

Juanita Noelani Reyher-Colón  
8191 Kamehameha V Highway, Kaunakakai, HI 96748  
808-658-9987 | [djr.jnc808@gmail.com](mailto:djr.jnc808@gmail.com)

April 13, 2026

Senator Chris Lee  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
[senlee@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senlee@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**RE: GM 640 – Written Statement in Response to Senate Confirmation Inquiry**

Dear Senator Lee and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to address the Committee's questions in connection with my nomination to the Commission on Water Resource Management. I am deeply honored by this nomination and submit the following written statement with humility, candor, and a genuine commitment to the kuleana that comes with this role.

**1. Why do you wish to serve as a member of the Commission on Water Resource Management?**

My desire to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management is rooted in both lived experience and professional dedication. I was raised on Molokai, an island whose communities have depended on and revered wai (water) for generations. From an early age, my kūpuna instilled in us the value of water; it is woven into the identity, health, and spiritual life of our people. My kūpuna lived and thrived in the valleys of Waikolu, migrating to Hālawā, Waialua, and Kainalu, and along every step of that journey, they cared for and managed the land and water. That ancestral sense of stewardship lives in me. Molokai has never had representation on this Commission. That absence matters. Decision-making bodies must reflect the communities they serve, and I am committed to bringing the perspective of a place-based, technically grounded practitioner to this Commission.

With over twenty years in water resource and utility management, from operating a small water system on Molokai to leading a statewide nonprofit, I have witnessed firsthand the impacts water management and regulations have on our communities. My service would be an act of aloha 'aina and kuleana to the generations who will inherit these islands and their kuleana of stewardship.

**2. What is your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Commission on Water Resource Management?**

The Commission on Water Resource Management serves as the principal state body entrusted with the management, development, and protection of Hawai'i's water resources as a public trust. Established under the State Water Code (HRS Chapter 174C) and grounded in the constitutional mandate to protect the State's water resources for present and future generations, the Commission carries weighty legal and moral duties.

As a commissioner, I understand my responsibilities to include: administering the state water code through permitting, water use oversight, and enforcement; protecting traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights to water; balancing competing demands among agricultural, municipal, domestic, and in-stream uses; ensuring that decisions are grounded in the best available scientific data while also honoring Indigenous and cultural knowledge; and maintaining transparency and public trust in the Commission's processes. The Commission's guiding motto: "Ke Kahawai Pono", or "the trustee who oversees the rightful sharing of water," captures the spirit of this role: equitable, principled stewardship on behalf of all the people of Hawai'i.

**3. Based on your understanding of the role and responsibilities of this position, please explain why you believe you are qualified to serve. Include a brief description of the skills, experience, expertise, or knowledge you would bring to the Commission and how they would inform your decision-making.**

I have over two decades of direct, hands-on experience in water resource management, utility operations, regulatory compliance, and community engagement, qualifications that directly align with the Commission's mandate.

As Executive Director of the Hawai'i Rural Water Association (HRWA), I lead a statewide nonprofit that provides technical, managerial, and financial assistance to rural and underserved water and wastewater systems across Hawai'i and the Western Pacific. Prior to this role, I served as General Manager of the Kawela Plantation Homeowners' Association for over a decade, where I was responsible for the day-to-day operation of its water system and oversaw efforts to bring it back into full compliance, earning it recognition as the State's best small water system. I hold a Grade 2 Water Distribution System Operator license from the State of Hawai'i Department of Health's Safe Drinking Water Branch.

My leadership extends to the national stage. I served as Vice President of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) from 2022 to 2023, becoming the first Native Hawaiian and the first kanaka wahine to serve on the AWWA Executive Committee. I have served as Chair of the AWWA-Hawai'i Section (2017-2018; 2024-2025), Director on the AWWA Board of Directors (2020-2023), and currently serve as President of the American Backflow Prevention Association-Hawai'i Chapter. I concluded my term on the Maui County Board of Water Supply in March 2026 and continue to serve on the Hawai'i County Workforce Development Board. I remain an active member of the East Molokai Watershed Partnership and the Molokai Fire Task Force.

These roles have equipped me to understand water systems from every vantage point—operational, regulatory, financial, cultural, and community-based. My decision-making on the Commission would be grounded in technical experience, fiduciary responsibility, Indigenous values, and a practical understanding of what communities need to achieve sustainable water security.

**4. If confirmed, what goals or priorities would you hope to accomplish during your term of service?**

During my term, my goal is to bring a balanced perspective to these vital discussions and find effective solutions that support the commission's purpose. I would prioritize the following goals:

**Utility Management Representation:** Water utilities are on the front lines of delivering safe, reliable water every day. Their operational knowledge, from compliance pressures to workforce challenges, is essential context for sound regulatory decision-making. I would work to ensure

that the lived experience of utility managers and operators is meaningfully incorporated into the Commission's work, bridging the gap between policy and practice.

**Strengthening Native Hawaiian Water Rights:** I am committed to upholding the Commission's constitutional and statutory duty to protect traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights to water, including access for taro cultivation, cultural practices, and community subsistence. These rights are foundational, and they must not be treated as secondary to other uses.

**Climate Resilience and Adaptive Management:** Climate change is already affecting Hawai'i's freshwater systems through shifting rainfall patterns, increased drought, saltwater intrusion, and watershed degradation. I would advocate for proactive watershed management, stronger source-water protection programs, and climate-resilient infrastructure investments that integrate Indigenous ecological knowledge and modern technology.

**5. Do you believe there is anything that could reasonably be perceived by the public as creating a conflict of interest or otherwise raise questions regarding your character, judgment, or ability to serve impartially on the Commission on Water Resource Management? If so, please explain.**

To the best of my knowledge, none of my current affiliations or employment obligations creates a real or perceived conflict of interest with the Commission's work. My role as Executive Director of the Hawai'i Rural Water Association focuses on technical and educational support to water utilities. It does not involve water permitting, water use rights, or proceedings before the Commission. My membership on the Maui County Board of Water Supply concluded in March 2026, prior to my Senate confirmation hearing to serve on the Commission.

I am fully committed to the ethical obligations of a public trustee. Should any situation arise during my service where a real or perceived conflict of interest exists, whether arising from my professional role, organizational memberships, or personal relationships, I would make full and prompt disclosure to the Commission and recuse myself from any related deliberations or votes, consistent with applicable law and the highest standards of public trust.

My career has been built on integrity, transparency, and service to community. I would bring those same values to the Commission without reservation.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my nomination. I am honored to offer my experience, my aloha for these islands, and my commitment to Ke Kahuwai Pono in service to the people and the wai of Hawai'i.

Malama,

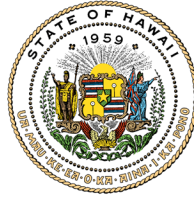


Juanita Noelani Reyher-Colón

Nominee, Commission on Water Resource Management (GM 640)

**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

**CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE**  
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**  
**RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE**  
**Acting Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on**  
**WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**Wednesday, April 15, 2026**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of**  
**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 640**  
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO**  
**THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT,**  
**GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,**  
**JUANITA REYHER-COLÓN**  
**FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2029**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports** the Governor's appointment of Ms. Juanita Reyher-Colón to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

The Commission is required under Section 174C-7, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to select commissioners through an open, competitive process. A nominating committee – composed of two members selected by the Governor, one by the Senate President, and one by the Speaker of the House – reviews the applications of candidates, conducts interviews, and submits to the Governor the names of at least three individuals for consideration for each open seat on the Commission.

By law, each nominee must have “substantial experience in the area of water resource management.” Juanita Reyher-Colón brings 20 years of practical experience in water system operations, workforce development, emergency preparedness, and source water protection.

She has held national leadership roles with the American Water Works Association and currently serves as a member of the Maui County Board of Water Supply where she brings a community-centered and culturally grounded approach to water governance.

During her time with the Hawai'i Rural Water Association, first as a source water specialist, and as executive director since 2020, she has focused on supporting rural communities through essential upgrades to water and wastewater facilities, contributed to training programs for water and wastewater professionals, and worked to enhance the capacity of rural water systems.

Within her own community, she is known for her support of water conservation and education efforts and sharing her expertise in water resources management.

If approved by the Senate, Ms. Reyher-Colón will bring to the Commission significant technical expertise, leadership, and a strong commitment to resilient systems for Hawai'i's communities and future.



**AKINAKA & ASSOCIATES, LTD.**  
Consulting Civil Engineers

Testimony of  
Ken C. Kawahara

Before the Committee on  
Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Wednesday, April 15, 2026  
1:00 P.M.

State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Conference Room 224

In consideration of  
GM640  
APPOINTMENT OF JUANITA REYHER-COLON

Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye and Honorable Members of the Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts:

I respectfully testify in strong support of the consideration and confirmation of Juanita Reyher-Colon to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Ms. Reyher-Colon has led the Hawaii Rural Water Association (HWRA) since 2020 as its Executive Director. She has also worked there in various capacities such as Program Manager and Source Water Specialist over the past 9 years. Additionally, she has worked as the General Manager and Office Manager for the Kawela Plantation Homeowners' Association for 11 years. In her capacity there, she managed their Water System. She is a certified Water System operator.

In addition, Ms. Reyher-Colon has been involved in numerous community and professional organizations including the Maui County Board of Water Supply, Hawaii County Workforce Development Board, American Backflow Preventors Association (ABPA), American Water Works Association – Hawaii Section, Vice-President for the American Water Works Association (AWWA), Molokai Fire Task Force, East Molokai Watershed Partnership and Maui County Board of Variance and Appeals Commission.

I am confident that Ms. Reyher-Colon will make significant contributions to the Commission on Water Resource Management and strongly support her nomination based on her experience and knowledge of water management.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken C. Kawahara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ken C. Kawahara, P.E.  
President



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
Wednesday, April 15, 2026 — 1:00 p.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports GM 640, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resources Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, Juanita Reyher-Colon, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.**

Dear Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy, clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

**Ulupono supports GM 640.** The confirmation of Ms. Reyher-Colon to the Water Commission would be a meaningful addition to the knowledge and experience of this important decision-making body. Her experience with helping small, rural communities maintain safe drinking water systems adds insight that state-level policies tend to overlook. Her strong ties to the Molokai community also provide a voice to an island that has never had representation on the Water Commission, despite their numerous connections to court cases that have shaped resource management policy.

We applaud the Legislature for considering Ms. Reyher-Colon, who we have great confidence will bring the wisdom needed to help the Water Commission fulfill its public trust responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Vice President of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



## HAWAII WATER SERVICE

P.O. Box 384809  
Waikoloa, HI 96738 *Tel:* (877) 886-7784 toll-free

**To:** The Honorable Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

**From:** Hawaii Water Service

**Date:** April 13, 2026

**Subject:** LETTER OF SUPPORT – GM 640: Nomination of **Juanita Noelani Reyher-Colón** to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM)

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the confirmation of **Juanita Noelani Reyher-Colón** to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM). Having worked closely with Ms. Reyher-Colón and observed her impact on the industry, I am confident that her professional expertise and collaborative approach make her an exceptional nominee for this vital role.

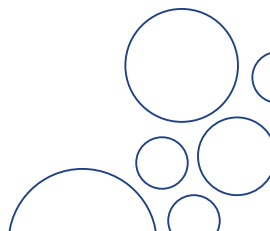
### **Unmatched Experience in Utility Management**

Ms. Reyher-Colón brings over two decades of hands-on experience in water utility operations and management. As the current **Executive Director of the Hawaii Rural Water Association**, she oversees a wide range of programs that provide technical assistance and guidance to rural and small communities across the islands. Her previous tenure as General Manager of the Kawela Plantation Homeowners' Association further demonstrates her ability to balance complex operational needs with fiscal responsibility.

### **Technical Leadership and Recognition**

Her technical credentials and leadership within the industry are exemplary:

- **Certified Expertise:** She holds a Grade 2 Distribution System Operator certification.
- **Proven Leadership:** She has held numerous leadership roles within the **American Water Works Association (AWWA)** at both the local and national levels, including serving as Vice-President of the AWWA and Chair of the Hawaii Section.
- **Industry Accolades:** Her dedication has been recognized with prestigious honors, such as the **2022 George Warren Fuller Award** and the **2020 Outstanding Member Award** from the AWWA.





## HAWAII WATER SERVICE

### **A Collaborative and Balanced Perspective**

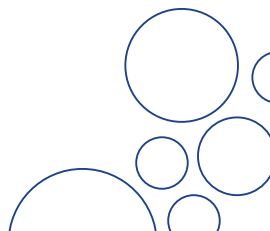
Beyond her technical skills, Juanita is known for her positive and professional approach to water system operations. She has a deep understanding of how various systems—from small rural setups to larger utilities—operate and interact. Her experience on the **Maui County Board of Water Supply** and the **Maui County Board of Variance and Appeals** has given her a nuanced perspective on the regulatory and community-driven aspects of water management in Hawaii. In my experience working with her, Juanita has consistently demonstrated a pragmatic and insightful view of utility management. She values efficiency, transparency, and the sustainable protection of our water resources.

Her combination of grassroots experience, technical certification, and high-level policy leadership is exactly what the CWRM needs to address the challenges facing Hawaii today. I strongly urge the Committee to support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

*Geoff Fulks*

Geoff Fulks  
General Manager, Hawaii Water Service



**LATE**

**GM-640**

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 8:52:55 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                            | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ian Ichimura        | Testifying for Pural Water Specialty Co., Inc. | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Senate,

My name is Ian Ichimura, and I submit this testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Juanita Reyher-Colon to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Juanita in a professional capacity, and I believe she will bring a thoughtful, principled, and well-balanced perspective to the commission. Her background and experience in water utility management and as the Executive Director of Hawaii Rural Water Association provide her with a practical understanding of how water policy decisions directly affect communities and long-term sustainability.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Ian Ichimura

**GM-640**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 9:16:04 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Zhantell Lindo      | Individual          | Support                   | In Person      |

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo for this opportunity to support JUANITA REYHER-COLON, Gubernatorial Nominee, to the Commission on Water Resource Management, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Her experience, advocacy, hard work ethics and exemplary professional and personal values are sure to be a great benefit to the commission and our communities.

Mahalo Nui

Zhantell KM Dudoit Lindo, Molokai Native

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

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



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


Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

April 14, 2026

**LATE**

TO: Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

FROM: Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Councilmember 

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF JUANITA REYHER-COLON,  
GM640**

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of GM640, relating to Juanita Reyher-Colon's consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I am testifying in my individual capacity as the Councilmember from Molokai, and proudly support Ms. Reyher-Colon's confirmation as the first individual from Molokai to serve on this commission. Finally.

Ms. Reyher-Colon brings a wealth of experience in land use, water policy, and community-centered advocacy. Her professional background demonstrates a clear knowledge of the legal, environmental, and cultural complexities surrounding water management in Hawai'i. She has consistently shown a commitment to engaging with communities and ensuring that decision-making processes are transparent and inclusive, such as attending community meetings I have hosted, inviting County board and commission members to share updates and announcements.

We need representation and leadership that is willing to approach decisions on CWRM with care, accountability, and a long-term view of what is best for our islands, for which Ms. Reyher-Colon is equipped. While serving on the Board of Water Supply, she participated in a Temporary Investigative Group to support my effort as a councilmember in developing the establishment of a water rate category for hotels and resorts. Her contribution helped our County implement the new water rate category four years ago, and has since supported our county in water conservation and generating enough revenue to invest back into watershed restoration.

Support of GM640, Ms. Reyher-Colon  
April 14, 2026  
Page 2

Historically, CWRM has disproportionately consisted of more kāne; adding another qualified wahine who just completed a 5-year term on our County's Board of Water Supply, would be ensure more meaningful discussion and decisions to better reflect diverse perspectives.

Water in Hawai'i is a public trust, and more importantly – waiwai - a cultural foundation and a vital element of life that must be protected for current and future generations. The decisions made by the commissioners carry immense responsibility and lasting consequences. It requires leadership that is grounded in the commitment to the next seven generations, understanding the delicate balance of the ecological needs with the growing demand of human consumption.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support GM640 and confirm Juanita Reyher-Colon to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Mahalo again for your consideration.

**Position: Support Measure: GM 640; Consideration and Confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee Juanita Reyher-Colon**

**Testimony:**

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of **Juanita Reyher-Colon** to the Commission on Water Resource Management. In my role with the Hawai'i Rural Water Association, I have had the privilege of working closely with Juanita and witnessing the depth of her technical expertise, her steady and principled leadership, and her unwavering commitment to protecting Hawai'i's water resources. She is one of the few individuals in our state who understands water systems from every angle; operational, regulatory, cultural, and community-based, and she brings that knowledge forward with humility and purpose.

Juanita's background in water utility management is not theoretical; it is grounded in decades of hands-on work with systems across Hawai'i, including some of the most rural and underserved communities. She understands the realities that small systems face, the regulatory pressures utilities must navigate, and the long-term planning required to ensure safe, reliable water for future generations. Her ability to translate complex technical issues into clear, balanced, and community-centered solutions is rare and deeply needed on this commission.

Her appointment also carries significant statewide importance. As she shared in her message, **Moloka'i has never had representation on this commission**. Ensuring that decision-making bodies reflect the communities they serve is essential to equitable governance, and Juanita brings a perspective shaped by lived experience, cultural grounding, and a deep sense of kuleana to the 'āina. Her voice would strengthen the commission's ability to understand and address the unique challenges faced by neighboring island communities.

What sets Juanita apart is her passion for leaving Hawai'i better than she found it. She approaches every issue; from water allocation to resource protection to long-term planning with a mindset rooted in stewardship. Her work is guided by the belief that our decisions today must honor the generations that will inherit this

place. She is collaborative, solutions-oriented, and committed to finding balanced approaches that uphold both environmental protection and community needs.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to confirm Juanita Reyher-Colon to the Commission on Water Resource Management. Her expertise, integrity, and dedication to Hawai'i's people and natural resources make her an exceptional and necessary addition to this commission.

**Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support.**

*Mahalo for Your Kokua,*

*Kimberly Chamberlain*

*Office Admin/Apprenticeship Co-Ordinator*

Hawaii Rural Water Association

68-1845 Waikoloa Road #218

PO Box 385212

Waikoloa, HI 96738

Phone: 808-315-8925

**GM-640**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 10:51:35 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Walter Boger        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Testimony in Support of Juanita Reyher-Colon

I strongly support the nomination of Juanita Reyher-Colon to the Water Commission. She brings extensive knowledge of water operations, including system management, infrastructure challenges, and sustainable resource planning—expertise that is critical to ensuring reliable and responsible water stewardship.

Mrs. Reyher-Colon has a proven commitment to serving rural and smaller communities, which are often overlooked in favor of larger population centers. She understands the unique challenges these communities face, from limited infrastructure to resource constraints, and has consistently worked to ensure their voices are heard and their needs addressed.

Her experience, dedication to rural communities, and strong operational knowledge make her an outstanding choice for the Water Commission.

Sincerely,  
Walter Boger

Subject: STRONG SUPPORT for the Confirmation of Juanita Reyher-Colon

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

My name is Penny Kaae, and I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Juanita Reyher-Colon to the Commission on Water Resource Management for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

Juanita Reyher-Colon brings years of experience and strong institutional knowledge of water management across every island of Hawai'i. Her understanding of the unique challenges facing our communities is grounded in both professional expertise and lived experience.

Her passion for water stewardship extends beyond Hawai'i through her leadership with the American Water Works Association (AWWA), where she served as Vice President and as the only woman of Hawaiian ancestry to hold that position. This level of national leadership reflects both her expertise and her commitment to advancing water management at the highest levels.

She also brings a strong background in water utility management and a clear goal to protect our water resources for future generations while contributing a balanced perspective to complex discussions. This is exactly the kind of leadership needed at this time.

Water is life in Hawai'i. Our communities need leaders who are experienced, thoughtful, and committed to both stewardship and equity. Juanita Reyher-Colon embodies these qualities.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support her confirmation.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Penny Kaae

Pu'ukapu, Waimea, Hawai'i

My name is Earl Ichimura, and I am the CEO of Pural Water Specialty Co., Inc. I am here to support the nomination of Juanita Reyher-Colon to be on the Commission of Water Resource Management.

I met Juanita over 25 years ago when she was the manager of a small water system in Molokai. Over the years I have seen Juanita grow as a technical resource and as a manager of water and people. She has always done this with an open, yet strong mind in all her roles in the water world. She has been actively involved in Hawaii and Nationally in American Water Works Association and National Rural Water Association. Her involvement and relationships locally and nationally have and will continue to benefit Hawaii and its people in managing our precious resource. She understands and communicates well with both the little guys and the Big Boys.

I ask you to vote yes for Juanita because she will represent Hawaii well on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

**GM-640**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 6:28:04 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>     | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jonathan Likeke Scheuer | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee:

There are many reasons to support this nomination. Ms. Reyher-Colon meets and exceeds the legal requirements to fill the position. I trust that other colleagues of hers will provide extensive testimony documenting these qualifications.

I wish to point out to the committee historical context which further underscores why the committee should recommend to advise and consent to this nomination.

I have maintained a record of all the people who have served on the State Commission on Water Resource Management since its inception in 1987. Years ago I began with some data provided to me by Commission staff, added in demographic and employment information, and have kept it updated. Two points are directly relevant to your considerations:

- Of the 55 people who have served, there has not ever been a resident of Molokai. This is egregious, especially in light of the long standing (and still ongoing) water disputes on the island which resulted in two critical Hawai`i Supreme Court rulings.
- Of the 55 people who have served, only 14 have been women.

To be clear, Ms. Reyher-Colon should be confirmed even if these facts were not also true, but they underscore how important this nomination is.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

sincerely,

Jonathan Likeke Scheuer, Ph.D.

**GM-640**

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 11:54:03 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kaleo               | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I would like to submit testimony in support of nominee Juanita Reyher-Colon. As a Molokai resident with 19 years in the water industry, I have witnessed Jaunita's commitment to assuring our water systems on-island and throughout the state receive key support needed to meet their needs. Her commitment to severing her community extends beyond water industry and into emergency services. She is familiar with serving on boards and dealing with community issues. I am certain she would be an asset to the commission.

**GM-640**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 10:03:05 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Laura Albert        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I am writing to respectfully urge your support for GM640 regarding the consideration and confirmation of Juanita Reyher-Colon to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM). I know Juanita through working together at the Hawai'i Rural Water Association, and have seen firsthand how knowledgeable and dedicated she is to both the people of Hawai'i and its water resources. She brings many years of experience in leadership and managerial roles in the water industry. In these positions, she has collaborated with diverse groups of people both from Hawai'i and beyond. I am always impressed by how many people she knows and has worked successfully with. Juanita's commitment goes beyond that, as she also actively participates in community outreach in water education. I have seen her selflessly volunteer her time and resources not just on her home island of Moloka'i, but across all the islands. She always gives her time and assistance to those who need it. Juanita's dedication and passion to the water of Hawai'i is palpable. It is something she truly cares about, not just professionally but personally as well. I am positive she would bring that commitment to the CWRM and undoubtedly be a valuable member. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**GM-640**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 10:21:14 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nani Kahinu         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha I am writing to support the nomination of Juanita Colon for the Commission on Water Resource Management. It is very important Molokai has a representative and with her background in utility management to help protect water resources for future generations

**GM-640**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 12:16:22 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>      | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Charles A. Kaahanui, III | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I am writing in support of Juanita Reyher-Colon for a seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I feel Juanita, with her years of experience in water utility management, would be beneficial to the work of the Commission. Her passion for protecting our water resources and love for our aina are key to serving our rural communities. More importantly, she would be a voice with Molokai Native Hawaiian roots spanning more than five generations.

I hope you will approve Juanita Reyher-Colon's appointment to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Aloha,

Charles A. Kaahanui, III

4th generation Hawaiian Homesteader

**GM-640**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 12:56:10 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alice Cabel Kaahanui | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I am writing in support of Governor Green's appointment of Juanita Reyher-Colon to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Juanita's experience in water utility management to help protect our water resources for future generations makes her the most viable candidate for this position. Water is our most precious resource and I trust that Juanita has the skills and background to make sound, fair decisions that will protect it.

I believe Juanita, a Native Hawaiian with Molokai roots at least six generations deep, would serve all of our islands with an innate passion for water preservation and protection. I hope you will confirm Juanita Reyher-Colon's appointment so that she can be the voice that truly represents us.

**LATE**

**GM-640**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 4:06:26 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marvin Kaleo Manuel | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I strongly support the confirmation of Juanita Reyher-Colon as a Commissioner for the Commission on Water Resource Management.

I have known Juanita for over a decade and have witnessed her leadership in the water sector here in Hawai'i and abroad. She has both the technical water expertise and lived experience in water resource management that will make her a valuable decision maker on the Commission. If confirmed, she will be the first from Moloka'i to sit on this Commission; a long overdue place-based perspective that has been missing.

I respectfully request the Chair and committee support her confirmation.

Ola i ka wai.

**LATE**

**GM-640**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 5:33:53 PM  
Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>             | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

strong support for our Molokai home sitter to have a voice in this Water Commission

**LATE**

Confirm Juanita Reyher-Colon to the Commission on Water Resource Management

Aloha kākou,

My name is Jade Chihara, and I am writing in strong support of Juanita Reyher-Colon's appointment to the Commission on Water Resource Management. I currently work for the Hawai'i Rural Water Association and I submit this testimony on my own behalf as a community member.

I am born and raised in Lahaina, and the issues of water access, protection, and governance are deeply personal to me. I've seen firsthand how decisions around wai impact our communities and how critical the Commission's work is for our future.

As someone currently working in the water field, I have had the privilege of learning under Juanita's leadership. She is not only my supervisor, but a mentor and a respected figure across our industry. She has reached a licensed Grade 4 Distribution System Operator which is the highest level in the state. Juanita brings decades of hands-on experience in both drinking water and wastewater. She is guided by values of her kūpuna, grounded in her roots on Moloka'i, and she consistently makes decisions that are technically sound and community-centered.

Her leadership has shaped my own understanding of water issues in Hawai'i — not just from a policy perspective, but through the day-to-day realities of operating and protecting water systems. It's not just about allotments; it's about understanding the systems, the science, and the responsibility to follow the Hawai'i Water Code — which is imperative in all decisions before the Commission.

Juanita has not only led on the ground — she has led at the table. She previously served on the Maui County Board of Water Supply and currently chairs the Executive Board of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Hawai'i Section. She has written technical standards for water audits and loss control programs and spearheaded the formation of the Hawai'i Rural Small Water and Wastewater Response Network (HI-SWARN), enhancing statewide emergency preparedness and coordination.

With numerous WUPA permits and the high potential for contested case hearings ahead, I strongly recommend appointing Juanita Reyher-Colon to the Commission. Her technical knowledge, cross-sector experience, and ability to fairly navigate complex permitting processes make her an invaluable asset at this moment.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit testimony to support Juanita Reyher-Colon.

Jade Chihara

**GM-640**

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 10:24:35 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

**LATE**

| <b>Submitted By</b>    | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Charles Theodore Johns | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I Charles Theodore Johns, State of Hawaii- Wastewater Certified Operator, license number 1999, support the nomination of Juanita Reyer-Colon. She has the skills to contribute to the goals of the of the Hawaii Water Commision on Water Resources.