



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 117 / SENATE
RESOLUTION 110**

**NOMINATING JOHN D. WAIHE‘E III FOR INDUCTION INTO THE ALOHA ORDER OF
MERIT**

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Kuleana Hawai‘i
(Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs)

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

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

‘Apelila 8, 2026

1:00PM

Lumi 224

Aloha e Chairs Richards and Lee, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committees on Hawaiian Affairs and Water, Land, Culture and the Arts:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SCR117/SR110**, which nominates former Governor John D. Waihe‘e III for induction into the Aloha Order of Merit. Individuals conferred the lifetime title of "member of the Aloha order of merit" shall have "[a]chieved national or international recognition in their field either by a single event or by the totality of their work that has been either pioneering in their field or that has been outstanding in the long-term" **and** provided "extraordinary service to the State" including by devoting "themselves to the betterment of the State, embodying the concept of the Aloha Spirit." Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §§ 5-7.6(a), (a)(1), (a)(2)(A),(D).

Governor Waihe‘e’s lifelong commitment to the people of Hawai‘i—particularly to the advancement of Native Hawaiian rights—reflects the highest ideals of public service and is truly extraordinary. His personal dedication to serve others embodies the Aloha Spirit, and his professional legacy stands as pioneering in the fields of indigenous rights and native self-governance.

As a delegate to the 1978 Constitutional Convention, Governor Waihe‘e played a foundational role in establishing OHA and defining its kuleana as a trust entity advancing Native Hawaiian self-governance. He was instrumental in embedding Native Hawaiian

values, traditions, and rights into the State Constitution—most notably the recognition of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as an official state language and the protection of traditional and customary practices. His advocacy helped shape OHA’s mission and affirmed meaningful avenues for Native Hawaiians to assert their rights.

Prior to serving as Governor, Waihe‘e also served as a member of the Hawai‘i State House of Representatives including as House Majority Leader, where he played a key role in advancing legislation focused on land use, further defining public trust responsibilities, and promoting a state legislature more accessible to the people.

As our first Native Hawaiian governor, Governor Waihe‘e elevated Native Hawaiian issues and brought them to national prominence. His leadership and collaboration with President Bill Clinton were critical in the enactment of Public Law 103-150, also known as the Apology Resolution. The Apology Resolution was a profound step towards truth, reconciliation, and justice: recognizing and acknowledging the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and the unresolved claims of Native Hawaiians to sovereignty and self-determination. This milestone victory continues to shape and inform Native Hawaiian rights and advocacy on self-governance and ea to this day.

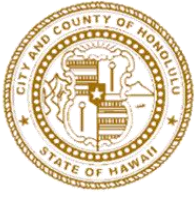
Governor Waihe‘e has also been a steadfast advocate for Native Hawaiian governance beyond his time in elected office, including through his leadership in initiatives such as Kana‘iolowalu, which sought to engage Native Hawaiians in processes of self-determination and nation-building. Following his tenure as Governor, he has continued to serve Hawai‘i with his ongoing leadership in discussions surrounding Native Hawaiian governance and rights.

Governor Waihe‘e’s legacy is one of courage, vision, and unwavering dedication to our lāhui. His work has had a lasting and transformative impact on Hawai‘i and its people. As the first Native Hawaiian Governor of Hawai‘i, his leadership of Hawai‘i at a critical time in our history, now commonly referred to as the “Hawaiian Renaissance,” not only demonstrated that Hawaiians could achieve the highest leadership position in our state but also the importance of grounding governance in aloha for our ‘āina and the lāhui.

From humble beginnings from a small rural town on Hawai'i Island, to being part of the first class of the William S. Richardson School of Law, to becoming the Governor of Hawai'i, Governor Waihe'e is a pioneer that embodied the Aloha Spirit throughout his career. His legacy continues as he remains active in advocating for Hawai'i, Hawaiians, and this 'āina that he loves.

For the reasons stated above, OHA respectfully urges this committee to **PASS SCR117/SR110.**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
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Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs & Senate Committee on Water, Land & the Arts
Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 1:00 PM
SCR117 and SR110 Strong Support

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR117 and SR110
NOMINATING JOHN D. WAIHE'E III FOR INDUCTION INTO THE ALOHA ORDER OF MERIT

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support SCR 117 and S110, nominating former Governor John D. Waihe'e III for induction into the Aloha Order of Merit. Governor Waihe'e's lifetime of service exemplifies the purpose of this award through his profound contributions to the betterment of Hawai'i and his embodiment of the Aloha Spirit.

As the first Native Hawaiian elected governor of any U.S. state, his leadership marked a historic milestone for Hawai'i and for Indigenous peoples across the nation. His tenure advanced critical initiatives, including the establishment of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the recognition of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i as an official state language, and efforts that contributed to the 1993 Apology Resolution. His work also strengthened Hawai'i's health care systems, education, and economic stability. Even after leaving office, he has remained actively engaged in civic leadership and public service.

Governor Waihe'e lives the Aloha Spirit not only through policy, but through personal connection and mentorship. He has long served as a guide to those committed to public service. Throughout my different roles in leadership, he generously offered his mana'o and counsel, helping me navigate the responsibilities and challenges of those roles.

Governor Waihe'e's record reflects integrity, humility, and a lifelong dedication to serving Hawai'i and the lāhui. He truly embodies the spirit and purpose of the Aloha Order of Merit. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the adoption of this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Dos Santos Tam".

Tyler Dos Santos Tam
Councilmember, District 6
Honolulu City Council



www.kalihipalama.org

March 30, 2026

TESTIMONY OF THE KALIHI PĀLAMA HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SCR117 and S.R. NO. 110
NOMINATING JOHN D. WAIHE'E III FOR INDUCTION INTO THE ALOHA ORDER OF MERIT

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Kalihi Pālama Hawaiian Civic Club (KPHCC), we respectfully offer our **strong and heartfelt support** for SCR 117 and S.R. No. 110, which nominates former Governor John D. Waihe'e III for induction into the Aloha Order of Merit.

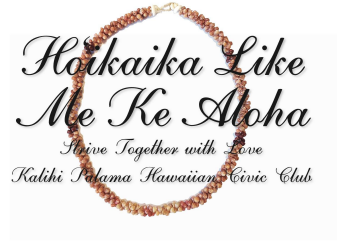
KPHCC is especially honored to have **initiated this nomination**, and we stand before you with deep conviction that Governor Waihe'e's lifetime of service reflects the very highest ideals of this recognition.

As outlined in this measure, Governor Waihe'e made history as the **first Native Hawaiian elected governor of any state in the United States**, a milestone of profound significance not only for Hawai'i, but for indigenous peoples everywhere. His leadership represented more than political achievement—it embodied hope, representation, and the restoration of Native Hawaiian presence in positions of highest governance.

His legacy is both broad and deeply rooted. From his leadership during the 1978 Constitutional Convention—helping to establish the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and elevate 'Ōlelo Hawai'i as an official language—to advancing reconciliation efforts that contributed to the 1993 Apology Resolution, Governor Waihe'e has consistently worked to uplift the lāhui and strengthen Hawai'i's foundation.

At the same time, his administration addressed the needs of all the people of Hawai'i—expanding access to health care through the QUEST program, supporting economic diversification during times of transition, and strengthening education systems locally and nationally. These accomplishments reflect a leader who understood that caring for our people requires both vision and action.

Importantly, Governor Waihe'e's service did not end with his time in office. As noted in this resolution, he continues to contribute through civic engagement, public discourse, and leadership on critical issues affecting our State. This lifelong commitment exemplifies what it means to embody the Aloha Spirit—not as a concept, but as a way of living in service to others.



www.kalihipalama.org

The Aloha Order of Merit honors individuals whose contributions bring distinction and honor to Hawai'i. Governor Waihe'e meets and exceeds these standards through the totality of his work—marked by integrity, humility, and an unwavering sense of kuleana to our people and our State.

For KPHCC, this nomination is also about **recognizing a leader who has helped shape pathways for Native Hawaiian leadership, self-determination, and dignity within government.** His example continues to inspire future generations to serve with purpose and to lead with 'ike and aloha.

For these reasons, the Kalihi Pālama Hawaiian Civic Club respectfully urges the adoption of S.R. No. 110 and the induction of Governor John D. Waihe'e III into the Aloha Order of Merit.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Cedric Duarte, President
Kalihi-Palama Hawaiian Civic Club

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and Senate Committee on Land, Water, Culture and the Arts

Apr 8, 2026 1:00 PM

CR 224

117 SCR NOMINATING JOHN D. WAIHE'E III FOR INDUCTION INTO THE ALOHA ORDER OF MERIT

Aloha e nā Kenekoa o ka 'Aha'ōlelo O Ka Moku'āina 'O Hawai'i,

He hō'ike mana'o kēia no ke kāko'o like 'ana o ko mākou mau ke'ena 'ekolu o ke Aukahi 'Ōlelo Hawai'i nona nā ke'ena ho'okele ma ka Moku O Keawe i ka lilo 'ana no John D. Waihe'e ka hanohano o ke kūlana he Lālā O Ke Aloha Order of Merit (Ka Pū'ali Aloha O Ka 'Ike Kūpono 'Ia).

Ke kāko'o nei mākou ma luna o ko mākou lō'ihī loa i loko o ka ho'ōla 'ana i ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i a me ka mea nui o ka hana a Ke Kia'āina Waihe'e no ke ola o ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i. Ma kona 'ao'ao 'Elele no ka 'Aha Hō'anohou Kumukānāwai, ua alaka'i ikaika 'o Waihe'e no nā māhele pili 'ōlelo Hawai'i mai ka ho'okumu 'ana i kūlana 'ōlelo kūhelu no ka Moku'āina a hiki kona pai 'ia e ka Moku'āina ma kona mau hana ho'ona'auao. He kahua kēia i kū a'e ai kā mākou mau ho'one'e 'ana i ka ho'ōla 'ōlelo Hawai'i i mua. He kumu ho'ohālike pū kēia mau mea i hahai mai ai kekahi mau moku'āina 'ē a'e ma hope no nā 'ōlelo 'ōiwi o lākou.

'A'ole wale nō ma kona 'ao'ao 'Elele no ka 'Aha Hō'anohou Kumukānāwai, akā, ma kona kūlana Kia'āina ua ho'one'e 'o Waihe'e i ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i i kekahi 'anu'u nui i mua. I ka makahiki 1987 i kona makahiki mua loa o ka noho Kia'āina 'ana, ua ho'okohu 'o Waihe'e he Kahukula Nui hou, 'o Charles Toguchi, a ma o ua Kahukula Nui hou nei ho'i i 'āpono 'ia ai ke komo pū'ulu mua loa 'ana o nā keiki Pūnana Leo i loko o nā kula aupuni, komo pū me ke ki'ina a'o Kaiapuni Hawai'i i ho'okumu 'ia ma ka Pūnana Leo. Pēlā i ho'omaka ai nā haumāna Kaiapuni Hawai'i mua loa i loko o nā kula aupuni ma ke 'ano he papa hui 'ia o ka mālaa'o me ka papa 'ekahi ma Waiiau a me Keaukaha.

I loko o nā makahiki mua 'ehā i noho ai 'o Waihe'e i Kia'āina, ua ne'emua ka ho'ōla 'ōlelo Hawai'i 'ana me ka wehe 'ana i nā Pūnana Leo ma nā kalana a pau o ka Moku'āina a pēlā pū me nā papahana ho'omau ma loko o nā kula aupuni. Pēlā i ne'e aku ai ka ho'ōla 'ōlelo Hawai'i pae kula kamali'i a me ka pae mālaa'o a i ka papa 12 o Hawai'i nei a lilo 'o ia ka ikaika loa o nā hana ho'ōla 'ōlelo 'ōiwi a puni 'o 'Amelika.

I ka makahiki 1990, iā Waihe'e nō e noho Kia'āina ana, ua holo he kānāwai e ho'olako kālā ana i Ke Kulanui O Hawai'i Ma Hilo no ka ho'okumu 'ia 'ana he Kikowaena 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Ho'omākaukau Lako A'o a me ka Ho'oikaika Kumu ma Ke Kulanui O Hawai'i Ma Hilo, he kikowaena i kapa 'ia e ke Aukahi Ho'ōla 'Ōlelo Hawai'i 'o Ka Hale Kuamo'o. 'O Ka Hale Kuamo'o kekahi kumu o ka ikaika 'ana o nā kula 'ōlelo Hawai'i a me ke a'o 'ōlelo Hawai'i 'ana a puni ka honua, 'oiai nona mai nā puke a me nā lako a'o 'ē a'e a hiki i nā lako uila e like me nā puke wehewehe 'ōlelo Hawai'i e ne'e mau nei ka ho'ōla 'ōlelo Hawai'i i mua. 'O Ka Hale Kuamo'o ho'i ka 'anu'u ho'okumu i puka a'e ai ke Koleke 'Ōlelo Hawai'i ma hope a i hō'ea a'e ai i ka pae e apo ana i kekahi papahana lōkahi mai ka pae kula kamali'i a hiki aku i ka pae lae'ula ma loko o ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i.

I ka makahiki 1990 nō, ua puka ke kānāwai Native American Languages Act (Kānāwai 'Ōlelo 'Ōiwi 'Amelika) a ka 'Aha'ōlelo Pekelala i 'imi uhaiāholo 'ia e Ke Aukahi Ho'ōla

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i no ka pono o ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, nā ‘ōlelo ‘Ilikini, nā ‘ōlelo ‘Ōiwi ‘Ālaka a me nā ‘Ōlelo ‘Ōiwi Kelikoli Pākīpika. ‘O ia pū kekahi hana i hana ‘ia ma lalo o ko Waihe‘e Kia‘āina ‘ana me kona hana lōkahi ‘ana me nā kākō‘o ikaika i Ke Aukahi Ho‘ōla ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i o ka ‘Aha‘ōlelo Moku‘āina a me ko Hawai‘i o ka ‘Aha‘ōlelo Pekelala. Mai loko aku o ia Kānāwai i ulu a‘e ai he mau kānāwai pekela hou aku a hiki aku i ke Kānāwai National Native American Language Resource Center (Kikowaena Ho‘olako Kākō‘o I Nā ‘Ōlelo ‘Ōiwi ‘Amelika) o ka makahiki 2023. I kēia lā ‘o Ke Kōleke ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i a me kona mau hoa Aukahi Ho‘ōla ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i ke ke‘ena alaka‘i o ia Kikowaena Pekelala.

Ma ka wā i komo ai ‘o Waihe‘e he ‘Elele no ka ‘Aha Hō‘anohou Kumukānāwai e waiho ‘anehalapohe ana ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, he ‘ōlelo na nā kūpuna wale nō a he pāpā kānāwai ‘ia kona ho‘ohana ‘ia ‘ana he kaia‘ōlelo a‘o i loko o nā kula. Mai ka wā i noho ‘Elele ai ‘o Waihe‘e a hiki i kēia lā, ua ulu nui a‘e ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i a hiki i kekahi kūlana lanakila o ka ho‘ōla ‘ōlelo. He holomua kēia i kūkulu ‘ia ma luna o nā hana pono‘ī a Ke Kia‘āina Waihe‘e a me nā hana āna i kākō‘o ai i kona wā e noho mana kūlana moku‘āina ana a ma hope ma kona wā he maka‘āinana aloha ‘āina a me ke aloha na‘auao o Hawai‘i nei. He nui nō ka hana i koe a hō‘ea hou a‘e ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i ma kekahi pae lanakila pono i loko o kona ‘āina kumu, eia na‘e, ma o ka ikaika ala o John D. Waihe‘e ua pi‘i loa aku no ia ola me kekahi wikiwiki a me ka ikaika i ha‘oha‘o ai ka po‘e a puni ka honua a i ho‘ohanohano ‘ia ai ‘o Hawai‘i nei he mau manawa.

No kāna hana wale nō no ka ho‘one‘e ‘ana i ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i a hiki i kona pae o kēia lā ua kūpono ka ‘ike ‘ia o John D. Waihe‘e he Lālā o Ka Pū‘ali Aloha O Ka ‘Ike Kūpono ‘ia. Eia mākou ‘o nā ke‘ena o Ke Aukahi Ho‘ōla ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, ke hō‘ike i ke kākō‘o piha ma hope o ia kūlana nona.

‘Aha Pūnana Leo; Ka Haka ‘Ula o Ke‘elikōlani; Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīkalanī‘ōpu‘u



Nāmaka Rawlins

Ai'u Kimura

Hauamea Kumanō

TRANSLATION

Aloha Senators of the Hawai'i State Legislature,

This testimony is an expression of support from our three entities of the Aukahi 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian Language Movement) whose administrative offices are located on Hawai'i Island relative to awarding John D. Waihe'e the honor of being included as a Member of the Aloha Order of Merit.

Our support is based on our long involvement in the revitalization of the Hawaiian language and on the importance of the work of Governor Waihe'e on behalf of the survival of the Hawaiian language. In his capacity as a Delegate to the Constitutional Convention, he provided strong leadership relative to Hawaiian language related provisions including the establishment of its official status for the State and for the language to be promoted by the State in its educational activities. These have been the base from which we have moved Hawaiian language revitalization forward. They are also provisions that have served as models which have subsequently been followed by other states relative to their indigenous languages.

It has not only been through his position as Delegate to the Constitutional Convention, but also through his position as Governor that Waihe'e has moved the Hawaiian language forward. In 1987 during his first year serving as Governor, he appointed a new Superintendent of Education, Charles Toguchi, and through that new Superintendent of Education was implemented the initial inclusion of a cohort of Pūnana Leo language nest children into the public school system, along with the Kaiapuni Hawai'i educational methodology developed in the Pūnana Leo schools. It was in that manner that the very first Kaiapuni Hawai'i (Hawaiian medium/immersion) students were established in the public school system as combined kindergarten-first graders in Waiau and Keaukaha.

During the first four year term served by Governor Waihe'e, Hawaiian language revitalization moved forward opening Pūnana Leo language nest in all counties of the State along with programs that continued into the public schools. As a consequence, Hawaiian language revitalization was able to move from the preschool and kindergarten levels through to the senior level of high school and become distinguished as the most developed and successful Indigenous language revitalization effort of America.

In 1990, during the Waihe'e governorship, legislation was passed and signed providing an appropriation to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo to establish a Hawaiian Language Resource and Teacher Support Center which was named by the Aukahi Ho'ōla 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, as the Hale Kuamo'o. The Hale Kuamo'o is one of the reasons that schools taught through Hawaiian have had such vigorous programs and Hawaiian language learning throughout the world has developed to such a high level. The Hale Kuamo'o provides the books and other resources needed including online resources and Hawaiian language dictionaries that have moved Hawaiian language revitalization forward. Indeed, the Hale Kuamo'o is the initiative from which there later emerged the State Hawaiian Language College (Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani) and through which the Aukahi Ho'ōla 'Ōlelo Hawai'i was able to establish an integrated program taught through Hawaiian from the preschool level through to the doctorate.

Also in 1990, the United States Congress passed the Native American Languages Act which the Aukahi Ho'ōla 'Ōlelo Hawai'i had seen as crucial to recognize and protect the status of Hawaiian, American Indian languages, Alaska Native languages and the Indigenous languages of the Pacific Island territories. This initiative occurred during Governor Waihe'e's tenure, led by the Aukahi Ho'ōla 'Ōlelo Hawai'i with coordinated support from his office, the State Legislature, and Hawai'i's Congressional delegation. Out of that legislation, emerged several other federal laws up to the most recent passage of the National Native American Language Resource Center in 2023. Today, Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College and its fellow members of the Aukahi Ho'ōla 'Ōlelo Hawai'i serve as the lead entity for that Federally-established Institution.

When Waihe'e took on the responsibility of Delegate to the Constitutional Convention the Hawaiian language was near extinction. It was only spoken by the kupuna generation and was still legally barred from being used as a medium of education in schools. Over the period since Waihe'e's service as a Constitutional Convention Delegate up to the present, the Hawaiian language has experienced phenomenal growth and revitalization success. This progress developed based on personal actions of Governor Waihe'e and actions that he supported when he held powerful positions in state government as well as later as a citizen with love for Hawai'i and for Hawai'i's education system. Much still remains to be done before the Hawaiian language reaches its previous level of extensive use here in its ancestral home of origin. However, through the powerful support of John D. Waihe'e, the language has returned to a level of vitality with a degree of speed and strength that has amazed many throughout the world and brought accolades to Hawai'i on a number of occasions.

Relative alone to actions which he has taken on behalf of advancing the Hawaiian language to its current level of vitality, John D. Waihe'e is deserving of being included in the Aloha Order of Merit. We, members of the Aukahi Ho'ōla 'Ōlelo Hawai'i hereby indicate our strong support for that status for him.

**PERSONAL TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF S.C.R. 117 AND S.R. NO. 110
NOMINATING JOHN D. WAIHE‘E III FOR INDUCTION INTO THE ALOHA ORDER
OF MERIT**

**Senator Herbert M. “Tim” Richards, III, Chair
Senator Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**

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

Hearing: April 8, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Leimomi Khan, and I respectfully offer my **strong personal support** for S.C.R 117 and S.R. No. 110, nominating former Governor John D. Waihe‘e III for induction into the Aloha Order of Merit.

While Governor Waihe‘e’s historic accomplishments are well documented, I wish to share my mana‘o both as a community member and as a Native Hawaiian who has been personally impacted by his legacy.

Governor Waihe‘e has been an inspiration to me.

He is a kind and caring leader whose presence brings a sense of calm into any room. I have seen how he engages with others—even in difficult or contentious situations—and he carries himself with a quiet strength and respect that puts people at ease. He listens, reflects, and brings a sense of **common sense and balance** to complex issues. In many ways, he models what leadership grounded in aloha should look like.

But beyond his personal qualities, I also recognize the **daunting scope of his leadership**.

As Governor of Hawai‘i during a time of economic transition and national change, he carried the weight of guiding our State through complex challenges—working not only at the local level, but also on the national stage. His leadership elevated Hawai‘i’s voice and helped position our State as a bridge between cultures, peoples, and nations.

For me, however, one of the most profound aspects of his legacy is his role in the **1978 Constitutional Convention**.

The decisions made during that convention continue to shape our lives today. The establishment of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the recognition of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as an official language, and the strengthening of protections for our cultural and natural resources were not abstract policy

decisions—they were foundational changes that affirmed the identity, rights, and dignity of Native Hawaiians.

As a Native Hawaiian, I feel the impact of that work personally.

It has helped create pathways for our voices to be heard, for our culture to be honored, and for our people to move forward with greater recognition and purpose. That did not happen by chance. It happened because of leaders like Governor Waihe‘e, who had the vision and courage to stand for what was right.

As you can tell, I have great admiration for him—not only for what he has accomplished, but for **who he is and what he has made possible for our lāhui.**

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support his nomination to the Aloha Order of Merit. It is a recognition that reflects both the breadth of his achievements and the depth of his impact.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Leimomi Khan