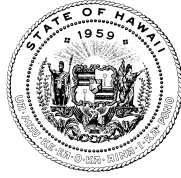


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawai'i*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. LAMBERT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRPERSON,
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026 AT 3:00PM IN CR 224

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE (GM) 511, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE MOLOKA'I IRRIGATION SYSTEM WATER USERS
ADVISORY BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, HARRY PURDY III,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2030**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of GM 511, the nomination of Harry Purdy III to the Moloka'i Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board (MISWUAB).

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is confident that Mr. Purdy will serve the MISWUAB diligently because Mr. Purdy understands the challenges, struggles, and needs concerning water for the people of Moloka'i-Nui-a-Hina. A trusted community member, homesteader, and longtime member of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations – Molokai Moku'āina, Mr. Purdy has for generations, seen how both a lack of adequate water supply and flooding, impacts the people of Moloka'i. More importantly, Mr. Purdy recognizes the changes that are necessary to improve the well-being of Moloka'i by honoring its natural resource systems and advocating for water rights and allocations for Hawaiian Home Lands and DHHL beneficiaries. As a small business farm owner of macadamia, Mr. Purdy knows that social capital is what makes his community and 'āina truly fruitful.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
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SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026
3:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 511
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE MOLOKA'I
IRRIGATION SYSTEM WATER USERS ADVISORY BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, HARRY PURDY III, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2030**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 511 nominating Harry Purdy III to the Moloka'i Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board (MISWUAB).

The department supports his nomination to serve as the Moku Puni O Moloka'i homestead farmer member. Mr. Purdy has been in the agricultural industry since 1982. He is a small business farm owner of No Hua o ka 'Aina DBA Purdy's Natural Macadamia Nut Farm on Moloka'i. The Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations recommended that Mr. Purdy serve on the MISWUAB as a member of Moloka'i Mokupuni.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

The Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands (AHHL) is a national waitlist governed association founded in 2009, a member of the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations (SCHHA). The AHHL is a Homestead Beneficiary Association (HBA) registered with the U.S. Department of Interior, meeting the federal definition under 43 CFR Part 48.6. Dedicated to *Ending the Hawaiian Home Land Waitlist* by pursuing reforms and delivering services that create success for native Hawaiians to homestead and build mercantile businesses.

March 29, 2026

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Association of Hawaiians for Homesteads Lands I am submitting testimony in strong support of GM511. The confirmation of Harry Kanekawaiola “Tuddie” Purdy III, a third-generation Ho‘olehua homesteader, to serve on the Moloka‘i Irrigation System (MIS) Water Users Advisory Board.

Harry Purdy embodies the generational ‘ike, stewardship, and lived experience that is essential to the success and sustainability of the Moloka‘i Irrigation System. As a Native Hawaiian beneficiary and lifelong farmer, he has owned and operated his agricultural business for over 43 years and remains an active MIS user. His direct, hands-on understanding of water access, distribution challenges, and agricultural viability on homestead lands positions him as a highly qualified and trusted representative of our community.

Beyond his farming experience, Harry has demonstrated decades of leadership within the Ho‘olehua Homestead Agricultural Association and the broader Moloka‘i community. From the 1990s through the early 2000s, he contributed significantly to community-building efforts, including organizing Kūhiō Day celebrations, advancing agricultural initiatives, and advocating for critical infrastructure improvements such as the extension of the MIS system along Lihi Pali Avenue. His work reflects a deep and ongoing commitment to strengthening both the cultural and economic foundations of homestead agriculture.

The Moloka‘i Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board plays a vital role as the official liaison between water users and the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture. Its responsibilities are especially critical given the aging infrastructure and the increasing demand for reliable, affordable water for homestead farmers. The Board must ensure equitable water distribution, advise on infrastructure repair and investment, maintain financial sustainability, and strengthen communication between the State and the Moloka‘i community.

Harry Purdy’s appointment is not only appropriate—it is necessary. His firsthand knowledge of homestead water rights, his history of advocacy, and his deep-rooted relationships within the farming community uniquely qualify him to represent the interests of Moloka‘i homesteaders. He will help ensure that decisions made at the advisory level reflect the realities on the ground and uphold the intent of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to support Native Hawaiian self-sufficiency through agriculture.

On behalf of the Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands (AHHL), and as a beneficiary advocate, I strongly urge your support and confirmation of Harry Kanekawaiola “Tuddie” Purdy III to fulfill the Moloka‘i Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board Seat.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit our testimony in support of this important appointment.

Ke aloha ‘āina,

Kainoa Lei MacDonald

Chair, Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands (AHHL)

GM-511

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 11:49:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Testifying for Ho'olehua homesteaders association	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Harry a.k.a. TUDI is a long time farmer here on Island and is extremely knowledgeable about the value that the water brings to everyone, including our farmers. We totally support his nomination.

GM-511

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 10:42:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Kalipi	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

As a life-long homesteader from a farming ohana, I am supporting Harry "Tuddie" Purdy as a nominee to be a member of the Molokai Irrigation System advisory board. He has the same farming background as I, and in fact became a farmer himself with his macademia nut farm and added value products. He has been active in community efforts to promote using our homestead lands for food sustinence, whether it be commercial or subsistence. We have a vibrant homestead association, and Tuddie and his ohana are active members and leaders in advocating for using our lands for which it was intended.

I believe Harry Purdy III will be an asset to the MIS advisory board and am in full support of his nomination for the mokupuni homestead seat.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Barbara Kalipi

GM-511

Submitted on: 3/29/2026 7:34:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Kahawaiolaa	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha e Senator Kouchi, President of the Hawaii State Senate, Vice Chair Senator Kidani and Honorable members of the Senate,

I'm Patrick Kahawaiolaa, a native Hawaiian, as defined pursuant to the HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT, 1920, as amended July 9, 1921 (42, 42 stat. 108, 67th Congress), an Act to amend an Act entitled "An Act to provide a government for the territory of Hawaii", approved April 30, 1900, as amended, to establish a Hawaiian Homes Commission, granting certain powers to the board of harbor commissioners, of the Territory of Hawaii and for other purposes...

I'm the interim Ikuha'i of the Komike O Kūpuna Ainahoopulapula (KOKA), a native Hawaiian Kūpuna beneficiary organization, which means an individual who meets the definition of "native Hawaiian" in the HHCA section 201(a)(7)), which Congress chose to use a high blood quantum requirement in the HHCA for individuals to be eligible for awards of leases of Hawaiian Homes lands because such blood quantum alone supports a presumption that the individual is a member of a Native American Community (Cf. 25 C. F. R. part 83. 11(b)(1)(i); (b)(2)(ii); and (c)(2)(ii))...

I submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT FOR HARRY KANEKAWAIOLA PURDY III**, a 3rd generation Ho'olehua homesteader, who I believe will commendably serve the native Hawaiian beneficiaries of Moloka'i on the Moloka'i Irrigation System Advisory Board...

"Tuddie" as he is affectionately referred to on the island, is a beneficiary who has owned and operated the family's farm business for approximately 43 years, is also a MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM user...

He and remains Active in the Ho'olehua Homestead Agricultural Association and the Community from the 90's, especially the Celebration of the Alii Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole birthday holidays...

He is also involved in farm projects, that included advocating for the Moloka'i Irrigation System extension on Lihi Pali Ave...

Mr. PURDY has a clear understanding of the Rights codified in laws under the HHCA, 1920 and as well as their needs, for he and continues to be a farmer...

For these reason I've mentioned and what you will hear from other testimonies for his appointment...

Please I strongly SUPPORT...Harry Kanekawaiola PURDY III for Appointment to the MIS ...Mokupuni Homestead Seat on this Advisory Board...

I can be reached at (808) 937-8217

HE ALII KA AINA ...HE KAUWĀ KE KANAKĀ

“The Land is the Chief, we are merely it's Servant”

‘Owau,

Patrick Kahawaiola'a, Advocate KOKA

GM-511

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 2:54:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/30/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doreen Canto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support