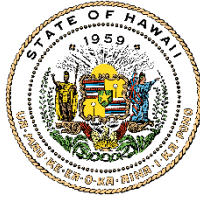
Trustee Souza is a Trustee-at-Large for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee for Cultural Protocol and Practices. He is committed to serving and advancing the rights of the Native Hawaiian People. Trustee Souza's extensive background in Hawaiian music and long-time support of traditional performing arts including supporting and working closely with numerous hula halau, provides him a valuable insight to Native Hawaiian cultural practices and the needs of the Native Hawaiian community.

Trustee Souza already has a long history with Kaho'olawe, as he has previously participated in its restoration efforts and is familiar with the challenges that KIRC faces daily to execute one of the more difficult restoration efforts in Hawaii. With a strong background in Native Hawaiian cultural protocol and practices, Trustee Souza provides both experience and sound advice in helping the KIRC work with the community and help restore both the natural and cultural resources of Kaho'olawe.

The KIRC will be truly fortunate to have the support and advice of Trustee Souza on the commission and strongly supports his 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

**LATE**

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 600  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE KAHO'OLAWAE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KEONI SOUZA  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2027

Governor's Message 585 submits for consideration and confirmation, Keoni Souza, 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.**

Keoni Souza is the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' (OHA) representative to the KIRC. He is an OHA Trustee at Large, elected in 2022. He serves as the Chair for the Cultural Protocol and Practices.

In addition to being an OHA Trustee, Mr. Souza is a musician and a real estate agent. He is a founder Nā Hoa, an award-winning falsetto group which has won seven (7) Nā Hōkū Hanohano awards and was nominated for a Grammy award. Mr. Souza has worked at various entertainment venues, including the 'Aulani Resort and the Willows. He is a graduate of the Dower School of Real Estate and maintains a current Real Estate License. Mr. Souza has worked as stevedore, a flight attendant, and for Aloha Airlines Cargo, in addition to building maintenance and management.

Mr. Souza is an active member of the community of musicians serving on the Board of Governors for the Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts and is a member of the Recording Academy. He is a member of the Native Hawaiian Real Estate Association which was established last year. He is a volunteer baseball and flag football coach and current member of the Outrigger Canoe Club.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Keoni Souza's confirmation as the OHA member on the Kaho'olawe Reserve Commission.

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# HO`OMANA PONO, LLC

## ***Mamua Kānaka***

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Attn: Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Honorable Brandon J. C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members  
***Committee on Water and Land***

February 24, 2024

Re: **GM600 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to KIRC**

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Aloha Chair Inouye; Vice Chair Elefante & Members:

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** GM600 seeking the “Advise and Consent” to appoint Justin Keoni Souza to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Besides being an extremely likeable person with a great personality, Keoni is a person of substance and commitment in both his family life and his public life.

Known primarily as an accomplished entertainer, with seven Nā Hōkū Hanohano awards, as well as being nominated for a Grammy Award in 2019, under his belt.

More than that, Keoni is currently serving with distinction as a member of the OHA Board of Trustees, to which he brings his experience as an entrepreneur and licensed realtor.

We believe that Keoni will continue to live up to his Kuleana as a Member of KIRC.

Mahalo Nunui for your time and consideration in this matter.

*De Mont Kalai Manaole*

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De MONT Kalai Manaole, Co-Manager  
Ho`omana Pono, LLC

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Wai`anae, HI 96792  
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Email: [hoomanaponollc96792@gmail.com](mailto:hoomanaponollc96792@gmail.com)

**GM-600**

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 12:20:13 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Matt Hatakeyama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

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

Mahalo,

Matt Hatakeyama

Maui County

**GM-600**

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 1:39:42 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lopaka White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kukulu ke ea a Kanaloa

**GM-600**

Submitted on: 3/1/2024 8:16:26 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anela Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairperson Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I would like to urge you to support GM600, appointing OHA Trustee Keoni Souza to a first term on the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission. I strongly **support** this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I appreciate your consideration.