

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3887

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 23 2026

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 738

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 738, submitting for study and consideration the nomination of:

KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

G.M. No. 738 KAIPULAUMAKANIOLONO KEALA
for a term to expire 06-30-2030,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by Kaipulaumakaniolono Keala for service on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the appointment of Kaipulaumakaniolono Keala from the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, and eight individuals.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Mr. Keala's background and dedication to serving the public qualify him to be appointed to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission as a Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana member. Your Committee notes that Mr. Keala currently works as an Assistant Professor at the Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies while completing his Doctorate of Philosophy at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Department of English. Mr. Keala has contributed many articles to scholarly publications, composed various mele, and been invited to speak and present at domestic and international conferences. Your



Committee further notes that Mr. Keala is an active member in his community and has served since 2003 with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana as a mo'olono and kua, and since 2021 with the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Cultural Working Group as a Hui Manamana Board Member. Your Committee finds that Mr. Keala has a thorough understanding of the role and responsibilities of board members, and his extensive expertise in Native Hawaiian cultural practices and understanding of the historical and political movements of Kaho'olawe will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. Your Committee therefore recommends that Kaipulaumakaniolono Keala be appointed to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission based on his knowledge, background, and dedication to public service.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts that is attached to this report, your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominee, has found the nominee to be qualified for the position to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land,
Culture and the Arts,



CHRIS LEE, Chair



