

GM 290



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA

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KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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LATE

TESTIMONY OF

MICHAEL NAHO'OPI'I, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OF THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

On GM 290, For Consideration and Confirmation of Charles P.M.K. Burrows, Ed.D. as
Gubernatorial Nominee to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

Before the
SENATE AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Monday, April 1, 2008, 2:45pm. Room 224

Aloha Chairperson Tokuda, Vice-Chairperson English, and members of the Committee. Governor's Message No. 290 nominates Dr. Charles P.M.K. Burrows, Ed.D to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in the seat reserved for a representative of Native Hawaiian Organizations. On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express our strong support for Dr. Burrows and recommend his confirmation to a second term with the KIRC.

Dr. Burrows is a former science teacher who retired from over 30 years of dedication and service with the Kamehameha Schools. Throughout his tenure, he has educated hundreds of Hawaiian children about the importance of protecting Hawai'i's natural resources. Through his teaching, he lead the first access of Kamehameha students to Kaho'olawe in 1980 and was instrumental in making such trips a part of the curriculum.

Since his retirement, Dr. Burrows has maintained his involvement not only in ecological and natural resource issues, but on native Hawaiian issues as well. He is an active member of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and is the president of 'Ahahui Malama i ka Lokahi, a native Hawaiian organization committed to environmental protection and natural resource preservation within a cultural context.

Dr. Burrows' unique experience and knowledge on educational, cultural, and natural resource issues have greatly benefited the KIRC in its deliberations and policy making over the past few critical years of the KIRC. Now, as the Commission enters a new era, such skills will be of even greater importance. Dr. Burrows served Kaho'olawe well in his past term and the Commission has every confidence that his commitment and efforts will continue through a second term.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

testimony

From: Ken Conklin [ken_conklin@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2008 7:32 PM
To: testimony
Subject: 3 PM Tuesday hearing of COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

TO:
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

RE:
Confirmation to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLES P. M. K. BURROWS

DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2008
TIME: 3:00 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 224

FROM:
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.
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Aloha Chair Tokuda, members of the committee, and members of the public,

I am writing to support the nomination of Dr. Chuck Burrows to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

As you may know, I do NOT support the concept of KIRC as a racially exclusionary government agency, and I do NOT support the concept that the Island of Kaho'olawe is designated to be transferred to a sovereign race-based governing entity when (if ever) Congress and the State of Hawaii recognize that entity.

However, within that unpleasant context, I can think of no finer person than Dr. Burrows to serve on KIRC.

Dr. Burrows loves the 'aina. He has been working very hard for many years to restore Kawai Nui marsh. He has shown great administrative skill in organizing and inspiring large numbers of volunteers over long periods of time, to do physical labor which can be difficult, exhausting, and even dangerous. His knowledge of the land, its history, and the culture, is very broad and deep. His energy is boundless. He leads by going out in front rather than giving commands from the rear. By walking in front on Kaho'olawe, it will be he who gets blown up by subsurface unexploded ordnance while I who follow behind will be spared.

Because of his love for the land, I am confident that Dr. Burrows will never allow a casino to be built on Kaho'olawe by the Akaka tribe. Because of his genuine respect and aloha for people of all races, I am confident that Dr. Burrows will welcome everyone who wants to help restore Kaho'olawe and its cultural heritage, which is a treasure for all the people of Hawaii.

As the 'olelo no'eau says: 'O ke kanaka pono, 'oia ko'u kanaka.

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