

MELVIN KAHELE

April 20, 2026

Aloha Chair Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair Senator Lorraine Inouye

Members of the Committee on Water Land

Re: GM 766

I'm currently serving as an at-large member of the Hawaii State Land Use Commission (LUC). My first term on the Land Use Commission was scheduled to expire on June 30, 2026. As of March 2026, Governor Josh Green has officially nominated me for a second term on the commission. As an at-large commissioner, I participate in quasi-judicial hearings to decide on land boundary amendments, specifically whether land should be reclassified into the State's Urban, Rural, Agricultural, or Conservation districts.

Much of my perspective on land use comes from my extensive history in labor relations. I currently serve as a legislative lobbyist for the Iron Workers Union, Local 625 Stabilization Fund and also served as the President/Principal Executive Officer for Teamsters Union, Local 996.

Before joining the LUC, I served two terms on the board of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) where I was recognized for championing the interests of Hawaii's workforce and low-income residents in affordable housing projects.

Reflecting my interest in legislative accountability, I often focus on the intersection of infrastructure costs, state spending, and how land use decisions impact the local economy and resident displacement. On both the LUC and HHFDC, I'm known for bringing a "labor perspective" to land development, often emphasizing the need for projects that support local workers and provide long-term housing stability for the residence of the state of Hawai'i.

Given my recent nomination, my role in shaping Hawaii's land-use policies is expected to continue through my second term, which would run for another four years.

The State Land Use Law 205 Chapter, Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS"), was originally adopted by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 1961 to establish a comprehensive framework for managing land use statewide. Under this law, all lands in Hawai'i are classified into one of four districts: Urban, Rural, Conservation and Agricultural.

To oversee and administer this land classification system, the Legislature created the Land Use Commission. The Commission consists of nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. One member is appointed from each county, and five are appointed at-large. Commissioners are unpaid volunteers and represent a broad cross-section of the community.

The Commission is responsible for reviewing and acting on petitions for district boundary amendments involving more than 15 acres of lands within the Conservation District. These petitions may be submitted by private landowners, developers, or state and county agencies. Boundary amendments involving 15 acres or less and outside the Conservation District fall under the jurisdiction of the respective county. The Commission also reviews applications for special permits within Agricultural and Rural Districts.

In addition to its responsibilities under Chapter 205, HRS, the Commission operates under its administrative rules, Chapter 15-15, Hawai'i Administrative Rules ("HAR"), which provide detailed procedural and substantive guidance for Commission operations and decision-making.

Overall, the Commission plays a critical role in preserving and protecting Hawai'i's land resources while promoting appropriate and sustainable land uses across the state.

I do not believe that any of my actions or decisions would raise any questions of creating a conflict of interest.

I humbly ask for your support and to confirm a second term on the State Land Use Commission.

Respectfully,

Melvin Kahele



LAND USE COMMISSION

Komikina Ho'ohana 'Āina

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
Ka 'Oihana Ho'omōhala Pā'oihana, 'Imi Waiwai a Ho'omāka'ika'i

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR

DANIEL E. ORODENKER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

235 S. Beretania Street, RM 406, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804
Email Address: dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 587-3822

Website: luc.hawaii.gov

Statement of
Daniel E. Orodenker
Executive Officer
State Land Use Commission

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

Thursday April 23, 2026
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Room 225 and Video Conference

In consideration of
GM766

**Consideration and Confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee,
MELVIN KAHELE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030**

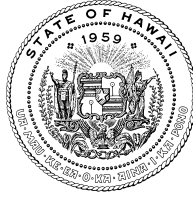
Chair Lee; Vice Chair Inouye; and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Melvin Kahele's re-appointment to the Land Use Commission. Mr. Kahele has been a member of the Land Use Commission ("LUC") since July 1, 2022. He has regularly attended Commission meetings and has evidenced diligence and thoughtful consideration in his preparation.

Mr. Kahele is highly experienced in issues associated with affordable housing having sat on the HHFDC for some time. His insights into this critical issue facing the community as well as his understanding of the workings of affordable housing development bring a much-needed perspective to the Commission

Mr. Kahele is well respected by labor and the development community. His insights have been a welcome addition to the Commission.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Kahele's appointment. We are honored to have him and look forward with pleasure to his participation.



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. 766

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

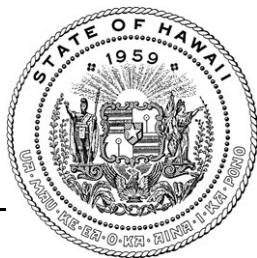
I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of **Governor's Message No. 766**, the appointment of **Melvin Kahele** to serve on the **Land Use Commission** for a term to expire on June 30, 2030.

Mr. Kahele brings decades of experience in workforce advocacy, labor leadership, and public service. He has served in leadership roles representing working families across Hawai'i and has contributed to policy discussions affecting housing, economic development, and community well-being. He also previously served on the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation Board, where he supported efforts to expand access to affordable housing.

His professional background includes a long career with The Gas Company, where he gained firsthand experience in workforce operations and labor relations. He has also held leadership roles on various trust funds and community organizations.

Mr. Kahele's experience brings a thoughtful and community-grounded perspective to the Land Use Commission, with a clear understanding of how land use decisions impact local communities and working families. I am confident that his experience demonstrate his strong qualifications, and I am pleased to offer my full support for his reappointment.

Mahalo for your consideration.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Thursday, April 23, 2026
1:00 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of
GM766
**Consideration and Confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial
Nominee,
MELVIN KAHELE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of the reappointment of Melvin Kahele to the Land Use Commission.

Since joining the Land Use Commission on July 1, 2022, Mr. Kahele has demonstrated a high level of commitment, professionalism, and preparation. His experience in affordable housing is especially valuable and his years of service with the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation have given him deep knowledge of the challenges that shape Hawai'i's housing landscape, as well as a practical understanding of the development process.

I've known Mel for more than 20 years and his integrity and leadership experience make him an asset to the Commission. This experience provides the Commission with an informed, balanced view as it evaluates land use decisions that directly affect the availability and affordability of housing across the state.

I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm Mr. Kahele to the Land Use Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support.

LEU OKUDA & DOI

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
A LAW PARTNERSHIP

THE MERCHANT HOUSE
222 MERCHANT STREET, MAIN FLOOR
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TELEPHONE (808) 538-1921 FACSIMILE (808) 523-9585
WWW.LEU-OKUDA.COM

LESTER K. M. LEU
GARY Y. OKUDA
KARYN A. DOI
LANSEN H. G. LEU
DANIEL K. KIKAWA

LESTER@LEU-OKUDA.COM
GARY@LEU-OKUDA.COM
KARYN@LEU-OKUDA.COM
LANSEN@LEU-OKUDA.COM
DANIELK@LEU-OKUDA.COM

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF
THE NOMINATION OF

MELVIN KAHELE

Land Use Commission

Expiration Date: June 30, 2029

GOV. MSG. NO 766

I respectfully submit this testimony IN STRONG SUPPORT of the nomination of MELVIN KAHELE to the Land Use Commission of the State of Hawaii.

I served for eight years as a Commissioner on the Land Use Commission and had the honor of serving with Mr. Kahele for several of those years.

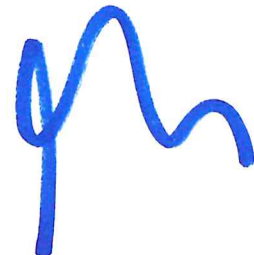
I personally observed how Mel worked as a Commissioner. He was diligent, careful and read everything. Mel always kept an open mind, and was respectful to the public, to his fellow commissioners and the staff.

You might disagree with Mel's decision or vote, but you never doubted that he listened to and considered all the evidence, and acting in a manner consistent with the law.

Because of his long experience with organized labor, Mel brought important insights which may have been lost to those of us who did not have the decades of his work experience.

Hawaii benefits from people like MELVIN KAHELE who are willing to serve all of Hawaii.

I respectfully ask that you advise and consent to the nomination of **MELVIN KAHELE to the** Land Use Commission of the State of Hawaii.





Queen's Court
800 Bethel Street, Suite 501
Honolulu HI 96813

Phone 808.587.7770
Fax 808.587.7769
www.avalonhi.com

**Testimony in Support of the Reappointment of
Melvin Y. C. Kahele
Land Use Commission
Submitted on behalf of Avalon Development Company**

Aloha Chair and Members,

Avalon Development Company supports the reappointment of Melvin Y. C. Kahele to the State Land Use Commission.

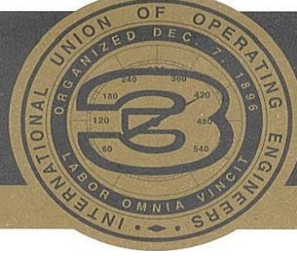
Commissioner Kahele brings an essential, real-world perspective to land use decision-making, grounded in decades of experience in labor, infrastructure, housing, and community service. His background reflects a strong understanding of how land use policies affect working families, housing production, and the delivery of critical projects across Hawai'i.

Having represented thousands of local workers and served on boards such as the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Commissioner Kahele contributes practical judgment, balance, and lived experience that complements the Commission's technical and legal expertise. That perspective is particularly valuable in ensuring land use decisions are thoughtful, even-handed, and grounded in real-world impacts.

Hawai'i benefits from a Land Use Commission that reflects a diversity of professional experience and viewpoints. Commissioner Kahele's continued service helps maintain that balance and supports reasoned, fair decision-making on issues of statewide importance.

For these reasons, Avalon Development Company respectfully urges his confirmation.

Mahalo for your consideration.



April 20, 2026

Honorable, Chris Lee, Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts, Chair
Honorable, Lorraine R. Inouye, Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

RE: GM 766- SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MELVIN KAHELE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2030.

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

My name is Ana Tuiasosopo, and I am a Trustee and District Representative for the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 3, representing heavy equipment operators, mechanics, surveyors, and other skilled tradespeople in Hawai'i's construction industry. I submit this testimony in **strong support of GM 766.**

Mr. Kahele's background reflects a lifetime of leadership, service, and commitment to Hawai'i's people and communities. His resume shows service in the U.S. Army, 25 years in the gas industry as a Leadman/Forman, leadership as President and Principal Executive Officer of Teamsters Local 996, and his current work as legislative lobbyist for the Ironworkers Union, Local 625 Stabilization Fund. That breadth of experience gives him a practical understanding of the issues that shape land use, infrastructure, workforce needs, and community growth in Hawai'i.

Mr. Kahele also brings strong experience in leadership and governance. His resume reflects training in contract negotiations and labor leadership, as well as service chairing seven Teamsters union trust funds, serving as trustee for the Ironworkers Union Trust Funds, and serving on the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Housing Finance Development Corporation. Those roles demonstrate sound judgment, accountability, and familiarity with issues that directly intersect with land use and long-term planning.

The Land Use Commission benefits from members who understand that land decisions affect more than maps and boundaries. They affect housing, jobs, infrastructure, and the future of local communities. Mr. Kahele's experience in labor, housing, and public service gives him a balanced perspective that will be an asset to the Commission.

Sincerely,

Ana Tuiasosopo
District Representative, Trustee
Operating Engineers Local 3



April 23, 2026

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Water,
Land, Culture and the Arts
Thirty-Third Legislature, Regular Session of 2026

Hearing date: April 23, 2026, at 1:00 PM

RE: **GM 766 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, MELVIN KAHELE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of D.R. Horton Hawaii in **SUPPORT** of GM 766 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, MELVIN KAHELE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030. D.R. Horton Hawaii is proud to be one of Hawaii's largest homebuilders, serving Hawaii's families for more than 52 years. We specialize in providing affordable housing and first-time homebuyer opportunities across the state and remain committed to addressing Hawaii's critical housing needs.

D.R. Horton–Hawai'i offers its strong support for GM 766, submitting for consideration and confirmation of Melvin Kahele. As one of Hawai'i's largest homebuilders focused on delivering attainable housing for local families, we recognize the importance of appointing individuals with demonstrated leadership, public service experience, and the ability to navigate complex governmental systems. Mr. Kahele's extensive background—including service in the Hawai'i State Senate, the United States Congress, and as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Hawai'i Air National Guard—reflects a deep commitment to community, disciplined leadership, and a strong understanding of statewide policy challenges.

From our perspective as a developer actively engaged in creating communities across the State, effective leadership requires both practical experience and the ability to balance competing priorities. Mr. Kahele brings a proven record of working on issues involving



infrastructure, transportation, and land use, including his service on congressional committees addressing transportation and infrastructure and his leadership roles in the State Legislature. His experience as both a policymaker and a private-sector professional provides valuable insight into how government decisions impact project delivery, housing production, and long-term economic growth. These qualities will be instrumental in improving coordination, reducing delays, and supporting policies that help address Hawai'i's ongoing housing shortage.

For these reasons, D.R. Horton–Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to confirm Mr. Kahele's appointment under GM 766. His leadership, integrity, and commitment to public service will be valuable assets in advancing balanced, forward-looking solutions that expand housing opportunities and strengthen Hawai'i's communities

For these reasons, I strongly urge this committee to support **GM 766**.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Tracy S. Tonaki
President
D.R. Horton Hawaii



Imanaka Asato
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

April 23, 2026

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

RE: GM 766 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, MELVIN KAHELE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of GM 766 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, MELVIN KAHELE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

Mr. Kahele’s career reflects a deep and sustained commitment to public service, including his leadership in both state and federal government as well as his service in the Hawai’i Air National Guard. His experience as a policymaker and leader demonstrates a strong understanding of the challenges facing Hawai’i, including the need for thoughtful infrastructure planning, responsible development, and long-term economic sustainability.

Mr. Kahele brings a unique ability to bridge perspectives between government, community stakeholders, and the private sector. His background in aviation and transportation, coupled with his legislative experience, positions him to approach issues with both practical insight and strategic vision. He has consistently demonstrated professionalism, integrity, and a willingness to engage on complex issues in a collaborative and solutions-oriented manner.

Simply put, Mel’s leadership and commitment to serving the people of Hawai’i will be valuable assets in advancing sound, forward-looking policies that benefit our communities. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm the appointment of Melvin Kahele to the Land Use Commission.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michael Iosua

OCG LLC

Onipa'a Consulting Group 3535 Maluhia Street * Honolulu, Hawaii 96816 * Phone (808) 808*381*9529

April 22, 2026

Chair Chris Lee
Vice Chair Loraine Inouye
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and Arts

RE: GM 766 -Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, MELVIN KAHELE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

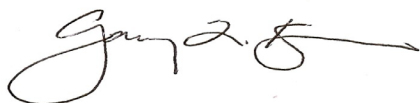
Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and members of the committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **Support** of GM 766 for consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, MELVIN KAHELE, to the Land Use Commission for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

I have had the opportunity to work with Melvin (Mel) Kahele in his many capacities with various unions in Hawaii and various Boards and Commissions. I have always found him to be a person of high integrity and professionalism, very insightful and thoughtful in discussions and respectful of others.

Mel will bring years of experience and historical knowledge and will be an asset to the Land Use Commission. Therefore, I ask for your consideration in passing GM 766 confirming Melvin Kahele to the Land Use Commission.

Mahalo,



Gary T. Kurokawa



SAPOLU

LAW OFFICE



www.sapolulaw.com
contact@sapolulaw.com



500 Ala Moana Blvd Ste 7400
Honolulu, HI. 96813



808.466.1520

April 22, 2026

TO: SENTATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

RE: **Letter in Strong Support of Mel Kahele**

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair and Senators of the Committee on Water, Land, Culture & the Arts,

This letter is submitted in strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee Mel Kahele to another term on the Land Use Commission, to expire June 30, 2030. I first met Mel back in 2011 when we worked to explore various methods for achieving sustainable development in Hawai'i. I learned then of his commitment to the culture, character, beauty, and history of our state's island communities. But even before that, I was familiar with Mel's work in local labor unions and community leadership.

Mel is without a doubt, a local leader looking out for Hawaii's people and the best uses of limited resources in our home state. Mel also brings the perspective and experience of his years of community leadership ensuring that all interested parties are well represented on this important commission – and I know that he will protect the constitutional right that our residents must be heard in land use decisions that affect their lives, environment and cultural practices. I am confident that he will continue this commitment as an LUC commissioner.

For these reasons and more, I strongly support Mel Kahele's nomination to the LUC.

Respectfully,

CHASID M. SAPOLU Esq.



Iron Workers Stabilization Fund

T. George Paris
Managing Director

LATE

April 20, 2026

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye and members of the committee of Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SUPPORT FOR GM 766 – CONFIRMATION OF Melvin Kahele TO THE Hawaii State Land Use Commission

Aloha Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

I, T. George Paris respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Melvin Kahele to a second term on the Hawai'i State Land Use Commission.

Mr. Kahele brings a vital labor perspective to the Commission, grounded in real-world experience with Iron Workers Union Local 625. His background provides clear insight into how land use decisions directly affect workforce stability, infrastructure delivery, and housing availability across Hawai'i.

His public service also reflects a strong understanding of the connection between land use policy, housing needs, and long-term community development, an important perspective as the State continues to address ongoing housing and infrastructure challenges.

During his tenure, Mr. Kahele has demonstrated a consistent commitment to the statutory framework under Chapter 205 Hawaii Revised Statutes. His thoughtful and balanced approach to district boundary decisions shows his ability to weigh responsible development, environmental stewardship, and community impacts.

His continued service will provide continuity, experienced leadership, and a balanced perspective that supports economic growth while sustaining Hawai'i's skilled workforce.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of his reappointment.

Respectfully submitted,

T. George Paris
Managing Director

GM-766

Submitted on: 4/21/2026 10:47:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

This testimony is in strong support of Mel Kahele for his appointment to the Land Use Commission.

In Solidarity,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
Makakilo Resident

GM-766

Submitted on: 4/22/2026 5:41:11 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cody Sula	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Committee on Water and Land

Date: April 23, 2026

Re: Testimony in Support of Melvin Kahele for the Land Use Commission

I am writing to support the confirmation of Melvin Kahele to the Land Use Commission for a term ending June 30, 2030. Mr. Kahele has over 40 years of experience in labor, representing workers across various industries in Hawaii. His background in contract negotiations and legislative advocacy, combined with his community involvement, provides him with a practical perspective on matters before the commission.

Because Mr. Kahele has already served one term, he is familiar with the roles and responsibilities required for this position. This experience ensures he can continue to contribute to the commission's work immediately. I urge the committee to confirm his nomination.

Mahalo,

Cody Sula

NICOLE KALAKAU ESQ.

737 Bishop Street
Ste 1740
Honolulu, HI. 96813

April 22, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture & the Arts,

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Mel Kahele to serve on the Hawaii Land Use Commission.

Mr. Kahele brings decades of experience in labor, community engagement, and public policy, along with a demonstrated commitment to balanced and sustainable development. In prior public statements, he has emphasized the importance of infrastructure investment, job creation, and long-term planning, while also supporting “sustainable development” as a guiding principle for managing growth in Hawai‘i. These values are directly aligned with the core responsibilities of the Land Use Commission.

According to his nomination materials, Mr. Kahele’s background includes work that required collaboration across sectors and the ability to weigh competing interests—skills that are essential for thoughtful land use decision-making in our state. His experience in representing working families also brings an important perspective to discussions about housing, economic opportunity, and responsible development.

Community and environmental advocates have consistently emphasized the importance of Land Use Commission members who will carefully consider the long-term impacts of development decisions, including protection of natural and cultural resources and the need for transparency and public trust. Mr. Kahele’s history of working with diverse stakeholders positions him well to help advance these goals.

At a time when Hawai‘i faces significant challenges related to housing affordability, infrastructure, and land stewardship, it is critical that the Commission includes members who can balance economic needs with environmental responsibility and community input. I believe Mr. Kahele has the experience and judgment to fulfill this role effectively.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support the nomination of Mel Kahele to the Hawaii Land Use Commission.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Kalakau, Esq.

April 23, 2026
1:00 pm

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: GM 766 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, MELVIN KAHELE, for a term to expire 06-30-2030.

Aloha Chair Chris Lee, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Clyde Hayashi and I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the confirmation of Melvin Kahele as a member of the Land Use Commission.

Mr. Kahele's decades of union experience, his knowledge of the construction industry, his years of lobbying and addressing numerous bills & issues, his years on the Hawaii Housing Finance Development Corporation, his years being a trustee on numerous joint union employer trust funds, and the many relationships he has developed over the years, make him extremely qualified to serve on the LUC.

Mr. Kahele is just completing his first term and he has helped the LUC address land use zoning requests and permit requests, some which are extremely complex and challenging. Some of the requests have divided communities and Mr. Kahele has assisted the LUC in navigating through these difficult and sometimes controversial requests to reach a decision in the overall interest of the community.

His extensive experiences make him an ideal person to continue to serve on the Land Use Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Thursday, April 23, 2026

LATE

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

GM766 - Melvin Kahele, Land Use Commission

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

I am writing to express my **strong support** for the confirmation of Melvin Kahele to the Land Use Commission. I believe Mr. Kahele possesses the deep knowledge, community roots, and proven leadership necessary to serve effectively on this critical commission.

Mr. Kahele brings an exceptional professional background that will be a tremendous asset to the Land Use Commission. His decades of leadership, including serving as President and Principal Executive Officer for the Teamsters Union Local 996 and as a legislative lobbyist for the Ironworkers Union, demonstrate his ability to navigate complex negotiations and advocate for the working people of Hawai'i. Furthermore, his experience serving on the Board of Directors for the Hawai'i Housing Finance Development Corporation provides him with direct, relevant insight into housing and development policies. This specialized background ensures he will make balanced and well-informed decisions regarding the preservation and utilization of our state's limited land resources.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Kahele has a long history of dedicated service to our country and our local community. From his military service in the U.S. Army with the 25th Infantry Division to his community involvement with the Aloha United Way and local youth sports, he has consistently demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of others. His extensive experience managing complex trust funds and serving on various boards highlights his deep sense of fiduciary responsibility and collaborative spirit. For these reasons, I highly recommend Melvin Kahele for this position and respectfully urge the Senate to confirm his nomination to the Land Use Commission.

Sincerely,

Jason Bradshaw