

## Moses K. N. Haia III Responses To Questions from the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

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

It would be an honor and a privilege for me to serve the residents of Hawai'i as a member of its Commission on Water Resources Management. For the majority of my career, I served as legal counsel on cases which sought to ensure the proper application and enforcement of the laws of the State of Hawai'i meant to protect our public trust resources. I believe my experience will serve the Commission on Water Resource Management and the people of Hawai'i.

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

My understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Commission on Water Resource Management is to be a fiduciary and trustee of this precious public trust resource and ensure that the best course of action for its protection and preservation is, in each instance, taken. This also means that a Commissioner must, where and when appropriate, always seek to strike a proper balance between competing interests for this finite public trust resource.

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.

In 1995, I began my work with the Native Hawaiian Advisory Council as a staff attorney. I was paired with the Honorable Judge Walter M. Heen (Retired) to represent the Office of Hawaiian Affairs ("OHA") in the Waiahole Combined Contested Case proceedings before the Commission on Water Resource Management.

In March of 2001, I was hired by the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (NHLC) as a staff attorney. In this capacity, I represented Native Hawaiian individuals living in East Maui whose traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights premised upon sufficient stream flow had been adversely impacted by the diversion of stream flow from several East Maui streams in a multitude of places on these streams, to Central Maui for the cultivation of sugar.

From 2010 and through 2019, I served as the Executive Director of NHLC and continued to represent Native Hawaiians whose traditional and customary rights were negatively impacted by stream flow diversions.

The Commission's motto, "Ke Kahawai Pono", loosely translated, means "the trustee who oversees the rightful sharing of water." In both my career as an attorney and my personal life, I have always sought and strived for balance. I deeply believe that "Ke Kahawai Pono" should serve as the foundational principle and guidance for anyone who either professionally and/or personally deals with this precious source of life to ensure it is there in appropriate supply to serve our life and the lives of generations to come.

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

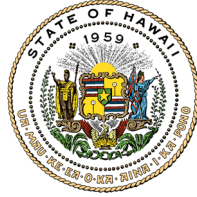
For each matter which comes before the Commission during my term of service, I will seek the proper protection and preservation of this finite public trust resource. Where and when competing interests are involved, I will do my best to find a proper balance between such interests.

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.

My answer to the above question is no.

**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. 639  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO  
THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
MOSES HAIA III,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2029**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports the Governor's appointment of Mr. Haia 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.” Mr. Haia has 30 years of experience as an attorney, including significant work in Native Hawaiian rights and water resource protection. Through his work with the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, he has been involved in landmark water law cases, which helped shape Hawai'i's modern framework for water resource management and the protection of traditional and customary rights.

Mr. Haia's legal experience reflects a deep understanding of the connections between water, land, and community, which are central to the Commission's mission to protect and manage Hawai'i's water resources for present and future generations. He has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring that cultural values and 'ike kūpuna are meaningfully considered in resource management decisions.

His background and perspective will strengthen the Commission's ability to navigate complex water use issues while upholding its obligations to present and future generations. This experience and dedication to stewardship will make him a thoughtful and valuable member of the Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Moses Haia III.

**LATE**



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR MESSAGE 639**

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MOSES HAIA III, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029.

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Wai, ‘Āina, a me ka Mo‘omeheu a me nā Hana No‘eau  
(Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Culture and the Arts)

Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i  
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

Apelila 15, 2026

1:00PM

Lumi 224

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Aloha e Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Senate Members of the Committee on Water, Land, and Culture and the Arts:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS GM639** which nominates Moses Haia III to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) for a three year period expiring June 30, 2029.

OHA has a vested interest in the stewardship and conservation of wai as essential to the exercise of a range of traditional and customary Native Hawaiian practices.<sup>1</sup> Wai is further protected by the constitutional public trust doctrine, guaranteeing that the state manage our natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.<sup>2</sup> CWRM and the State Water Code, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 174C, were enacted by this legislature to fulfill those constitutional obligations. OHA thus has a vested interest as the principle state agency responsible for advancing Native Hawaiian rights in ensuring that CWRM appointees are well versed in the public’s rights and interest in our wai as protected by law. See HRS § 10-3.

Under HRS § 174C-7(b), CWRM is comprised of five voting members who must “have substantial experience in the area of water resource management.” Members should bring diverse and relevant experience with water resources in areas of policy and science,

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<sup>1</sup> See Haw. Const. Art. XII, § 7.

<sup>2</sup> Haw. Const. Art. XI § 1

the ability to engage in complex decision-making, and due to our unique cultural landscape, have knowledge of Native Hawaiian water resource management and rights.

Mr. Haia readily qualifies to help fulfill CWRM's vital kuleana as the primary state agency responsible for stewardship of our wai. Mr. Haia has decades of experience as a practicing attorney directly involved in seminal cases that have helped advance the public trust in water, including through his prior position as Executive Director of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. Through his professional experience, Mr. Haia has developed expertise not only in the rights that Native Hawaiians and the public hold in our water resources, but also the lived experience of communities that have historically been most affected by water management decisions. His confirmation would bring not only this professional and legal expertise in water management, but also a proven record of public service to the community, and particularly to rural Native Hawaiian communities.

For these reasons, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **ADVISE AND CONSENT TO GM639.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana  
1733 Wili Pa Loop, B-1  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793



April 14, 2026

Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

**RE: GM 639 Testimony in SUPPORT of Moses Haia III for Confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM)**

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

The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO) submits this testimony in **strong support** of GM 639, the appointment of Moses Kalei Nāhonoāpi'ilani Haia, III, to the State of Hawai'i Commission on Water Resource Management.

For fifty years, the PKO has worked to restore and mālama the island of Kaho'olawe. Our work is rooted in the understanding that wai (water) is life. The responsible stewardship of our water resources is intrinsically tied to the health of our 'āina, our kānaka, and the future of Hawai'i. We believe Mr. Haia's work aligns with these values.

Mr. Haia's distinguished legal career reflects an enduring commitment to Native Hawaiian rights and values. Through his leadership at the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, as both Staff Attorney and Executive Director, he has advocated for the protection of Native Hawaiian rights, including traditional and customary practices, access to land and resources, and water rights. His work demonstrates a clear alignment with the values that guide the PKO: aloha 'āina, kuleana, and intergenerational stewardship.

Of particular significance is Mr. Haia's involvement in the Waiahole Combined Contested Case Hearings before the State Commission on Water Resource Management. The Waiahole decision stands as a landmark affirmation of water as a public trust, reinforcing the principle that water must be protected for the benefit of the people and future generations. The understanding of this principle is not merely theoretical, it is foundational to the ongoing restoration of Kaho'olawe, where the island's capacity to foster its own fresh water resources and sustain its shared water resources with all of Maui Nui is absolutely critical to healing and regreening the island.

Haia also brings extensive experience in legislative advocacy, policy development, and community engagement, having drafted legislation and testified on matters impacting Native Hawaiian rights. His service across numerous boards and organizations reflects a lifetime dedication to advancing the well-being of Native Hawaiian communities.

This appointment is about more than professional qualifications; it is about trust. It is about ensuring that those entrusted with the stewardship of Hawai'i's most vital resources understand

their sacred nature and the deep responsibility that comes with it. Mr. Haia has demonstrated throughout his career that he carries this understanding with integrity and humility.

As an organization grounded in the teachings of our kūpuna, we are guided by the principle: *He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kānaka*. 'Āina, land, and wai, water, must be held in the highest regard, and our actions must reflect this philosophy. We believe Mr. Haia embodies this moral and will uphold it in service to the people of Hawai'i while holding utmost regard for the best interest of the 'āina.

For these reasons, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana strongly supports the confirmation of Moses Kalei Nāhonoāpi'ilani Haia, III through the approval of GM 639. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Aloha 'Āina,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua Kaakua". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joshua Kaakua for the

Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 8:51:45 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>
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/12/2026 9:07:05 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>
Amy Luersen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT Moses Haia III for Commission on Water Resource Management.

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 7:25:42 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou e Chair Lee and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture, and Arts,

I humbly offer this testimony in **strong support of GM639**, confirming gubernatorial nominee **Moses Kalei Nāhonoapi‘ilani Haia, III** to the State of Hawai‘i Commission on Water Resource Management.

Mr. Haia’s decades of legal service reflect not only expertise, but a profound commitment to the responsible stewardship of Hawai‘i’s natural resources. His work in Native Hawaiian rights, particularly in matters of water, land, and traditional practices, demonstrates a deep understanding that these resources are not merely assets, but the very foundation of our identity and survival.

Ancestral intelligence affirms that water is present in all forms of life. Our kūpuna recognized wai as a living force, not a resource to be extracted, but a relation to be cared for. In this understanding, the stewardship of water becomes an act of maintaining ea, life of the ‘āina and its people, for generations to come.

For Hawai‘i, wai is life, and where there is wai, there is ea. Mr. Haia has shown throughout his career that he understands this truth, and **I respectfully urge your support of GM639.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Mahalo piha,

‘Ānela Evans

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts  
Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 1 pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Support for GM 738 for Nominee Kaipulaumakaniolono Keala to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha e Chair Lee, Vice Inouye, and Committee Members,

I am a member of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana. I submit **testimony in strong support of GM738** in my personal capacity.

I have worked along Keala for many years on Kaho‘olawe where we as PKO members help to facilitate community accesses to help restore the island after decades of abuse from the military. I have seen firsthand Keala’s dedication to the work the PKO does, including his commitment to conducting the Makahiki ceremonies as a mo‘olono that were the impetus for Kānaka to gain access during the military’s occupation and that are critical for bringing consistent rain to regreen Kaho‘olawe.

I am confident that as a commissioner, Keala will not only bring his experience as a cultural practitioner but his knowledge as a scholar of Hawaiian history that will provide an unique perspective to the Commission.

Please vote to support GM 738.

Humbly,

Kaulu Lu‘uwai

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 4:09:20 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 Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I support the nomination of Moses Haia III to the Commission on Water Resource Management and ask that the Chair and committee advise and consent to his confirmation.

Ola i ka wai.

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 6:52:06 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>
Sherry Broder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Lee and Committee Members, I give Mr. Moses Haia III the highest recommendation possible for a position on the WRM. He is very committed to protecting our valuable resources and raising up the status of our people. He has devoted his professional life to representing Native Hawaiian values and that benefits all peoples of Hawai'i. He is really a giant among seekers of justice and fairness. He will serve with honor and distinction. I am grateful he is willing to serve.

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 8:14:48 PM

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>
David Kimo Frankel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Solid.

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 9:06:08 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>
Jennifer Kau'i Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jennifer Kau'i Young and I support the appointment of Moses Haia III.

A former staff attorney and director of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corp., Mr. Haia spent much of his legal career litigating or overseeing litigation involving Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, water rights, and other issues that may be particularly relevant to CWRM's constitutional and statutory responsibilities.

Our BLNR should be run by community leaders who plan to steward our 'āina for the foreseeable future in the interests of the public good instead of pillaging our 'āina to fatten their own private pockets and uphold destructive legacies of mismanagement. Appointing Moses Haia III is a step in the right direction.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Jennifer Kau'i Young

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 9:25:37 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>
Davianna McGregor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts. Mr. Haia's legal career as a Staff Attorney and as Executive Director for the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation qualifies him as an expert in water rights and managing the precious fresh waters of our Hawaiian islands as a public trust. Haia also brings extensive experience in legislative advocacy, policy development, and community engagement, having drafted legislation and testified on matters impacting Native Hawaiian rights. I fully support the appointment of Moses Haia,esq to the Commission on Water Resource Management and urge approval of GM639.

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 9:36:04 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaimo Muhlestein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ka‘imookalani Muhlestein. I stand in support of the confirmation of Moses Haia to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Mr. Haia brings a wealth (waiwai) of knowledge (‘ike) and a deep understanding of law (kānāwai), grounded in both the Hawaiian and Western sense of place. His dedication through his work as a staff attorney and as Director of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation reflects a strong legal perspective rooted in the understanding of nohona Hawai‘i—the Hawaiian way of life—where kanaka and mālama ‘āina are inseparable.

Wai is the source of life. Mr. Haia, if confirmed, will uphold the Commission on Water Resource Management’s constitutional and statutory responsibilities with integrity and cultural awareness.

He ali‘i ka ‘āina, he kauwā ke kanaka—Moses Haia embodies this noble ‘ōlelo no‘eau.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 10:03:09 PM  
Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye, and members of the committee,

My name is Lauren and I am in strong support of Moses Haia III's nomination.

For decades, the stewardship of our precious water resources has too often been guided by development and commercial interests that has resulted in gross misuse and imbalance. In the face of growing climate destabilization and competing demands on our water, we cannot afford commissioners who lack direct experience in the legal and cultural frameworks that govern water in Hawai'i.

Mr. Haia brings precisely the kind of expertise, integrity, and deep legal understanding that the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) urgently needs. As a former staff attorney and director of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, Mr. Haia spent much of his legal career litigating and overseeing complex cases involving Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights and water rights; issues lie at the heart of CWRM's constitutional and statutory responsibilities.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Haia's nomination.

Me ke aloha 'āina,

Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 10:12:35 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>
Laakea Muhlestein	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Laakea Muhlestein.

I stand in support of the confirmation of Moses Haia to the commission on water resource management. Mr. Haia brings 'Ike (knowledge) and a strong grounding in kanawai (law), in both Hawaiian and Western perspective. Through his work with the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, he demonstrates that Nona Hawaii - our way of life - binds Kanaka and Malama 'Aina as one. Moses Haia will uphold the Commission's constitutional and statutory responsibilities with integrity and cultural awareness. The land is the chief; Man is its servant - Moses Haia is an embodiment of this noble 'olelo no'eau. Mahalo

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 11:43:16 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>
Patti Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **support** the nomination of Moses Haia III for a first term on the Water Commission (CWRM).

His background and experience will add an important perspective to CWRM's work that will impact generations to come.

Please support his nomination.

Thank you.

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 11:59:00 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>
John L Reppun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support!

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 5:25:42 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>
kalena Charlene Holani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support this movement and ask you all do the same

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 8:23:35 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>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Nanea Lo, and I respectfully submit testimony expressing concerns regarding the nomination of Moses Haia III to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM).

CWRM holds a critical responsibility in upholding Hawai‘i’s constitutional mandate to protect and manage water resources for the benefit of the public, including the protection of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. This role requires Commissioners who can balance complex legal, cultural, environmental, and community considerations in a fair and transparent manner.

Mr. Haia brings extensive legal experience, particularly in areas related to Native Hawaiian rights, water law, and the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. This background is undeniably relevant, especially given that past CWRM decisions have, at times, fallen short in adequately recognizing and prioritizing the rights of Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, kuleana landowners, and beneficiaries.

However, it is precisely because of the weight and complexity of these issues that I offer the following concerns for consideration.

CWRM’s role is not solely adjudicative—it is also deeply policy-driven and requires Commissioners to engage in broad-based decision-making that impacts a wide range of stakeholders across the state. Given Mr. Haia’s extensive background in litigation and advocacy, it is important to understand how he will transition from an advocacy role into one that requires impartiality, balance, and the integration of diverse perspectives, including agricultural users, environmental interests, and broader community needs.

Additionally, the Commission is tasked with rebuilding public trust following years of contentious water decisions. Ensuring that Commissioners can foster collaboration, transparency, and confidence among all stakeholders will be essential moving forward.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to carefully consider how Mr. Haia’s experience and approach will translate into the unique responsibilities of a CWRM Commissioner.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 8:46:31 AM  
Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya K.D. Alana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly **SUPPORT MOSES HAIA.**

Mr. Haia spent much of his legal career litigating or overseeing litigation involving Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, water rights, and other issues that may be particularly relevant to CWRM’s constitutional and statutory responsibilities.

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 9:08:45 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>
Olan Leimomi Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **strongly support** Mr. Haia's nomination to serve on CWRM, as he has extensive knowledge, expertise, and experience in water law and political issues here in Hawai'i. He is also a well-respected leader in our Native Hawaiian community and an overall great guy. Please approve his nomination.

me ke aloha,

Olan Leimomi Fisher, Hale'iwa

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 9:30:15 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>
Calvin Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear WLA committee members,

I strongly support the nomination of Moses Haia. I have watched Moses and kept abreast of his career for the last 25 years and can attest to his commitment to our community. Moses will be fine addition to the Comission on Water Resources Management. Please support his nomination.

Aloha Calvin Young

**LATE**

**GM-639**

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 10:59:13 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>
Thomas Haia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support Moses K. N. Haia III's nomination to the Commission on Water Resource Management ("COWRM"). Throughout his legal career, Mr. Haia has dedicated himself to water, land and natural resource issues important to the preservation of Hawaiian culture and community. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of Mr. Haia's confirmation to COWRM.