

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

February 26, 2008

### GM 258: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ABBEY SETH MAYER AS DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING

Aloha Chairman Hee, Vice-Chair Kokubun and Senators Fukunaga, Tokkuda and Whalen.

My name is Dr. Davianna Pomaika'i McGregor and I am a professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa. I am writing in support of the appointment of Abbey Seth Mayer as director of the Office of Planning for the State of Hawai'i. My teaching responsibilities prevent me from providing my testimony in person.

I have known and worked with Mr. Mayer over the past two years that he has served as the Executive Director of the Ke 'Aupuni Lokahi (KAL) Moloka'i Enterprise Community. Throughout these two years he has impressed me as a brilliant, honest, professional and efficient young man.

My direct experience was in working with Mr. Mayer on the Community-Based Master Plan for Moloka'i Ranch and the establishment of the Moloka'i Land Trust.

The Moloka'i Ranch Plan was an intense and comprehensive process. The first phase extended over 100 days, from March through May 2004. A total of 1,000 members of the Moloka'i community participated in a unique and exhaustive process to develop a master plan for the 65,000 acres owned by Moloka'i Ranch. The meetings were announced, open to the public and most were aired on public access television (Akaku Channel 53)

During the next phase, a draft plan was presented to the Moloka'i community in public meetings and presentations to organizations and families. The community planning group finalized guidelines for policies and principles of land management and focused on the two toughest issues. These were the water plan and the Ranch's proposal to develop 200 two-acre rural residential lots along the south and west shores of Moloka'i adjacent to La'au Point. Out of this phase, a core group of opponents cohered to challenge these two features of the plan.

Despite this opposition, the Ke Aupuni Lokahi - Moloka'i Enterprise Community (KAL-MEC) board endorsed the overall Community-Based Master Land Use Plan for Moloka'i Ranch (hereinafter called the Master Plan) on November 1, 2005. In retaliation, hard core opponents concentrated a bitter and slanderous propaganda campaign against KAL-MEC and the Master Plan throughout 2006 and 2007 (this article is written in May 2007).

Supporters of the overall plan emphasize its outstanding beneficial and visionary features, while opponents narrow their sight on the La'au development and the water use proposal. The issue has created tensions within families and among friends and polarized the community.

Throughout this process, Mr. Mayer has maintained a principled and consistent position focusing on the longterm benefits to the Moloka'i community and families and the longterm protection of premier Native Hawaiian legacy lands. This can be summarized as follows:

## **Land Ownership and Management**

- 24,900 acres or 40 percent of the lands owned by MPL will be donated the community through the Moloka'i Land Trust.
- 1,300 acres will be donated to a Moloka'i community-based corporation - development rights on 200 acres will be donated for community housing around Kualapu'u and Maunaloa and 1,100 acres will be donated fee simple for community expansion around Kaunakakai.
- MPL will place 24, 950 acres into protective easements which will be managed by the Moloka'i Land Trust - 14,390 acres for agriculture and 10, 560 acres for open space.

## **Permanent Protection of Premier Native Hawaiian Legacy Lands**

- The ancient burial ground in the sand dunes inland of Kawa'aloa Bay. At one time the Ranch allowed the mining of sand and planned to build a resort here. Now these sacred grounds will be permanently protected.
- Ka'ana is the birthplace of the hula that originated on Moloka'i and spread throughout the islands. This sacred site will never be destroyed or commercialized.
- Na'iwa , the only traditional makahiki grounds that remain intact in the islands. This extensive area, once threatened by the development of a golf course, will be protected forever.
- Village sites at Kawakiu, which would be destroyed under current zoning in the Moloka'i Community Plan, will now be permanently protected.

- Burial mounds at Kawela, which at one time were threatened by development, will be protected.
- Key fishing grounds from Keonelele to 'Ilio Point and from Pala'au over to Hale O Lono, including Halena and Kolo will be protected for subsistence.
- The historic Paka'a house site, upland sweet potato gardens and connecting trails will be preserved.
- Kaiaka Rock will not be developed.
- Kamaka'ipo Gulch and the fishing village north of Kaupoa Camp will be preserved.

With regard to the Moloka'i Land Trust, Mr. Mayer coordinated the fundraising, technical assistance and capacity building. The Moloka'i Land Trust was formed in 2006 as a charitable non-profit corporation. Its stated mission is "to protect and restore the land, natural and cultural resources of Moloka'i, and to perpetuate the unique Native Hawaiian traditions and character of the island for the benefit of the future generations of all Moloka'i, particularly Native Hawaiians."<sup>i</sup> A majority of the board of directors must be fulltime residents of Moloka'i. Recognizing that the Moloka'i community considers itself the "Last Hawaiian Island", the composition of the board needs to reflect the ethnic composition of the island at the time of incorporation, which is 60 percent Native Hawaiian.

Revenue to fund the operations of the Moloka'i Land Trust will come from existing communications tower rents of \$250,000 a year and from a 5 percent share of the sale of the lots in the proposed La'au rural residential development.

With regard to the proposed La'au rural residential development, Mr. Mayer, like the majority of the Moloka'i Enterprise Community board is a reluctant supporter because it will lead to the reopening of the Kaluako'i Hotel which will create 150 jobs and increase opportunities for local entrepreneurship; preserve Moloka'i Ranch operations and its 140 jobs; support the establishment of a Moloka'i Community Development Corporation; and gift lands to the Moloka'i Land Trust for the community.

Throughout his two years of experience with the Moloka'i Enterprise Community, Mr. Mayer has earned on the job training in community-based economic planning and gained experience in how to work with a broad cross-section of Moloka'i's rural community with respect and understanding.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Mayer's appointment as Director of the Office of Planning. Aloha.

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**Sen. Clayton Hee**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

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**From:** Juan Wilson [juanwilson@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 27, 2008 9:55 AM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee; senkokubon@Capitol.hawaii.gov; senwhalen@capitol.hawaii.gov; Sen. Carol Fukunaga; Sen. Jill Tokuda  
**Subject:** Testimony Opposing GM 258 Abbey S Mayer

Aloha Kakou Chairman, Senator Clayton Hee,  
Vice Chairman, Russell Kokubon  
and Members of the Water & Land Committee:

I am an architect and planner living on Kauai. It is my opinion that Mr. Abbey does not have the requisite background and experience for the job at hand. Unqualified appointments of business cronies and political hacks have destroyed the management of our federal departments, let us not continue doing that here in Hawaii.

These times call for the best, brightest and most skilled to solve the overwhelming problems that lie ahead. Please to not make this appointment. It is be remembered.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

Juan Wilson  
Architect-Planner  
PO Box 949  
Hanapepe HI 96716  
(808) 335-0733

2/27/2008

## LATE TESTIMONY

**Sen. Clayton Hee**

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**From:** Janice Palma-Glennie [palmtree7@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2008 8:56 PM  
**To:** senkokubon@Capitol.hawaii.gov; senwhalen@capitol.hawaii.gov; Sen. Carol Fukunaga; Sen. Jill Tokuda; Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Subject:** Oppose Abbey Meyer's nomination as Planning Director

Aloha, Senators:

Abbey S. Meyer should NOT be appointed State Director of Planning.

Why? Besides possibly being an appointment that contravenes state law, Mr. Meyer's experience is totally lacking, not only in planning issues, but in understanding Hawai'i and its uniqueness - a place where planning is intimately linked to the protection of the environment and indigenous culture of these unique islands.

Please be sure that this nomination doesn't fly, and insure that the governor's appointee understands how critical good land use planning leadership is to our islands' people and natural resources.

Mahalo for your consideration of my views.

Best regards,  
Janice Palma-Glennie  
PO Box 4849  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

2/27/2008

**Sen. Clayton Hee**

## LATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Marjorie Erway [merway@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2008 5:10 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee; senkokubon@Capitol.hawaii.gov; Sen. Paul Whalen; Sen. Carol Fukunaga; Sen. Jill Tokuda  
**Subject:** OPPOSE -GM 258 - Abbey S. Meyer, proposed as Director of State Planning

Aloha Chairman Hee, Vice Chairman Kokubon and Members of the Water & Land Committee:

Not only am I in absolute opposition to Mr. Meyer's appointment as Director of State Planning, but I sincerely question Governor Lingle's appointment of such an UNqualified candidate.

Mr. Meyer is completely lacking the essential requirements for holding such a position. You have received many letters with the prerequisites for this position, so will not waste your time to have to acknowledge these again.

Besides urging you to stop Mr. Meyer's appointment, I also sincerely request that you initiate a full investigation into the governor's appointment of such an unqualified candidate. How could someone who does not meet any criteria to serve the people and a'ina of Hawaii be so appointed?

Mahalo for your service,  
Marjorie Erway  
PO Box 2807  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745  
324-4624



# LATE TESTIMONY

Sen. Clayton Hee

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**From:** Cory (Martha) Harden [mh@interpac.net]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2008 10:54 PM

**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee; senkokubon@Capitol.hawaii.gov; senwhalen@capitol.hawaii.gov; Sen. Carol Fukunaga; Sen. Jill Tokuda

**Cc:** SC HI M DeNaie

**Subject:** oppose Abbey Meyer

Dear Land and Water committee members,

Please do NOT confirm Abbey Meyer as State Director of Planning.

He is Executive Director of the Moloka'i Enterprise Community Board, which is a partner with Molokai Properties Ltd, which is pushing the La'au Development. He's lived less than five years in Hawai'i and has little planning or management experience.

mahalo, Cory Harden, hilo

2/27/2008

# LATE TESTIMONY

## testimony

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**From:** Koki Foster [kokimolokai@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2008 11:29 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Support for Abbey Meyer

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Water and Lands Committee:

I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support for the confirmation of Abbey Seth Mayer as the Director of the Office of Planning (OP) of the State of Hawaii.

I have known Abbey for 2 years. I know Abby as a dedicated family man, and respected member of our community. I wholeheartedly support his conformation as Director of the office of planning. Abbey has demonstrated integrity and level headedness in all public affairs. Abbey will be a valued asset in the State Government.

Sincerely yours,  
Jenette Foster

"It is not happiness that makes us grateful but gratefulness that makes us happy."  
Brother David Steindl-Rast  
[www.gratefulness.org](http://www.gratefulness.org)

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Looking for last minute shopping deals?  
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**From:** drake wells [wells.drake1@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2008 3:57 PM  
**To:** Sen. Clayton Hee  
**Cc:** Cherie Yamane; senkokuban@Capitol.hawaii.gov; senfukunaga@Capitol.gov; Sen. Jill Tokuda; Sen. Paul Whalen  
**Subject:** "testimony in opposition of GM 258 Abbey S. Mayer"

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Dear Senators, I wish to inform you about Abbie Mayer's "appointment" to possibly become one of the "Directors" of the "Linda Lingle's" Governor's Advisory Board. I feel that his record as one of the "directors" of the Molokai Enterprise Community (Ke Aupuni Lokahi Inc.) was a complete failure: his resum'e was incomplete, you will be having it made available to you by other E-mails: How he was "appointed" to the EC is a mystery to me! I have nothing personally against him as an individual. He is better suited to work in the private sector. I believe the use of the appointing method was not used properly, it shows how person like him can be considered to be qualified to fit the bill to be on the "governor's advisory board". It will be a conflict of intrest on his part. His "Appointment" to Molokai's G A B is not "Pono"! Sincerely Drake C Wells.