

**TESTIMONY**

**GM 258**

**LATE**

**2/27/08**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

PETITION

**TO THE STATE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

**SUPPORTING GM258, THE CONFIRMATION OF ABBEY SETH MAYER AS  
DIRECTOR FOR THE STATE OFFICE OF PLANNING**

**February 2008**

**We, the undersigned residents of Moloka'i, support the confirmation of Abbey Seth Mayer for the position of Director for the Office of State Planning because of his integrity and abilities, as demonstrated in his ability to handle complex planning processes and the good work he has done on Molokai over the past 4 years.**

Name

Address

1. Grant Dudoit PO Box 253 Maunaloa 96770
2. Leinaga Bishaw Box 1445 Kaunakakai 96748
3. Edmund Pales P.O. Box 2092, Kaunakakai 96748
4. Shirley K. Davis P.O. Box 2092, Kaunakakai 96748
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# LATE TESTIMONY

Sen. Clayton Hee (Chair)  
Sen. Russell Kokubun (V-Chair)

February 26, 2008

RE: Testimony in **OPPOSITION** to **Abbey S. Mayer** confirmation as Director of State  
Office of Planning GM258

Aloha Senator Hee and committee members,

I submit this testimony in opposition to the confirmation of Abbey Mayer to be Director of our State Office of Planning. A review of his resume shows him to be unqualified for such an important position, and describes a background of privilege. How does his Yale University degree in Art, or creating a website to sell yachts, or writing a novel (a commercial thriller involving ballet and espionage) qualify him for this position? More recently, he was the manager of the Molokai Slaughterhouse, for less than a year, before jumping to the Molokai Enterprise Community. In that position, he has supported a convoluted, pseudo-public initiative to support a development plan that is highly controversial in our community, and is relying now on political favors and legislative manipulations to get the required approvals.

Because I have been involved in community education on water issues for many years, I approached Mr. Mayer one day soon after his being hired at Enterprise Community / Molokai Ranch Master Plan. I told him I was concerned that the EC planning process was not discussing water, which should be considered at the front end of any planning process. I hoped to help him understand that water on Molokai is a serious concern, as we have a very fragile water source, are a groundwater management area, and that there are many systems on Molokai besides economic ones that depend on a source of clean water to exist... cultural, social and environmental. He could not have looked less interested. Under Mr. Mayer's Directorship, the EC continues to disregard community concerns about water and is apparently trying to get through political favors from the Governor the approval they cannot get from their own community.

Please toss the Governor's nominee out, and initiate an investigation into her possible collusion with the developer Molokai Properties, Ltd. We are tired of her favoritism and nominating unqualified people to serve in government.

Mahalo,

K. Mahealani Davis P.O.Box 350 Kaunakakai HI 96748

**From:** Iruka Saitoh [irukasaitoh@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2008 12:42 PM

**To:**

**Cc:** Sen. Jill Tokuda; Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Russell Kokubun; senfukunaga@hawaii.gov; Sen. Paul Whalen; rittew@hotmail.com; danny.mateo@mauicounty.us

**Subject:** "Abbey Mayer"- APPOINTED!?

## LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha to ALL: Hopefully this "goes on Record- !?" we can have established a future "Ho'o Mana'o: "for the "win-win" senario" !!! "Appointing" an "individual" into "power" will always have a "counter-productive" Agenda for expressing the "Truth"!!!- "of the People"- "by the People"- "for the People"!!! ABBEY MAYER ( or any "individual" should not ever be "Appointed"), I remember in the past- (I believe it was at the time of the "first" Constitution Convention)- it was Kathy Hoshijo that was "nominated" to run for LT. Governor that shared the "Truthfull-Guidelines" for "serving the People"- "for one to be APPOINTED is NOT in the best intrest to serve the people", she went on to say: "One is either a "Politician" or a dedicated "Public Servant". Well, on this note of intrest let it be known that this simple "BeachBoy" would like to express my "na'au"- (for the Record/ as our "Admiral"[General] WALTER says "Let it go on Record"- "Let it be Written"- For ABBEY MAYER to be "Appointed"- ( And again, for any one to be "Appointed") is NOT "Pono". There will always be the questions of "Hidden Agendas"- "Special Intrest provisions"- (meetings Behind Closed Doors)-"Secret Tactics and Strategies" and looking out for (money making) Big Business Progress and Innovation. We have already been fore-warned "Look-Out", don't get caught-up with the "Concept" of the "Military/Security Industrial Complex"! As a "simple" BeachBum-BeachBoy-SailingMan "I do" wish to share my perspective pertaining to the "Truth"- OK?... Being "Pono" is very, very "Simple"- we need to only "surrender" our All and "Continue-On" with "dedicated" conviction to "Grow in Faith"- as we "fellowship" and have "prayer and dialouge" to "share-n-care" the "Truth" with each other, we are indeed "set free". Again, the more that we "surrender", the more that KE AKUA will trully bless us and give us the "Legacy of Faith" that we "Do" so have a "Hearts Desire" to perpetuate generation unto generation. To continue the policy to "Not" serve with the "True" Pono-ness as a representing governmental officials agenda will always be "Counter-Productive" in "serving the best intrest of the People"- The People, are the benefactors of the "given" Promise yet to come, the Hawaiian "Kanaka Maoli" people are the greatest resource and "care-givers" for the "Best Intrest" for Hawaii Nei. GOD, Ke Akua always puts the People first, before Culture, before Country, before Flag; before "Industrial Complexes" \$\$\$- The People come First! For Abbey Mayer to be "Appointed" is Not putting the People First! Here is a "fore-warned" Proclamation: If (Big Business-money making) "powers-to-be" ("haole get big idea"/ Singapore Gamblers") continue to force your "let me help" agenda upon the People of Molokai much will come to bare- and Yes, the Truth will Always Keep Us Free. Do you folks realize that if certain parties continue to "Force" the "Concept" of "Stupitity is a Virtue" senarios upon us The People of our "Sweet-n-Lovely" island and community ( such as "Development"- (Big Money-Making-Business) of the pristine Heritage and Culturally, while also Socially significant Valued La'au/Wailau/Mana'e/Kaluakoi "special "Pono" land, valley, and coastal areas of our "special-little-island"- that many "Friendly Isle" warroirs will lay down their "blood" for a "pristine" Bright and Clear future for our Childern's Childern's Childern. Be Fore Warned: Governor Linda Lingle: Please don't ever think of bringing the Military to come again to Molokai and "Play War-Games" (money-making) antics here upon, within, and thru our "precious" & "sacred" Aloha A'ina i Ka Pono- Please, for "special-intrest" do not ever think in bring the "SuperFerry" \$\$\$ (if it survives) to our "un-Developed shores. History shows that Molokai has very strong Prayers and "pray-warriors", so I do not think you want to go down in the Record Books as the first governor in "time-of-peace" to have to "Proclaim Martial

2/26/2008

Law"... Please, Governor Lingle pray for understanding and Godly-Wisdom for what is in "right-standing"; that which is "Pono". While this simple "BeachBum" has every ones attention, I would like to share Ho'o mana'o-OK... Fellow voyager and crewmember Clayton Hee, along with Dedicated "public servant" Danny Mateo, we had the opprotunity to "talk-story" about the future of positively creating the "legistature', Bill; and Laws to give "special-recognition" of zoning laws and guidelines pertaining to "Heritage-n-Culture" significant areas on Molokai and thru out all Hawaii Nei to "Keep Pono"- "To Keep in Perpetuity", and remain Protected, Preserved, and rightfully maintained for the "Self-Sufficent"/"Perpetuation" for our "youth yet to be born". I if may ask that if it is at all possible, may we be allowed to "Continue-On" with is "ho'o mana'o", perpetuate this proposed "think-tank" to "stand-in -the-gap" and "be-accountable" for the potencial "Bright-n-Clear" Future that we can turn over to Future "kanaka maoli" leaders. So. in summary-I would like to go on Record: that I am against the idea of "appointing into power" anyone that will have the clout and "special-intrest" backing to "Dictate" the "future of the People, like Abbey Mayer- {Shame on you sempai Abbey}, you proclaim to embrace the "spirit of "Budo" and proudly establish you "way" of living "Aikido" here on our "Sweet-n-Lovely"/"Friendly-MoBettah-Isle" of Molokai... Please, listen with your Heart, pray for guidance and understand for what is "best" and "Mo-Bettah" to kokua the future for "our community" Pono ness: "of the People" "for the People" "by the People"... GOD-Speed for All Concern Me Ke Aloha Pumehana JMC/iruka".

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**From:** penny spiller [spiller@wave.hicv.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2008 12:56 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Abbey Seth Mayer's confirmation hearing before Senator Clayton Hee 02-27-08 on Moloka'i for State Planning Office chair  
**Attachments:** Penny's letter regarding Abbey as Planning Director.doc

I do not believe that Abbey Mayer is qualified to be the Director of the State Office of Planning. I do not believe he has the qualifications, the experience or the attitude to serve the population of our State at this time. Here is why I think this way:

If having a degree in Art History qualifies a person to be the State Director of Planning that was my major too. If attending a prestigious East Coast college qualifies a person to direct a State office, one could argue either way which is a better school, Yale University or Sarah Lawrence College or whether either is a qualification for this particular job, then I should have been appointed, (or Claude Sutcliffe or Burrell Duvachelle, both of whom have served and been a part the Moloka'i community much longer than Abbey Mayer) should have been considered.

If being a member of the same "tribe" as our governor is a qualification (which I sincerely doubt), then, Philip Henry Lowenthal, Joel August, or Brooke Hart, or Jonathan Socher or I should have been appointed. Three are attorneys with terrific reputations and the third has long business experience on Moloka'i and some law school too.

If working on Moloka'i qualifies one for the job, I am more qualified. I was the probation officer for Moloka'i and Lana' i too for some of the time, for over 30 years. I know this community, a great deal of genealogy, its desires and its problems too. Abbey has worked many jobs here, completing none and leaving the EC, his last job in limbo.

I do not want the job of State Director of the Office of Planning. I am not qualified. Neither is Abbey. He knows how I feel. I told him myself. This community made every effort to accept the Mayer family with open arms. The gestures did not prove reciprocal.

I said that I believe that Linda Lingle has appointed Abbey, not for his qualifications, his education or his job experience but rather because of his political views toward development of this and other islands and for the advancement of his own and Ms. Lingle's political ambitions. Mr. Mayer told me that he changed jobs for the financial security of his family. I earned less than he and supported a family of four on Moloka'i, mostly on my own for over thirty years. Don't let political ambitions affect effective long-term planning as we face an uncertain future of our precious, fragile State. This individual has shown no loyalty to Moloka'i or to his previous employers. He goes to the highest bidder. Buyers beware!

Thank you for listening to me and considering my opinion.

Sincerely yours,

**PENELOPE G.SPILLER**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2008 1:02 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** re: Abbey Mayer nomination opposed and reasons

Where's the Beef? Where's the Beef?

My name is Martin Kahae. When I heard that Linda Lingle was appointing Abbey Mayer to the director of State Planning, I almost had a nervous overload. I read and have heard from community leaders of his success with the Molokai slaughterhouse project and it is for this success that the governor is appointing Abbey Mayer. This means that the vast majority of life giving community laborers for the last twenty years that gave so generously their voluntary service means nothing to the governor or to the history of this slaughterhouse. If Abbey's supporters would say that the Moloka'i Livestock Cooperative was viable because of Abbey Mayer, I would delay and dispute his success story with the slaughterhouse.

When I was introduced to Abbey Mayer by Henry Tancayo (then vice-president of the Moloka'i Livestock Cooperative), he was young, Jewish-American, interested in the task at hand, college educated (Yale, art history major) grad, and willing to learn. However, he did not have State or Federal Health Certification which meant that the organization would have to train him. He did not have any of the state of Hawai'i slaughterhouse operation experience which meant that we would provide training. He had been on Moloka'i for less than a year (with Rose his wife who had a contracted teacher's job at Kualapu'u School and his very bright son Juno named for the city in Alaska from which they had just moved to Moloka'i). I felt that Henry had found someone that could fit our needs. Henry and I knew he did not have the required qualifications, however, he was trainable. His selection was approved for a period contingent upon completion of a number of tasks. It should be mentioned here that at one of our regular meetings, when I asked a question about the \$4,000 amount in the manager's salary of a grant (when we were discussing a grant as a financial award given to non-profits for their project) Abbey Mayer stood up from his chair and said, "What, you like me quit?". I was puzzled by his comment because it did not match my thinking about, how much the cooperative could then pay it' its rancher-members to raise and supply the meat. And more important is how was I, the volunteer president, to continue to pay him \$1,000 per week when the grant funding ran out? In reflection, now I can see why he hired workers that took meat from the patrons of our community. I can understand why he recommends to the board; sell the Co-op's Cat backhoe for his salary. I believe I made a poor decision in judgment in hiring Abbey Mayer. I never took into account his attitude for wealth and upward mobility. The company is handcuffed now with these problems which keep the real success from happening. You see, Abbey was not my first choice rather it was a person who understood community needs like Ipo Pedro or other Moloka'i 4-H alumni. I guess I just did not know enough about Abbey Mayer and his political agendas... I do not believe that being on Moloka'i for about three years, and saying that you made the slaughterhouse a success, qualifies him for a Directorship.

It disturbs me that I am witness to this very careless act on the part of Linda for appointing Abbey Mayer. This is how government fills its closets with their political puppets? If being in the islands for just three years, qualifies a person to represent the community at large? If this is true I am more qualified matters of government then I would qualify to direct the Department of Agriculture because it took me from the 1985 cattle eradication to the present to fulfill what many of our original members wanted;

- Provide a replacement slaughterhouse because Moloka'i had none after the only Molokai Ranch slaughterhouse fell into disrepair;
- Provide a safe facility to inspect meat and assure that it is kept free from disease (especially TB);
- Provide a clean, health certified service to public livestock growers; and to provide an economic mean for its rancher-members.

This is how Government works? Hire the Immigrant! These newcomers come and go and they say they are community? It sounds like government (Linda) does not have any problem with his qualifications. I have some reservations about his appointment and at this time. I should not have trusted Abbey Mayer's decision making on economic development for a cooperative or my own hiring decisions. There must be accountability. The slaughterhouse is still losing money from actions of Abbey Mayer.

I RECOMMEND THAT YOU VOTE NO!

Aloha,

Martin Kahae  
(Former MLC President)



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**From:** Pat Puaa [hawaiiipat4@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2008 1:46 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:** Sen. Russell Kokubun; Sen. Carol Fukunaga; Sen. Jill Tokuda; Sen. Paul Whalen  
**Subject:** ABBEY MAYER Nomination

Pat L Puaa  
P. O. Box 747  
Kaunakakai, Hi 96748

February 27, 2008

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Nomination of Abbey Seth Mayer as Director of the State Office of Planning

Dear Chairman Hee:

I realize that I have missed the deadline for testimony because of my husbands illness, but wanted to express my feelings about this nomination as our Governor and Molokai Ranch puts a key person into this position to accomplish their goals.

I am AGAINST the nomination of Abbey Mayer to the position of Director of the Office of Planning. I saw this happen with our EC board on Molokai, please don't let it happen again, in the name of letting our Molokai, be Molokai and not what has happen to our sister islands.

Mahalo,

Pat L Puaa  
Molokai Off-Road Tours & Taxi

**TESTIMONY of  
Tuddie Purdy  
P.O. Box 84  
Ho`olehua, HI 96729**

February 26, 2008

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Re: Nomination of Abbey Seth Mayer as Director of the State Office of Planning

Dear Chairman Hee:

**I oppose the appointment of Abbey Mayer as Director, Office of Planning for the State of Hawaii.**

Mr. Abbey Mayer does not have a strong background in strategic, long-range, community-based planning. He does not have any experience in balancing economic growth for the State of Hawaii. Mr. Mayer has lived on Molokai for 4 years (his entire residency in Hawaii), his knowledge of protecting Hawaii natural and cultural resources are not represented in his personal resume of job experiences and/or education. Mr. Mayer's employment and education is not consistent with the qualifications for the State of Hawaii's Director, Office of Planning position.

Mr. Mayer worked 2 years as the executive director for Ke Aupuni Lokahi (KAL), the Molokai Enterprise Community. While he was employed for KAL, he frequently supported the development of 200 million dollar lots at La'au Point on Molokai's most southwestern coastal zone, where numerous monk seals consider a safe haven to survive. A video of Mr. Mayer confirms his bias position at the November 15, 2007 Land Use Commission (LUC) hearing held on Molokai.

According to the governor, the Office of Planning represents the state in hearings before the LUC and assists other state agencies in planning and development.

If this were the case, Mr. Mayer's appointment as Director of Planning would be in direct conflict as he may influence the outcome of the LUC's decision in this matter. His blatant desire to exploit La'au should disqualify him from any involvement in the existing LUC La'au process. Therefore I implore you to unanimously disapprove Mr. Abbey Mayer for the Director, Office of Planning for the State of Hawaii.

Humbly submitted by Tuddie Purdy

**TESTIMONY**

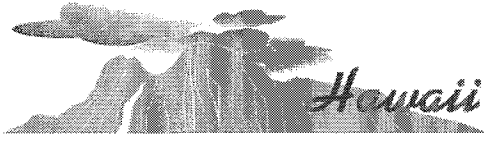
**GM 258**

**LATE**

**(END)**

**2/27/08**

# LATE TESTIMONY



*Hawaii's Thousand Friends*

25 Maluniu Ave., Suite 102., PMB 282 • Kailua, HI 96734 • Phone/Fax: (808) 262-0682 E-mail: htf@lava.net

February 27, 2007

Testimony via email

## COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Russell Kokubun, Vice Chair

Gubernatorial Nominee as Director of the Office of Planning  
Abbey Seth Mayer

Committee Chairs and members:

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, a statewide non-profit land use organization, opposes the confirmation of Abbey Seth Mayor for the position as director of the Office of Planning.

According to Mr. Mayer's resume he does not have the **required** qualifications, HRS 225M-2, for the position. He lacks:

- Training in the field of urban or regional planning, public administration, or other related fields;
- Experience in programs or services related to governmental planning;
- Experience in a supervisory, consultative, or administrative capacity.

The Office of Planning is charged with state comprehensive and strategic planning, analyzes and formulates information by which to establish state policies and strategies and provides direction and cohesion in the allocation of resources and effectuation of state activities and programs.

In addition, OP develops and presents the position of the State in all boundary change petitions and proceedings before the land Use Commission and is responsible for the State's Coastal Zone Management Program.

The Office of Planning plays an extremely important role in how Hawai'i grows and the leader in this position must be well trained and qualified in order to guide the economic and physical development of the State while meeting the social needs of Hawaii's people and conserving natural, environmental, recreational, scenic, and historical resources.

***Puakala Farms***  
*Producers of Quality Fruits and Vegetables*  
**P.O. Box 261, Kualapuu, Molokai, HI 96757**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

February 26, 2008

TO: State Legislators  
FROM: Glenn I. Teves  
RE: Letter OPPOSING the Appointment of Abbie Mayer as Director of OSP

Aloha Senators. I feel compelled to write a letter in opposition to this appointment.

If you look at who is pushing for him, it's those who are desperate to push the Molokai Ranch Land Use Plan and the La'au Point development down the Molokai community's throat. This causes me a lot of heartburn and was the main reason I was compelled to write this letter. Initially, I had planned to stay out of this fray after he had talked to me, but after reviewing the testimony in support of his confirmation, especially from MPL management and supporters of MPL's land use plan, I'm concerned that his payback will be to do all he can in this position to move the La'au Point project forward. From my perspective, the project is stuck in the mud. I don't agree with his staunch support of La'au Point, because this also shows me he doesn't understand Department of Hawaiian Homes first rights to water and the Water Code, which are critical in deliberating land use issues and policies. Also, it tells me he willing to go against the majority view.

Personally, I consider him a friend; he's friendly and approachable, and I worked with him when he was hired as the Executive Director of the Molokai Livestock Cooperative. I was advisor to the cooperative and have been working with these ranchers since 1987. I feel he did a fair job, but nothing earth shattering. I felt he could have accomplished more things, including establishing a retail outlet. Instead, by not seeing the vital importance of this piece of the puzzle to the whole, this opportunity fell through the cracks. I gave him a lot of slack because I realized he was new to Hawaii, and especially to Molokai, and had a lot to learn including how to work with this special community. I do know that he was at odds with one of the leaders of the cooperative, but I realize that its takes two to tango. However, I had to step in on at least one occasion to keep the discussion on track instead of letting tempers flare.

My biggest concerns have to do with his knowledge of Hawaii and his ability to lead the state in this very important responsibility in a critical time during our history. I haven't seen any leadership qualities he possesses to say he has what it takes to lead such an important undertaking. I don't consider consider him a visionary or one with great leadership ability. He's demeanor is low key, which may come across as meek or weak. His barrage of letters from the mainland are troublesome in that this group may have an undue influence on his ability to lead the Office of State Planning.

In his job as Executive Director of the Enterprise Community, he was more an implementer or a go-fer than a decision maker, working with a board that's composed of individuals with very

strong personalities who probably didn't allow for independent and innovative thinking. As a result, his accomplishments are not well understood as it relates to this job responsibility. I'm familiar with the priorities of the EC project since I served as the co-chair of the Economic Committee for the Empowerment Zone Initiative facilitating community discussions, which led up to the development and submission of the final proposal, and receipt of this special designation to the island of Molokai by USDA.

I feel the Director of the Office State Planning needs to have a strong grasp of the State Constitution and its intent, and should have a strong understanding of Hawaii agriculture since most of the lands are zoned as such. In this position, Mr Mayer will have a vital role in deciding the fate of agricultural lands, and which parcels can be moved out of agriculture without compromising the future of agriculture in Hawaii. I don't think he has this kind of knowledge or background. The state Director of Planning needs to have strong convictions as a planner as to what should be the disposition of our finite land resources and public trust doctrine, and cannot bow to the whims of others who may unduly influence him and compromise his values. This agency needs strong leadership that has been lacking for much too long.

I also feel that the Governor is attempting to install someone in this position that is not strong enough to keep this office together since she has stated in the past that she has wanted to dismantle both LUC and OSP. Is this part of her grandiose plan? There is a steep learning curve, but this individual will be forced to hit the ground running. I'm concerned that Mr Mayer may not be the person who fits enough of these criteria. I hold no malice toward him and wish him the best, but I believe there are others in Hawaii who can better fill this critical and demanding role. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide input.

**Ke 'Aupuni Lōkāhi, Inc.**  
Moloka'i Enterprise Community

PO Box 1634  
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96718  
Phone 808.553.8188  
Fax 808.553.8333

**LATE TESTIMONY**

February 27, 2008

Aloha, my name is Leina'ala Bishaw and I am currently the Program Associate for Ke Aupuni Lokahi, Inc. also known as the Molokai Enterprise Community. Abbey Mayer has been the Executive Director for Ke Aupuni Lokahi for the past two years. Through my experiences with him, he has contributed to the organization not only financially but with compassion and dignity for our projects as well as the Ke Aupuni Lokahi Board and employees. He has leveraged a significant amount of funds for our organization but more importantly helped to leverage over 7 million dollars for our 22 active priority projects for this island this past year. I believe he has the knowledge, skills and the heart to be appointed for the Director of the Office of Planning.

# LATE TESTIMONY

February 27, 2008

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
23<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. #228  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 258, Gubernatorial Nominee for Director Office of Planning, Abbey Seth Mayer

Dear Senator Hee:

In considering Governor Linda Lingle's appointee for the Director of the Office of Planning for the State of Hawaii, I encourage the Water and Land Committee to confirm Mr. Abbey S. Mayer for the position.

I have known Mr. Mayer while he was the Director for the Molokai Livestock Cooperative a community develop livestock processing facility for the island of Molokai. During his tenure at the Cooperative Mr. Mayer open the plant as a federally certified facility, developed a business plan for the operation, and secured funding for the operation of the facility. As part the management for the facility I had the opportunity of experiencing Mr. Mayer apply for funding for the facility. Thru the efforts of Mr. Mayer he help secured funding for the operation of the plant from the committee I sat on.

I also believe his past experience as executive directorship of Ke Aupuni Lokahi organization has proven his ability to manage and administer a community-developed program with fairness and sound oversight.

In closing I believe Mr. Mayer has the skills and qualifications for the position of Director of the Office of planning and I humbly ask the Water and Land Committee to confirm him for the position.

Mahalo,



Edmund Pedro  
Resident



# LATE TESTIMONY

February 27, 2008

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

Aloha Chairman Hee and fellow committee members.

My name is Zhantell Dudoit and I am currently employed by Ke Aupuni Lokahi as the Molokai Visitor Coordinator in accordance with project #30, one of the 51 projects originally implemented by the Molokai Enterprise Community. I stand here today in support of the appointment of Abbey Seth Mayer as the director of the Hawaii State Office of Planning.

I have worked with Abbey for a total of 5 years and have had the opportunity to be employed under his supervision for the past year and a half. Throughout that time, Abbey has proven to be honest, sincere, hard working and dedicated to the welfare of the people and projects he has been responsible for and to the island of Molokai. Throughout controversy, heated discussions, accusations and unfair personal and professional attacks, Abbey has remained humble, compassionate and full of integrity. In addition, Abbey found the strength and love for Molokai to continue in the partnership and management of at least 22 crucial projects and programs necessary to enhance Molokai's quality of life and has leveraged over 2 million dollars to help sustain these projects. The Molokai Community Health Center, The Molokai Dialysis Center, Kahua Ola Hou, The Molokai Slaughter House and the Molokai Taro Production are just a few examples.

I understand how important it is to choose leaders who can be trusted and are committed to the people and lands in which they are responsible for. I agree that we should take the time to insure those we choose are smart enough to read and understand the fine print of legal documents, strong enough to endure the battles... necessary for good decision making, compassionate enough to know when the heart should outweigh the wallet, fair enough to hear all sides and have the integrity and the wisdom to sometimes stand alone.....and this is why I support Abbey. Please don't be swayed by unfair opinions made because of our struggles as an island. Abbey deserves this opportunity and the State of Hawaii should be proud and honored to have a man like Abbey, serving our people.

Sincerely



Zhantell K M Dudoit

# LATE TESTIMONY

February 27, 2008

Senator Clayton Hee  
23<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District  
Hawaii State Capital, Rm. #228  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 258, Gubernatorial Nominee for Director Office of Planning, Abbey Seth Mayer.

Dear Senator Hee:

In considering Governor Linda Lingle's appointee for the Director of the Office of Planning for the State of Hawaii, I strongly urge you to confirm Mr. Abbey Mayer for this position. In the past years I've known Mr. Mayer, he has demonstrated his ability to handle complex planning process and the good works he have done for Molokai within the past 4 years. Below I'd like to share in writing my past experience having knowing Mr. Mayer:

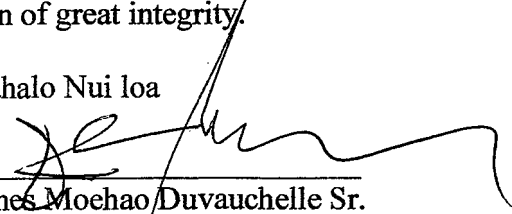
Working as the Executive Director and Plant Manager for the Molokai Livestock Cooperation (MLC) Mr. Mayer was definitely a great asset to the company and did contribute much valuable information and other courses that have significantly contributed to the business aspect.

He also serves as a board member to the Molokai Paniolo Cultural Centre and he showed himself to be an outstanding leader with much to offer to the organization and to me as the President and founder of the society.

Eventually, due to better opportunity to for him serve to Molokai as a whole rather than a single organization, Mr. Mayer left the organizations and took the position of becoming the Executive Director for Ke Aupuni Lokahi (Molokai EC) until this very day. Again I emphasize the great work he produced as the current MEC Director in overseeing the great progresses for at least 22 projects for the island and most importantly her people.

Mr. Mayer cares for the future of this community and for the State of Hawaii. He is a man of great integrity.

Mahalo Nui loa



James Mochao Duvauchelle Sr.  
P.O. Box 232, Mauna Loa,  
HI 96770.

# LATE TESTIMONY

## Inouye Construction LLC

Po. Box 2041

Kaunakakai Molo. Hi. 96748

Ph. 553-3438

Fax 553-3438

Cell 336-1446

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
23<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm.# 228  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, Hi. 96813

RE: GM 258, Gubernatorial Nominee for Director of the Office of Planning, Abbey Seth Mayer.

Dear Senator Hee:

I write today to strongly urge you to confirm Mr. Abbey Seth Mayer to the position of Director of the Office of Planning for the state of Hawaii.

The focus of his appointment should not be the issue of Laau or the EC and their standings in the political issues of this island community. What we need to do is focus on the man and how he handles the situations before him. Does he run when confronted with a situation? No. Does he change what he says to please whoever is yelling the loudest? No. Does he stand up for what he and his fellow colleagues are trying to accomplish? Yes. These are the things that make up individuals integrity and gives him or her morale fiber, qualities you will find in Abbey Mayer.

I believe if you turn down this appointment you will be doing the state a great injustice.

We as citizens of this great state don't have to agree on every issue put before us, that right comes from being a free people. However we should not forget how and who represents us needs qualities to represent the majority in a trusted and respectable way. I strongly suggest you do the state right and follow through with the appointment of Mr. Mayer.

Thank you



Lloyd Inouye



Legislative Testimony  
GM 258 Abbey Seth Mayer, Director, Office of Planning, DBEDT  
Senate Committee on Water and Land

Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Time: 11:00am

Kulana 'Oiwi Halau – Molokai

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Good morning Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Kokubun and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **strongly** supports the Governors' nomination of Abbey Seth Mayer as Director, Office of Planning, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT).

As identified in Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Director of the Office of Planning shall have training in the field of urban or regional planning, public administration, or other related fields, experience in programs or services related to governmental planning, and experience in supervisory, consultative, or administrative capacity.

Mr. Mayer's most recent position was an Executive Director of Ke Aupuni Lokahi, the Moloka'i Enterprise Community (MEC). The program assists economically depressed regions through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Program. In this capacity, he managed and supervised twenty-two (22) community-based projects. His leadership skills provided these Moloka'i specific projects with efficient, collaborative and sensitive management.

Prior to joining MEC in 2006, he was Executive Director and Plan Manager of the Moloka'i Livestock Cooperative, and managed and oversaw the financial and operational responsibilities for the cooperative. These activities included developing a comprehensive business plan for the revitalization of the cattle industry on island.

Earlier in his career he was employed by a private land trust and has served as a guest lecturer on community-based planning for the UH Department of Urban and Regional Planning (URP). Mr. Mayer is a graduate of Yale University and recently completed the Executive Accounting Program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. This intense six-month course focuses on Generally Accepted Practices of for profit and non-profit organizations and prepares graduate students for the tediousness of public accounting. Although most graduates of this grueling course use it to pass the Certified Public Accounting exam, Mr. Mayer's intentions were only add another layer of expertise to his already extensive resume. We feel that his background and experience fulfills the requirements of the position of Executive Director of the Office of Planning.

Mr. Mayer "...has a strong background in strategic, long-range, community-based planning and understands the importance of balancing economic growth and development with protecting Hawaii's natural and cultural resources" which was noted by Governor Lingle when she announced his appointment.

We **strongly** support Mr. Meyer and look forward to working with him.

# LATE TESTIMONY

## Testimony on behalf of Abbey Seth Mayer For consideration and confirmation as Director of the Office of Planning

Aloha Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

My name is William Akutagawa and I am a lifelong resident of Molokai. I am the Executive Director of Na Pu'uwai, a Native Hawaiian Health Care System serving the needs of Native Hawaiians and the general community of Molokai, Lanai and Kalaupapa Hansens Disease Settlement.

I have known Abbey Seth Mayer in my capacity as a member of the Molokai Land Trust, as a benchmark leader on several projects of Ke Aupuni Lokahi, the Molokai Enterprise Community, and as an advisor to the Molokai Agriculture Development Program.

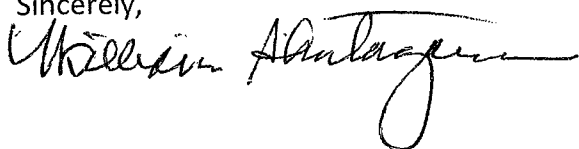
There is a genuine caring for the Molokai community that Abbey has shown by hard work and dedication to the projects I have prefaced. Our work in the land trust is to secure lands for conservation purposes and Abbey has recently applied for and secured legacy land monies from the State to purchase and preserve the pristine Land of Kawaikapu on the eastern end of Molokai. As the Executive Director of Ke Aupuni Lokahi, he has provided oversight to the dialysis project, archaeology training, and most importantly, the restoration of historic Kalaniana'ole Hall across the street. I first became aware of Abbey when as the plant manager he approached the Molokai Agriculture Development Project to secure federal funding to provide capacity building for the Molokai Livestock Cooperative's slaughterhouse. During this same period he assisted a homesteader in developing his agriculture lot for organic farming through the purchase of required equipment. All of these projects took assessment, planning, knowledge of the community resources, the acquisition of county, state and federal monies and working with a diverse group of community members

His current initiative is the creation of a community development corporation and the planning for affordable housing on Molokai. The creation of a funding mechanism to achieve parity in these tough economic times for the island community of Molokai and its people. He has set roots down in the community by purchasing a home and establishing residency on Molokai. He has further demonstrated an ability to work with many people and organizations, to critically think through diversity and come up with solutions in the best interests of all factions.

Although Molokai will lose his expertise during his tenure with the state, the experiences Abbey gains will help to project and assist Molokai's future if and when he returns from his political appointment.

I strongly recommend Abbey Seth Mayer's confirmation as the State Director of the Office of Planning.

Sincerely,



February 27, 2008

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. #228  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**In Support of GM 258, Gubernatorial Nominee for Director Office of Planning, Abbey Mayer**

**Testimony submitted for the Hearing: February 27, 2008 at 11:00am**

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.

In his work as the Executive Director of the Molokai Enterprise Community (MEC), and prior to that as Executive Director of the Molokai Livestock Cooperative, Mr. Mayer has demonstrated time-and-time-again that he possesses the perfect combination of training, qualifications, experience and skills to succeed and thrive as Director of OP.

Mr. Mayer is a very rare and unique individual. He is an intellectual and a deep-thinker without being aloof or pretentious. He always listens first and engages well with a huge range of individuals – from the kua'aina of Moloka'i to heads of state, Mr. Mayer is always welcoming and accessible, puts people at ease, and inspires confidence. On top of this, Mr. Mayer displays a very quiet but deep strength paired with remarkable courage, integrity and strong ethics -- an extremely rare combination for a man of his age. He is willing to take a stand on very controversial issues and live and work in very uncomfortable environments without compromising his beliefs. It is precisely young leaders such as these who must be encouraged to step up, and I applaud the Governor for making such a farsighted appointment.

The substance of Mr. Mayer's work for the MEC work involved comprehensive planning and the implementation of multiple inter-related projects. During his two years with MEC, EC projects established and maintained over 100 distinct partnerships with multiple agencies within federal, state and county governments, private and public foundations and organizations. It is precisely this ability to forge that will be central to his success at OP.

More specifically, the timing of this appointment could not be better, as finding solutions for sustainability of rural Hawaii is imperative. Mr. Mayer's passion is for rural places, rural Hawaii in particular, could not be greater. At this time several of OP's projects addressing rural Hawaii are at critical phases:

- Page 2

In Support of GM 258, Gubernatorial Nominee for Director Office of Planning, Abbey Seth Mayer  
Testimony submitted for the Hearing: February 27, 2008 at 11:00am

- Advancing the Leeward Coast Initiative,
- Following through on OP's Rural Best Practices project,
- Identifying and protecting Important Agricultural Lands,
- Implementing strategies outlined in the 2050 Sustainability Report,
- Balancing competing demands for limited and often fragile coastal and marine resources through the Coastal Zone Management and Ocean Resources programs, and
- Implementing the economic strategies outlined in the Hawaii Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Mr. Mayer's educational background, professional experience and personal passions make him an ideal candidate to advance these most critical projects.

I urge you to support him in his confirmation, and I thank you for your close consideration.

Sincerely,



Clarence HALONA Kaopuiki

THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION

Committee on Water and Land  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Russell S. Kokubun, Vive Chair

LATE TESTIMONY

Date: Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Time 11:00 a.m.

Place: Kulana 'Oiwi Halau – Molokai

Testimony of DeGray Vanderbilt  
Agenda Item GM258

My name is DeGray Vanderbilt. I am currently Chairman of the Molokai Planning Commission and a member of the Molokai Water Working Group, which is advisory to the State Commission on Water Resource management.

I was also a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee that rafted the existing Molokai Community Plan, and am a member of Molokai General Plan Advisory Committee, which is reviewing and updating the Maui County General Plan and the Molokai Community Plan.

I am also a member of the Hawaii Agricultural Roundtable, and a member of the Board for Hawaii Rural Development Council/

I am testifying today as an individual.

I have provided the above information to document my involvement in planning issues on Molokai over the past 25 years.

I am here to testify today in opposition to Governor Linda Lingle's appointment of Abbey Mayer as Director for the Office of Planning.



Part of Debraj Vanderbilt

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land committee  
23rd Senatorial District  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm.#228  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

2/20/08  
hearing

RE: GM258, Gubernatorial Nominee for Director Office of Planning, Abbey Seth Mayer.

Dear Senator Hee:

In considering Governor Linda Lingle's appointee for the Director of the Office of Planning for the State of Hawaii, I strongly urge you to confirm Mr. Abbey S. Mayer. Mr. Mayer's qualifications for this position are outstanding, as cited below:

In 2006, when Mr. Mayer was appointed to the executive directorship of Ke Aupuni Lokahi, the non-profit organization administering the Molokai Enterprise Community, he brought made stability to the organization. Through his leadership, the organization has successfully provided oversight in the island's 10-year revitalization plan as part of its Enterprise Community designation, which it received in 1998. In doing so, he has built a strong foundation upon which to carry out the plan by, among other things, coordinating operations, establishing priorities among competing interest, anticipating problems and needs, and maintaining fiscal controls. The substance of the EC work involved comprehensive planning and the implementation of multiple inter-related projects. It also involved working with many constituencies and audiences, who often differed with each other. As the Executive Director of the Molokai Enterprise Community, he has had the ability to listen and to work with these constituencies and has operated with dedicated professionalism. While able to think in a visionary and bold manner, he is also able to focus with intensity on the details necessary to move plans to concrete reality. Mr. Mayer possesses foresight and the ability to think strategically as well as to develop creative solutions. He exercises leadership and decisiveness coupled with a high degree of intelligence and steadiness. He holds unwavering values for integrity and ethics.

It is obvious that he possesses a care and concern for the communities he works with and for the future of Hawaii. These qualities when applied to the position under consideration will serve well the Office of State Planning.

Please contact me, should you wish any further information.

Sincerely,

Susan Fishman

19 Wagon Rd.

Roselyn Height, NY 11537

920  
10/20/08  
=

## LATE TESTIMONY

### testimony

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**From:** Richpezz@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 19, 2008 7:28 PM  
**To:** testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony - Water and Land Committee

February 19, 2008

Statement by Richard Pezzulo  
Executive Director, Empower Oahu

**GM258** RELATING TO Gubernatorial Nominee for Director Office of Planning, Abbey  
Seth Mayer

**Submitted to:**

Senator Clayton Hee  
Chair, Water and Land Committee  
**DATE:** Wednesday, February 20, 2008  
**TIME:** 2:45 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
(Submitted via email)

Dear Senator Hee:

Empower Oahu is a non-profit community development organizations comprised of nine Oahu communities. **Empower Oahu strongly supports** Governor Linda Lingle's appointee for the Director of the Office of Planning for the State of Hawaii, and urge you to confirm Mr. Abbey S. Mayer.

We believe Mr. Mayer brings the necessary experience and qualification needed to conduct the planning required by our State and to address a number of issues important to our communities, as cited below:

- maintaining and sustaining rural Hawai'i;
- protecting important agricultural lands, if not legislatively, then at least administratively; and
- facilitating the bringing together and bridging of diverse players and points of view around viable strategies for rural Hawai'i and a sustainable Hawai'i

**Empower Oahu strongly supports Mr. Mayer** as the Director of the Office of Planning for the State of Hawaii.

Please contact me, should you wish any further information.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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2/19/2008

## 2008 State Of The State Address - Text

**Personal responsibility means that we get involved to help others in need and to create a better Hawai'i.**

**Government will never be able to solve all of society's problems.**

**It is only our shared sense of 'ohana...and the willingness to take personal responsibility for ourselves and others...that will see us through any challenging time...whether the challenge is fiscal, social or a natural disaster.**

**Our state's overall success ultimately rests in the collective hands of our people, not in government acting alone.**

**During the past 12 months, I have shared with you a clear vision for the fundamental transformation of our economy away from an economy based too narrowly on land development...to one based on the infinite talent and intellectual capacity of Hawai'i pono'i...Hawai'i's own people.**

**It is as certain as night follows day that we cannot speculate or sell ourselves into prosperity.**

**We can do it by combining the native Hawaiian cultural values of aloha 'āina and respect for the ocean, with a skilled, well-educated population that believes innovation in all things is the path to success.**

**If the future were to be the same as the past, then our usual practices and pace of action could serve us adequately.**

**But the world's future and Hawai'i's future will be different than our past, so we no longer have the luxury of these past practices and slow, incremental change.**

**We need to make giant strides that bring about significant progress.**

**To go from where we are, to where we want to be, may seem daunting...but this is a road we must travel...even if it is a rough ride at times.**

**The only way to reach our preferred future is to stay on this new road.**

**•We propose the creation of a Commission on Higher Education made up of the presidents of Hawai'i's major universities, members of the community, and business leaders.**

**This Commission will give us the opportunity to embrace new ideas and**

**new ways of using federal and state education dollars.**

## **ENERGY**

**Another goal I will pursue with great intensity during the next three years is energy independence and security.**

**I would like to thank Senators English and Hemmings and Representatives Thielen and Morita for their ongoing encouragement and enthusiasm.**

To further speed our progress toward energy security and a clean energy future, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism is being reorganized to re-establish an Energy Division.

**Every week my departments are visited by developers of renewable energy projects – from wind to solar, from wave and ocean thermal to biofuel, from algae to even energy from space!**

**We need to take action now to make it easier for these kinds of projects to start up and to succeed in Hawai'i.**

*Laan Pt*  
**I am proposing that we buy the 850-acre Turtle Bay property on O'ahu's North Shore.** *On Molokai's south and west coastlines*

**I believe this is a once-in-a-generation chance to preserve both a lifestyle for thousands of residents, and a part of Hawai'i that millions the world over have come to love and identify as the real Hawai'i.**

**The purchase of this important property will create an opportunity for the community to shape a vision for this part of the North Shore.** *MOLOKAI*

**I expect there will be more than a few people, including some legislators, who will question my proposal to acquire these lands at the same time we face so many other needs, and at a time of moderating revenue growth.**

**I have thought hard about what I am proposing, and I believe in my heart that this is the right thing to do for those of us living today, and for those who will be born in the decades ahead.**

**And I believe this will be a defining moment for all of us – a moment that communicates to young people that we care more about their future than about our present.**

**So, rather than viewing this proposal as something that will be very difficult or even impossible to achieve, I ask that you view it as the right thing for us**

to do, and that if we work together we will find a way to make it happen.

I have thought about at least a dozen ways we could mix and match revenue streams to finance such a purchase.

These include, selling off the resort portion of the property to pay down the debt, exchanging other state lands, creatively using tax credits spread out over time, a tax check-off on our income tax returns, private grants, allocating Legacy Land Funds, federal conservation dollars, and a worldwide Internet fundraising campaign to "Save Hawai'i's North Shore."

"SAVE LAIAU POINT"

I know that there are many other ideas, but the point is that I believe this is both doable and essential to protect our way of life.

<sup>MOLOKAI</sup>  
The North Shore is an important escape valve for O'ahu's increasingly urbanized lifestyle.

It is a place we take visitors when we want them to experience the "real" Hawai'i.

It is a place that gives us comfort just by being there, even if we don't go there very often.

<sup>MOLOKAI</sup>  
And it is a community of residents who have chosen the North Shore because it provides a slower, more rural way of living.

It would be naive for anyone to think this land acquisition will be easy.

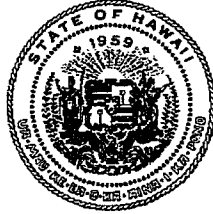
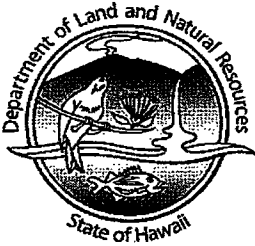
The land ownership structure is complex and the debt owed is sizeable.

Nevertheless, I am committed to these lands remaining in public hands.

<sup>MOLOKAI</sup> <sup>"KEEPING MOLOKAI MOLOKAI"</sup>  
The residents on the North Shore call it "keeping the country, country."

I call it fulfilling commitments to future generations...and I ask everyone listening today to join me in this effort.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

19 10 15  
Part of Degray Vandertai

LAURA H. THIELEN  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
RUSSELL Y. TSUJI  
FIRST DEPUTY  
KEN C. KAWAHARA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER  
AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAROLOAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON  
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

on GM 258 - "ABBEY SETH MAYER" GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE AS  
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-06-2010

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WATER AND LAND

February 20, 2008

As the former Director of the Office of Planning, I have a special place in my heart for the Office, and a keen appreciation for the important role it can and should play in our state. As the most recent Director, I also have an in-depth understanding of the qualities needed for a Director to smoothly manage the Office and to elicit the highest quality work with the staff.

I believe that Abbey Seth Mayer has the focus, the experience, the character and most importantly, the sincere desire to do the job which will make him an excellent Director of the Office of Planning.

Over the past two years the Office of Planning has concentrated on rural community development which maintains a sense of rural character and place; overseeing the implementation of our state's Ocean Resource Management Plan by leading an interagency-community team to coordinate actions relating to ocean management; and strengthening our coordinated, multi-agency state GIS database.

The common characteristics required for any director to lead these efforts are: an ability to work well with multiple groups; an ability to communicate well; an ability to clearly see end goals and find paths around inevitable obstacles; an ability to inspire others so that they will join common efforts to reach these goals, and; a strong desire to achieve tangible results.

Mr. Mayer has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to community planning and rural communities. He has a history of working in such communities before he came to Hawaii, and continued this work in Molokai. He has the temperament, passion and dedication to inspire others and make them want to work with him. I believe he will make an excellent Director for this Office.

Present

I know some people will argue that Mr. Mayer's confirmation should be denied solely because he staffed the Molokai Economic Community (MEC) Board when it voted to support the

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community plan, which included, among other things, the La'au Point development. I'd like to address why I believe this fact should not preclude you from confirming Mr. Mayer.

I ask that this body keep in mind two things when evaluating Mr. Mayer's role in staffing the MEC Board. First, the MEC Board made many rural community development decisions while Mr. Mayer worked there, and his commitment to identify and foster sustainable rural economic development is evident in the many projects he helped support in the Molokai community.

The second matter to keep in mind is that the current debate over the La'au Point development is only a part of a much larger community development plan which the MEC Board supported while Mr. Mayer staffed that organization. That broad community plan is completely unprecedented in its scope.

Under this plan, the landowner proposing La'au Point was offering to give the MEC Board fee simple ownership of large areas of land in the heart of town, thereby giving the community full control over the type of development which could occur and a revenue source to support the community-driven economic development in the future. In addition, the landowner proposed to place perpetual conservation or agricultural easements on more than 60,000 acres of land, thereby committing that the future uses of those properties would be limited. In contrast, most developments today provide a scant few acres for a school site, and possibly an acre or two for a community park.

★ While I was Director of the Office of Planning, we visited Molokai to meet with the MEC Board, Walter Ritte and other opponents to La'au Point. After listening closely to all parties, I came away with the conclusion that everyone involved in this matter is a good person faced with an extremely hard decision about the future of the community. *Did not star*

Some felt that it was better to make compromise in one area in exchange for guarantees of control and permanently limiting development in a much larger area.

Some felt that the compromise asked in the one area was too costly and would lead to unacceptable changes in the community.

The point I want to make is that this decision is an extremely difficult one, and good people - people who stood united in the past on issue after issue over decades - fall on both sides of this one. Mr. Mayer's role in staffing the MEC Board during this period does not rise to the level to justify denying his confirmation.

The bottom line is that Mr. Mayer has the qualifications to lead the Office of Planning.

The bottom line is we shouldn't punish people who are willing to work on the hard issues, because we have many hard issues in our state that we simply can't ignore.

The bottom line is we need a Director for the Office of Planning who understands the importance of persevering to find solutions for rural communities, for resource management, for preserving our unique sense of place in these islands.

Abbey Seth Mayer has the heart and soul for this job. Please give him this opportunity. I know you won't be disappointed.

**Date:** Thu, 31 May 2007 15:14:04 -0700 (PDT)  
**From:** "pau hana ohana" <pauhanamolokai@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** OSP meeting-Upcoming Ranch meeting  
**To:** jeff.hunt@co.maui.hi.us

Part of Degray Vanderbilt

Aloha Jeff:

A bit of follow-up information on the State Office of Planning Meetings on Molokai May 29.

OSP was represented at all three meetings By OSP Director Laura Thielen and staff members Abe Matsuda and Mary Alice Evans.

OSP had three meetings on Molokai. Two closed meetings that were not open to the public, one with the Molokai Enterprise Community Board (EC) members and the other with the Molokai Land Trust Board (MLT) members.

The third meeting was a public meeting open to all in our community.

OSP's open meeting with the public was scheduled to start at 3 pm. About 250 people attended and many were seated waiting for the meeting to start at 3. Unfortunately, OSP representatives arrived a half hour late and had to leave a little after 6 to catch a plane back to Oahu.

Some of the presentations at the public meeting had to be cut short because of the reduced meeting time.

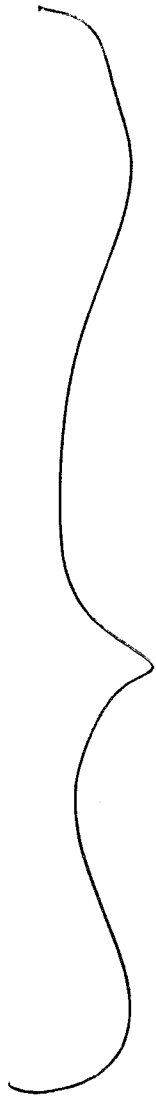
After the meeting, people were not shy about airing their frustrations over the fact that OSP spent the entire day meeting with only a handful of people (12) in private and were a half hour late to the public community meeting.

Five of the twelve individuals attended both the EC private meeting and the MLT private meeting

The first OSP meeting was with the EC Board starting at 8 a.m at the Kulana O 'Iwi public complex in Kaunakakai. The meeting lasted two or three hours I was told.

Those attending included EC Board members Stacy Crivello, Colette Machado, Rikki Cooke and Cheryl Corbiell and EC Executive Director Abbey Mayer, as well as, Board members Bridgett Mowat, Sybil Lopez and Josh Pastrana.

OSP representatives, along with EC Board members (also MLT Board members) Crivello, Machado, Cooke, Corbiell and Mayer, then traveled up to Maunaloa to join four other members of the MLT Board, David Lunney, Halona Kaopuiki, Davianna McGregor, Billy Akutagawa.



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EC Board members Lopez, Pastrana and Mowat attended the afternoon public meeting. After the meeting, they shared with some people what was discussed at the morning EC meeting with OSP.

I'm less than optimistic that any of the members of the MLT Board will share any type of report about their meeting with the Molokai community. None of the MLT Board members attended the community meeting held later in the day with OSP.

I was the only Planning Commissioner in attendance to attend OSP's late afternoon community meeting that was open to the general public.

I received your e-mail and decided not to speak at the OSP meeting, even though I was asked to share some information about the process and how the Planning Commission's role in the process inter-acted with the state's participation in the process through OSP and the Land Use Commission.

The public meeting had an agenda and several different community members presented information on the history of how the Ranch Master Plan, a video about why La'au should not be developed, history of the Molokai EC organization, concerns about the La'au development (environmental, social impacts, cultural impacts, water legal issues.

The presenters did a very professional job. The OSP staff and Director seemed impressed.

One presenter told OSP that La'au is being pushed by corporate and political interests and that Governor Lingle's endorsement of the project early on compromised the process and the public interest.

After the meeting several people expressed concern that OSP came to Molokai just for show. That no matter what they heard on Molokai, the Director, who was appointed by the Governor, was going to submit a support position to the Land Use Commission because the Governor supports the project.

The meeting was recorded by Akaku Community TV and should start airing throughout the County early next week. Akaku, if requested, will make a duplicate copy of the tape for the Planning Department files on Molokai.

OSP is planning to come back to Molokai for a site visit and is also considering a meeting with the Ranch at that time. As far as OSP meeting with other groups on Molokai at that time, that apparently will be Director Thielen's call.

On another matter:

Yesterday, I was at Paddler's Inn. My friend John Sabas was there and we talked for a while about old times. John asked me how the meetings went with the

state Office of Planning (OSP) on Tuesday.

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Part of Degray Vanderbilt

I told him I only attended one of the meetings (the one open to the public) and found it very informative. I said I was disappointed that the Enterprise Community Board (EC) and the Molokai Land Trust Board (MLT) did not allow a representative of the Planning Commission to sit in their private meetings with OSP.

John could have attended the Land Trust meeting because the Ranch holds a non-voting seat on the MLT Board, as does the EC. EC Board President, Stacy Crivello, attended the MLT meeting representing the EC's non-voting seat.

John said he felt it was better if OSP was allowed to meet with the MLT and the EC without any Ranch influence at the meeting. Hence, John did not attend the MLT meeting and EC Board member John Pele, a Ranch General manager, did not attend OSP's meeting with the EC.

According to OSP, future meetings are being considered on Molokai by OSP to meet with the Ranch and its consultants and also so OSP can take in a site visit.

I also expressed to John disappointment over the fact that the EC and the MLT Board members did not approve their meetings being video taped by Akaku so the information flowing between these two Molokai entities and OSP could be shared with the Molokai community.

When I spoke to Abbey Mayer, Executive Director of the EC, about having a representative of the Planning Commission at the EC and MLT meetings, he said that would be difficult because if a Planning Commission rep was allowed to attend, the EC and MLT would have to let others attend and that could lead to the meetings being disrupted.



I suggested that no one outside of the EC Board members needed to attend if the EC and MLT Boards would allow their meetings with OSP to be videotaped by Akaku. He thought that sounded like a good idea and said he would check with others who would have to approve the meetings being videotaped. I never heard back from Abbey.

I assume his request was denied, because Akaku did not record the EC or the MLT meeting.

In my short conversation with John Sabas he indicated that the Ranch's meeting with the Planning Department had been rescheduled until a later date. I reminded him of his glowing representation of how he felt the Molokai community relied on our Molokai Planning Commission, and said that in light of that I was planning on talking to you about the Planning Commission Chair sitting in on the Ranch's meeting with you. John sort of rolled his eyes and smiled.

Although my comment to John was made somewhat in jest,

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I believe that I should be in attendance at your upcoming meeting with Ranch representatives.

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I realize that the Planning Department, like OSP, is not subject to the sunshine law. But it's all about perception. The Molokai Enterprise Community and the Molokai Land Trust, two organizations that are supposed to represent the community, chose to exclude the community from their meetings with a government agency, OSP. Both organizations lost points big time in the eyes of the community for holding closed meetings.

Meetings of the EC Board are required to be public meetings. The EC justified closing its meeting with OSP because it was considered by the Board to be an informational meeting.

OSP is perceived in a bad light for participating in the "closed door" proceeding even though OSP's actions did not violate any procedural laws.

I believe the Planning Department and our Commission will be perceived poorly by the greater Molokai community if the Planning Department meets on its own with Molokai Ranch, especially with the meeting being scheduled shortly after OSP's trip to Molokai.

I don't mind taking heat from the community. I believe as Chairman of the Commission my highest priority is to serve the community. I feel obligated to fully understand the purpose and intent and justification behind any actions taken by the Planning Commission and/or the Planning Department that impact our community, especially if the action involves a controversial issue that will be scrutinized by the public.

Our Commission rules indicate the Chairman needs be fully aware of issues involving the Commission, especially issues that are already before our Planning Commission.

Our Commission is involved with and will continue to be involved with the process the Ranch's Master Plan including that plan's many components, including the proposed La'au development and the proposed renovation of the Kalaukoi hotel.

From a community perception standpoint, I believe it's really important that I attend your meeting with the Ranch if the meeting involves an issue our Commission is currently involved with.

I'll call you later to get your thoughts on the matter.

Hope the recap info on the OSP meetings was helpful.



## Portion of OHA article taken from OHA website

### OHA supports Molokai Master Land Use Plan

Written by Derek Ferrar  
Friday, 01 September 2006

#### The Importance of the Community-Based Plan for Molokai Ranch

##### OHA Supports All Native Hawaiians on Molokai

Throughout the past 3 years, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs has funded over \$2.5 million in grants to various programs supporting the Native Hawaiian community of Molokai. This has included support for various educational programs, health care, housing, economic development and historic cultural sites protection.

##### Endorsement of the Community-Based Plan for Molokai Ranch

The Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs endorsed the Community-Based Master Land Use Plan for Molokai Ranch as a whole. The proposed Laau Development would not otherwise be supported except that it is the critical piece to achieving the overall plan.

#### The Overall Plan is Important to Native Hawaiians

##### (1) *Return of Native Lands*

It returns sacred Native Hawaiian legacy lands to the Molokai community. These lands include the Makahiki grounds of Naiwa; the birthplace of hula at Kaana; the ancestral burial grounds of Kawaaloo; the village sites at Kawakui; burial mounds at Kawela; the historic Pakaa house sites, uplands gardens and connecting trails; Kaiaka Rock; Kamakaipo Gulch; coastal lands at Kawaaloo and from Keonelele to Ilio to Kawakui.

##### (2) *Stabilizes Economic Future*

It provides a stable future source of income for 150 employees of Molokai Ranch and will create 120 more jobs and small business opportunities with the re-opening of Kaluakoi Hotel. Many of the employees are Native Hawaiian.

**(3) *Makes this the LAST Major Ranch Development***  
**Other than reopening Kaluakoi Hotel, the proposed development adjacent to Laau Point will be the LAST major development on Ranch lands - forever.**

##### (5) *Protects Molokai from Speculation & Development*

The Ranch is giving ownership of 26,200 acres to the Molokai Community and dedicating 28,990 acres for community housing, agriculture and conservation.

**All of these lands will be protected from speculation and development - forever.**