

April 15, 2026

Senator Chris Lee
Chair, Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Hawai'i State Senate
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Nomination of Michelle Lou Noe Noe Wong-Wilson
Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority

Aloha Chair Lee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to respond to your questions pertaining to my renomination to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA). Please find my responses to the questions below.

1. Why do you wish to serve as a member of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority?

My commitment to the care of Mauna Kea is rooted in kuleana. As a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner, kumu, and haumana residing in Kaiwiki on the mauna's eastern slope, stewardship of these wahi pana is a responsibility I carry personally — not simply a role I hold.

I have been engaged in this work since 2021, when I served on the initial Mauna Kea Working Group convened to consider the formation of the very entity I now seek to continue serving. I was appointed to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority in 2023 for a two-year term that should have expired in 2025 and has been held over for one year, and I have served as First Vice Chair from the Authority's inception. Throughout, I have been closely involved in the processes required to stand up this new State of Hawai'i entity charged with the long-term protection of the summit areas of Mauna Kea and the Hale Pōhaku Visitor Information Station, and with the management of human activity in these places.

Much has been accomplished, but significant work remains within the timelines and structural requirements set by the founding legislation. I believe my continuity of experience — from the Working Group through the Authority's formative years — positions me to help carry that work to completion. I am deeply committed to the intent of the law that created MKSOA and to ensuring that the organization we build reflects both that intent and the lasting obligation we owe to the mauna. I would be honored to continue in this service.

2. What is your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority?

Members of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority are entrusted with ensuring that the intent of Act 255 and all related laws are fully embedded in the Authority's structure, policies, plans, and actions. This kuleana extends well beyond the boardroom. It requires attendance and informed participation at monthly public Authority meetings, active service on assigned committees, presence at community meetings, and meaningful engagement with the public, lineal and cultural descendants, scientists, and stakeholders whose lives and practices are tied to Mauna Kea.

Members are also responsible for exercising sound judgment in matters of governance, policy development, budget, rulemaking, and oversight of operations at the summit areas and Hale Pōhaku, while holding the Authority accountable to the communities it serves and to Mauna Kea.

My experience over the past three years has made clear that standing up a new government entity of this nature demands a significant and sustained commitment of time, preparation, and collaborative effort in support of the full Authority, its staff, and its consultants. It also requires a willingness to navigate complex questions with patience, cultural grounding, and a long view, recognizing that the decisions made now will shape the stewardship of Mauna Kea for generations to come.

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 Authority and how they would inform your decision-making.

Since the Authority's inception in 2023, I have served as First Vice Chair, a role in which I have demonstrated leadership alongside my fellow members in guiding the formation of this new entity, shaping its governance practices, and representing the Authority in public and community settings. I bring deep expertise in Hawaiian cultural protocols, mo'olelo, and 'ike Hawai'i, which I apply directly to the Authority's deliberations and which complements the diverse skills and knowledge of my colleagues. This grounding ensures that cultural considerations are not an afterthought in our decision making but are woven into the structure, policies, and practices we are building.

As a kumu and haumana, I also bring the discipline of a lifelong learner and teacher, someone accustomed to listening carefully, thinking critically, and translating complex matters into language that is accessible and meaningful to the communities we serve.

Beyond the board table, I am deeply connected to communities, cultural practitioners, and leaders across Hawai'i Island and throughout the Pae 'Āina. These relationships, built over many years, allow me to engage across islands, sectors, and perspectives, and to bring forward voices and concerns that might otherwise go unheard. In my decision making, I draw on this combination of cultural knowledge, community relationships, and governance experience to weigh issues carefully and with an eye toward long term stewardship rather than short term convenience.

I am committed to continuing this work with the same level of preparation, collaboration, and aloha for the mauna that has guided my service thus far.

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

My central priority, if confirmed, is to ensure that MKSOA meets the obligations and timelines set by its founding legislation, most critically the finalization of the Comprehensive Management Plan and the adoption of Administrative Rules. Both are essential to completing the orderly transition of authority from the University of Hawai'i to MKSOA within the statutory transition period.

This work is well under way, and maintaining momentum is critical. The Authority, its staff, and its consultants have made substantial progress, and my goal is to help ensure that pace continues without compromising the quality, cultural integrity, or community grounding of the final products. A plan and rules delivered on time but poorly crafted would not serve the mauna. Neither would a thoughtful framework delivered too late to guide the transition. Both timing and substance matter, and I am committed to holding that balance.

Beyond these core deliverables, I would prioritize the following:

Building a durable organizational foundation for MKSOA, including sound governance practices, clear operational structures, and the staffing capacity needed to carry the work forward beyond the transition period.

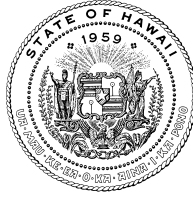
5. Do you believe there is anything that could reasonably be perceived by the public as creating a conflict of interest or otherwise raise questions regarding your character, judgment, or ability to serve.

No. I am not aware of any matter, relationship, or circumstance that could reasonably be perceived as a conflict of interest or that would raise legitimate questions regarding my character, judgment, or ability to serve on the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

I appreciate the opportunity to answer these questions. I would appreciate the support of the members of the Water, Land, Culture and Arts Committee for my re-nomination to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority for another full term of 3 years.

Me ka ha'aha'a, Most humbly,

Noe Noe Wong-Wilson, PhD



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of
Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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

Thursday, April 23, 2026
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 740

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

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of **Governor's Message No. 740**, regarding the reappointment of **Michelle Noe Noe Wong-Wilson** to serve on the **Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Committee** for a term to expire on June 30, 2029.

Michelle Noe Noe Wong-Wilson is a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner, former Assistant Professor of Hawaiian Studies at Hawaii Community College, and Executive Director of Lalakea Foundation.

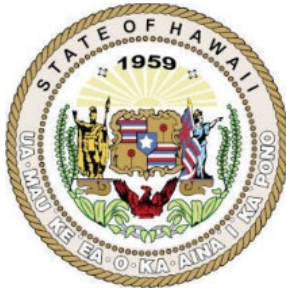
As First Vice Chair of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Committee, she has applied her expertise as a Kanaka Maoli educator and cultural practitioner to support the long-term care of this culturally significant resource.

I am confident that Ms. Noe Noe Wong's experience and record of service clearly demonstrate her qualifications for this reappointment, and I am pleased to offer my support.

Mahalo for your consideration.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JOHN KOMEIJI
Chairperson

KIMO ALAMEDA
POMAI BERTELMANN
NEIL HANNAHS
PAUL HORNER
*BONNIE IRWIN
RYAN KANAKA'OLE
KALEHUA KRUG
BEN KUDO
LANAKILA MANGUIL
RICH MATSUDA
NOE NOE WONG-WILSON

*ex-officio

MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

688 Kino'ole Street #212, Hilo, HI 96720
Telephone (808) 272-0259
Website: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/maunakea-authority/>

April 22, 2026

Committee On Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Member

Senator Rachele Lamosao, Member

Senator Samantha DeCorte, Member

Submitted Electronically

SUBJECT: GM 740: Letter of Support for the Consideration and Confirmation of Nominee, MICHELLE NOE NOE WONG-WILSON to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) for a Term to Expire on 06.30.2029

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Distinguished Committee Members:

The effectiveness of Michelle Noe Noe Wong-Wilson as an Authority Member is evidenced by her actions during her first term including her preparation and full engagement at each of our monthly meetings. In May 2021 Dr. Wong-Wilson was appointed to the Mauna Kea Working Group whose final set of recommendations proposed a new governance structure for the Mauna Kea lands, which led to the formation of MKSOA. In addition, Dr. Wong-Wilson is MKSOA's 1st Vice Chair and serves on MKSOA's four-member Permitted Interaction Group for Performance and Oversight, which brings her into frequent contact with the operational staff of MKSOA.

Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson is the quintessential "Renaissance Woman" – who (by definition) is a person with wide-ranging knowledge, interests, or expertise across multiple fields, spanning both the arts and sciences. She has an unquenchable curiosity, inventive imagination, and a commitment to lifelong learning. Dr. Wong-Wilson has earned the respect of her peers, and she inspires the emerging generations of Native Hawaiian leaders. As a Hawaiian cultural practitioner her perspectives are both deeply rooted in tradition and universal in its outreach. Above all else, she is a caring matriarch of a loving family. The culmination of all these traits makes Dr. Wong-Wilson a formidable leader at MKSOA.

In the fifty years that I've known and worked with Dr. Wilson there are certain characteristics that have been present throughout such as, an intelligence that is beyond her years, a motivation to excel in all of her endeavors and a warmth emanating from her soul that is matched by the spirit of a proficient warrior for peace and restorative justice in Hawaii nei.

In closing I urge this committee to advance the nomination of Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson toward confirmation by the full Senate for a term at MKSOA that will expire on 06.30.2029.

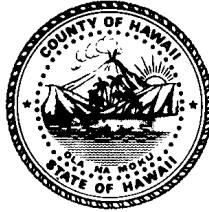
Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John De Fries". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John De Fries

Executive Director

HEATHER L. KIMBALL
COUNCIL DISTRICT 1
(North Hilo, Hāmākua, and portion of
Waimea)



Phone: (808) 961-8828
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: Heather.Kimball@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL
25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

April 21, 2026

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Honorable Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Submission via online testimony only

RE: Support of GM 740; Dr. Michelle Noe Noe Wong-Wilson to Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority

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

I am writing to express my support for the confirmation of Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA). As a Hawai‘i County Council Member representing a district closely connected to Mauna Kea, I appreciate the importance of appointing individuals with the experience, judgment, and commitment necessary to help guide its future stewardship.

Dr. Wong-Wilson brings an exceptional record of public service, education, and community leadership. As an Assistant Professor of Hawaiian Studies at Hawai‘i Community College, she played a key role in advancing student success initiatives, and she continues her leadership as Executive Director of the Lālākea Foundation. Her academic credentials, including a Doctor of Philosophy focused on Native Hawaiian well-being, reflect both depth of knowledge and a sustained commitment to research and education.

In addition to her academic and professional accomplishments, Dr. Wong-Wilson has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to public service through her leadership roles in numerous community and statewide organizations. Her current service as First Vice Chair of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority provides valuable continuity, institutional knowledge, and practical experience that will benefit the Authority’s ongoing work.

Dr. Wong-Wilson’s combination of professional expertise, community involvement, and thoughtful leadership makes her well-qualified to serve in this important role. I respectfully urge your favorable consideration and confirmation of her appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

Sincerely,

HEATHER L. KIMBALL



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

From: Jean-Gabriel Cuby, Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope Executive Director

Date: April 21, 2026

GM: 740

GM Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELLE NOE NOE WONG-WILSON, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Subject: **SUPPORT for GM740**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of Dr. Michelle “Noe Noe” Wong-Wilson’s confirmation to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) for a term ending June 30, 2029.

I first met Dr. Wong-Wilson shortly after becoming Director of CFHT, at a workshop on mutual stewardship during the 2023 annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society. I later invited her to talk story with our staff, and we have frequently crossed paths at community events and MKSOA community workshops. These interactions have given me a consistent and meaningful view of Dr. Wong-Wilson’s leadership.

In situations where community members raised difficult and sometimes skeptical questions about MKSOA’s authority and role, I witnessed Dr. Wong-Wilson respond with deeply Hawai’i-rooted wisdom and respect. Dr. Wong-Wilson’s presence is essential to building the trust that Hawai’i’s legislators aimed to foster with Act 255. This trust rests on the credibility and personality of people like Dr. Wong-Wilson, whose respect and reputation in the community are grounded in her na’auao, ‘ike, mana’o and demonstrated commitment to the protection of the community and ‘āina.

Trust, importantly, is on both sides. Alongside the Maunakea Observatories, I fully support the MKSOA process as a necessary path toward a governance model rooted in mutual stewardship, respect for the ‘āina, and social justice. Dr. Wong-Wilson’s ability to reconcile different perspectives - combining Indigenous knowledge and wisdom with contemporary scientific frameworks - enables her to offer fair and sustainable solutions for Maunakea.

I offer my full confidence in Dr. Wong-Wilson’s continued service and strongly support her confirmation, along with that of other MKSOA members up for confirmation, to carry forward the work initiated over the past three years toward a pono and enduring framework for Maunakea stewardship.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Cuby', written in a cursive style.

Jean-Gabriel Cuby, Director, Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope



www.kalihipalama.org

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM740, CONTINUING THE MEMBERSHIP OF DR. NOENOE WONG-WILSON TO THE MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

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

The Kalihi-Pālama Hawaiian Civic Club respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of continuing Dr. NoeNoe Wong-Wilson's membership on the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA).

As a civic club committed to the improved welfare of Native Hawaiians and the preservation and perpetuation of our culture, we recognize Mauna a Wākea as a sacred ancestor and piko of our people. Its stewardship carries profound cultural, spiritual, and environmental responsibility.

Through the enactment of Act 255 (2022), the State of Hawai'i established the MKSOA to transform the governance of Mauna Kea by centering Native Hawaiian voices and facilitating a structured transition toward a more balanced, culturally grounded stewardship model.

Since its establishment under Act 255, the MKSOA has made meaningful foundational progress. It has:

- Established a new governance framework that elevates Native Hawaiian leadership;
- Initiated co-management during the transition period;
- Conducted statewide community engagement to gather mana'ō from diverse stakeholders;
- Begun developing a comprehensive management plan to guide future stewardship.

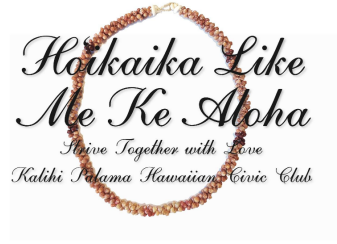
These accomplishments reflect an important movement toward the intent of Act 255. However, they are foundational, and the most critical decisions and responsibilities remain ahead.

Since the Authority remains in this formative and transitional phase, continuity of leadership is essential.

Dr. Wong has been integral to this work. Her service reflects:

- Deep grounding in 'ike Hawai'i and understanding of the sacredness of Mauna a Wākea;
- The ability to navigate complex issues with balance, integrity, and cultural sensitivity;
- Institutional knowledge of the Authority's responsibilities and transition timeline under Act 255;
- A steadfast commitment to aloha 'āina and accountability to the lāhui.

Replacing a leader at this stage risks disrupting the progress envisioned by Act 255, reducing continuity, and weakening relationships and trust still being built.



www.kalihipalama.org

Continuity ensures:

- That the vision and intent of Act 255 remain steady and coherent;
- That engagement with community and cultural practitioners continues to deepen;
- That the transition to full authority is carried out with stability, integrity, and cultural alignment.

Leaders such as Dr. Wong-Wilson provide not only expertise but also credibility and trust—qualities essential to the Authority's success at this critical juncture.

For these reasons, the Kalihi-Pālama Hawaiian Civic Club respectfully urges this Committee to approve the continuation of Dr. NoeNoe Wong-Wilson as a member of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Cedric Duarte, Pelekikena
Kalihi-Pālama Hawaiian Civic Club



Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

RE: Strong support of GM740

April 23, 2026

Hawaiian Council writes in **strong support of GM740** for consideration and confirmation of Michelle Noe Noe Wong-Wilson to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

With a distinguished background in education, Native Hawaiian advocacy, and community leadership, Dr. Wong-Wilson brings a depth of experience and 'ike essential to the work of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA). Her career has been grounded in advancing educational equity and uplifting Native Hawaiian perspectives, with leadership roles spanning secondary and higher education, as well as statewide initiatives that center culture, identity, and place-based learning.

These experiences have shaped the well-rounded perspective she contributes to MKSOA. Her expertise in strategic planning, community engagement, and cultural stewardship allows her to thoughtfully navigate the complex responsibilities of the Authority. Since the establishment of MKSOA in 2022, its goal “to protect Mauna Kea for future generations and manage the lands for the purpose of fostering a mutual stewardship paradigm in which ecology, the environment, natural resources, cultural practices, education, and science are in balance and synergy” is a mission that Dr. Wong-Wilson has continuously upheld throughout her tenure.

In 2022, Dr. Wong-Wilson was one of three names submitted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and was selected to serve on MKSOA, entrusted to represent the interests and voices of the lāhui while helping guide the stewardship of Mauna Kea. In addition to her professional accomplishments, she exemplifies the values of cultural integrity, transparency, and community-centered leadership that are critical to the Authority's success. If reappointed, we are confident that Dr. Wong-Wilson will continue to provide thoughtful leadership and contribute meaningfully to the community, the lāhui, and the future of Mauna Kea.

For these reasons, Hawaiian Council respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS GM740**. Mahalo for your continued efforts in supporting the lāhui.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kūhiō Lewis
CEO, Hawaiian Council

HAWAIIANS ADVANCING HAWAI'I

91-1270 Kinoiki Street, Building 1, Kapolei, HI 96707

info@hawaiiancouncil.org

www.hawaiiancouncil.org



Testimony to the Committee on Water, Land, Arts and Culture on

Governor's Message 740

**Nomination of Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson to the
Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority**

Thursday, April 23, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

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

The undersigned leaders of the Maunakea Observatories appreciate the opportunity to share our **strong support of the confirmation of Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson** to continue serving on the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA).

We are in full support of the MKSOA and its members, including First Vice Chair Michelle Noe Noe Wong-Wilson. We believe that Dr. Wong-Wilson and the MKSOA board as a whole are on the right path and have made considerable progress to date in developing a management plan for Maunakea and acting in accordance with the intent of Act 255, which calls for mutual stewardship in the governance of Maunakea. The MKSOA's engagement of Kua O Wākea to support strategic planning, as evidenced by the series of community workshops held in January and February of this year illustrate the commitment and competence of First Vice Chair Wong-Wilson and the current MKSOA board.

In order to continue this forward momentum, continuity in the make-up of the MKSOA board is critical. The relationships First Vice Chair Wong-Wilson has built with key stakeholders and the community, as well as contextual knowledge she has developed over her first term, are invaluable at this juncture. To search for a new First Vice Chair and go through the appointment process at this time would create serious delays in the MKSOA process and jeopardize progress made to date.

We are grateful for your consideration of this testimony and strongly urge that you recommend First Vice Chair Wong-Wilson for reappointment.

With aloha,



Geoff Bower, Director
East Asian Observatory



Mark Chun, University of Hawai'i 2.2-meter
Telescope



Jean-Gabriel Cuby, Director
Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope



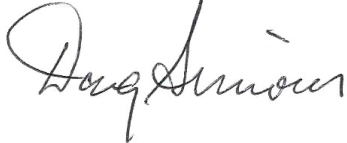
Rich Matsuda, Director
W. M. Keck Observatory



Satoshi Miyazaki, Director
Subaru Telescope
National Astronomical Observatory of Japan



John Rayner, Director
NASA Infrared Telescope Facility



Doug Simons, Director
University of Hawai'i Institute for Astronomy



Warren Skidmore, Deputy Director
NASA Infrared Telescope Facility



Watson Varricatt, Head of Science
Operations, United Kingdom Infrared
Telescope



Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

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Carla Kuo

2025-2026

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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

LATE

Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 1:00 PM

RE: GM740 Mauna Kea Stewardship and Authority
Gubernatorial Nominee MICHELLE NOE NOE WONG-WILSON

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

On behalf of the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for the confirmation of Michelle Noe Noe Wong-Wilson to the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

MKSOA is on the right path and has made considerable progress in developing a comprehensive management plan for Maunakea, acting in accordance with the intent and spirit of Act 255. As the Authority continues to move this important work forward, strong and steady leadership will be essential to maintaining momentum.

We are encouraged by MKSOA's demonstrated commitment to community engagement, as evidenced by the series of workshops held earlier this year. These efforts have provided meaningful opportunities for residents and stakeholders to share mana'o and contribute to shaping a thoughtful, balanced path forward for Maunakea.

At this critical juncture, continuity in the composition of the MKSOA board is vital. The relationships that members have built with key stakeholders and the broader community are invaluable, helping to foster trust, transparency, and collaboration. Confirming Michelle Noe Noe Wong-Wilson will help ensure this continuity and support the Authority's ongoing progress.

Michelle Noe Noe Wong-Wilson is a respected educator, Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner, and Native rights activist, and she brings with her a perspective that is important to the Authority's work. Her knowledge and lived experience will further strengthen MKSOA's ability to thoughtfully navigate the cultural, environmental, and community considerations tied to Maunakea.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your continued commitment to responsible stewardship and collaborative governance for Maunakea. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carla Kuo
Executive Officer
Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce



LATE

April 23, 2026

TESTIMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS
To the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELLE NOE NOE WONG-WILSON, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

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

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs testifies in strong **SUPPORT** of GM 740 which confirms Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson to serve on the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

Dr. Wong-Wilson is a member of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Hilo, one of our member clubs. We support the confirmation of qualified Native Hawaiians to government appointments and boards and commissions to ensure our state government reflects the communities it serves. Our organization also has a long-standing record of advocacy for the appropriate stewardship and care of Mauna Kea, and Dr. Wong-Wilson has led and contributed significantly to this work. We are honored to support this appointment.

Dr. Wong-Wilson is long-time educator, community leader, cultural practitioner, and ardent protector of significant cultural sites and resources. She was one of 15 individuals appointed to the Mauna Kea Working Group established by House Resolution 33 (2021) that made recommendations that facilitated the creation of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. With her collective professional, academic, and community experience, Dr. Wong-Wilson is an excellent nominee for this role.

Founded by Prince Kūhiō in 1918, the Hawaiian Civic Club movement is the oldest Native Hawaiian community-based advocacy movement. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is a not-for-profit organization that is a confederation of 60 individual and autonomous Hawaiian Civic Clubs and 3,500 members located across Hawai‘i and across the continental United States.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of our support for Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM740

Confirmation of Dr. Michelle Noe Noe Wong-Wilson to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Arts and Culture

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to support Dr. Michelle Noe Noe Wong-Wilson.

I have known Dr. Wong-Wilson for over 10 years, beginning when I worked under her at Hawai'i Community College through the Hālaulani Program. During that time, she was not only someone I worked for, but someone who mentored me in ways that continue to shape how I show up today. The way I approach community, relationships, and responsibility in my own work is, in many ways, a reflection of what I learned under her leadership.

What I came to understand through that mentorship is that her leadership is grounded, steady, and deeply intentional. She does not rush to speak or act, but instead takes the time to listen, observe, and understand the people and the space around her. When she does speak, it is thoughtful, measured, and rooted in 'ike. That approach creates a sense of trust and accountability that cannot be forced. It is built over time through consistency and integrity.

In my role as Director of Community Relations at the Canada France Hawai'i Telescope, I work in spaces where community, culture, and institutions intersect, where differing perspectives, histories, and expectations are often present. In those spaces, leadership like Dr. Wong-Wilson's is not just valuable, it is necessary. It is the kind of leadership that allows for difficult conversations to happen in a way that is still respectful, and that helps move work forward without losing the relationships that matter.

The work of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority requires individuals who understand both the significance of Maunakea and the responsibility to care for it in a way that is accountable to community. It requires leaders who can hold multiple perspectives with care, who understand the weight of history, and who are committed to moving forward in a way that is thoughtful and pono. Dr. Wong-Wilson brings that depth of understanding and approach.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support her confirmation.

Mahalo for your consideration,



Janine "Kara" Dumaguin

Director of Community Relations, Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope
Testifying as an individual

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM740 CONTINUING THE MEMBERSHIP OF DR. NOENOE WONG WILSON TO THE MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

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

My name is Marilyn Leimomi Khan, and I submit this testimony in **strong support of continuing the membership of Dr. NoeNoe Wong Wilson to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA).**

Mauna a Wākea is not simply a place—it is a sacred ancestor, a piko that connects our people to the heavens, to Papahānaumoku, and to the genealogical foundation of our existence. Stewardship of this sacred space demands leadership that is grounded in ‘ike Hawai‘i, guided by kuleana, and committed to balancing cultural integrity with contemporary responsibilities.

Dr. Wong embodies these qualities.

During her tenure, Dr. Wong has demonstrated:

- A deep and authentic understanding of the **cultural and spiritual significance of Mauna a Wākea;**
- The ability to **navigate complex and often sensitive issues with wisdom, respect, and balance;**
- A commitment to **inclusive engagement**, ensuring that voices from the Native Hawaiian community are heard and respected;
- Leadership rooted in **aloha ‘āina and a long-term vision for responsible stewardship.**

The work of the MKSOA is both historic and ongoing. It requires continuity, trust, and institutional knowledge to move forward in a manner that honors both the past and the future. Dr. Wong’s continued service provides that essential continuity.

At a time when the stewardship of Mauna Kea continues to carry profound cultural, environmental, and global significance, it is critical that we retain leaders who are not only qualified, but deeply grounded in the ‘ike and values of this place.

Dr. Wong has earned the trust of many in the community through her integrity, humility, and steadfast commitment to doing what is right for the mauna and for our lāhui.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge this Committee to **support the continuation of Dr. NoeNoe Wong-Wilson’s membership on the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Leimomi Khan

GM-740

Submitted on: 4/20/2026 5:15:11 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/23/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalani Kaanaana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Noe Noe Wong-Wilson.

I have had the privilege of knowing Noe Noe as a leader, educator, and deeply grounded practitioner whose work consistently reflects a profound commitment to Hawai‘i, its people, and its future. She brings a rare combination of intellectual rigor, cultural fluency, and moral clarity.

Her career has been defined by her unwavering dedication to ‘ike Hawai‘i, educational equity, and advancing Native Hawaiian perspectives within systems that have not always been designed to serve our communities. She has demonstrated the ability to navigate complex institutional environments while remaining firmly anchored in values of aloha, kuleana, and pilina.

She leads with humility, listens deeply, and is unafraid to ask the difficult questions necessary to move systems toward greater alignment with justice and long-term well-being. She understands that true progress in Hawai‘i requires both honoring our past and actively shaping a more equitable future.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support her confirmation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

Kalani L. Kaanaana

LATE

GM-740

Submitted on: 4/22/2026 9:04:17 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/23/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Matsuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of the confirmation of Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson to a second term on the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA).

Dr. Wong-Wilson's experience in business, education, non-profit leadership, cultural practice, and community advocacy lends strong expertise and credibility to her work on the authority. As first vice-chair of the authority, she has demonstrated steadiness, fairness, balance, courage and a consistent commitment to the legislative intent and mandates of Act 255 (HRS195H), adhering to the governance, statutory, community engagement and cultural grounding framework of the MKSOA.

For these reasons, I support her confirmation and believe she will continue to serve the Authority with integrity and care.

Mahalo,
Rich Matsuda