

TESTIMONY
GM 386
LATE

LAW TESTIMONY

AARON DAVID MAHI - PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Aaron David Mahi- Conductor, performer ; and lecturer on Orchestral, Choral, and Hawaiian Classical music. For twenty four years Mr. Mahi held the position of Bandmaster of the Royal Hawaiian Band. Established in 1836 by the Kingdom of Hawaii and is today a Department of the City and County of Honolulu. He has also held the position of associate conductor with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra of which he was also a section Bassist. Mr. Mahi continues to hold the post of director with the Hawaii Ecumenical Chorale and has added to his leadership responsibilities the famed Kamehameha Alumnae Glee Club. Conductor Mahi has conducted in Europe, Japan, and the United States. Mr. Mahi is a graduate of the Hartt School of Music and studied with Herbert Bloomsted at the Bloomsted Institute of Orchestral Conducting. As Bandmaster of the Royal Hawaiian Band he was the first director to feature the band at the renown Carnegie Hall in New York City, in 1988 and in 1989 lead the ensemble in the newly constructed concert hall at the Peace Park in Hiroshima, Japan. He was also privileged to feature the Honolulu Symphony's debut in Los Angeles at the Hollywood Bowl with slack-key Artists Dennis Kamakahi, George Kuo , and David Kamakahi. Mr. Mahi was honored in 1983 by the Association of German Musicians with the Golden Ring of Honor for conducting and in 2003, with the German Medal of Merit from the Republic of Germany, the BundesverdienstKruetz for his work in sharing German culture. At present Aaron Mahi holds the position of consultant for Waihona Mele No'eau - a repository dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian Song. Waihona Mele No'eau is a division of the Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawananakoa Foundation.

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Written Statement in Application for Oahu Island Burial Council - Regional Representative: Aaron D. Mahi - applicant

1) Connection to region - Ko'olau poko

I've resided in the Ko'olau poko region as a home owner since 1985 in Kahalu'u at 47-066 Kamehameha Hwy. As a child my father was pastor of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints - Kaneohe Congregation from 1965 to 1975. Our congregation is located on Bay View Drive and our church has changed it's name to - Community of Christ. I am currently the pastor of our Makiki Congregation located on 1666 Mott-Smith Drive; Makiki. As a representative for the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, I served on the Kahalu'u neighborhood board # 29 from 1988 to 2000. I am also a member of the Ko'olau Poko Hawaiian Civic Club.

My father's family have been long time residence of Kaneohe, my uncle Henry Mahi deceased lived in the Kokokahi 'Ili and worked as a cook for the State Hospital after his retirement from Pearl Harbor. He has since passed but his descendants still reside there and Kailua. Donald Mahi, my father's younger brother also deceased, was the Athletic director and football coach at Castle High School. His descendants still maintain their home on Koa Kahiko place, and my uncle William Mahi also resides in Kaneohe with his family of children and grandchildren living near his home on Pohukaina Street. He is a retired electrician for the Coast Guard. On the maternal side of my father are the Domingo, Dela Cruz and Hianalole families of Ka'a'awa. My aunty Beatrice Barboza still maintains a home at Ka'a'awa. As a child we gathered at our family beach home owned by the eldest of my father's siblings, Puarose Mahi Magnisi deceased.

2) My understanding and practice of the ancient Hawaiian procedures of burial practice has over the years become more prevalent due to the mentorship I received from many kupuna resources of whom I was privileged to observe and information researched during my early years of service on the Oahu Island Burial Council while representing the City and County of Honolulu during the tenure of Mayor Jeremy Harris. It was a learning process largely because of the fact that my upbringing was Christian and all I learned then which was a practice of my Grandfather Henry Mahi was to offer prayers in our mother language the words which are appropriate for the

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Haipule Ho'olewa a ka waimaka aloha or Service of a deceased's journey and mourning of affection.

3) Over these past years of service to the burial council I continue to gain and maintain a passion to care for the Kupuna, Makua, and Keiki who have passed on and still need to be cared for. As a Hawaiian I feel it my duty or kuleana to serve in this capacity so as to preserve in practice the respect, honor, and duty of repatriating our Hawaiian people to their respectful resting places as to insure that the source of their spirits resident in their Iwi will always be intact and safe as to insure the life and breathe of our kanaka spiritual realm. I feel it my duty to serve in this fashion as long as the powers that be in the State of Hawaii will in me allow. Nui kealoha a ka 'olu'olu o'u nei no ko 'oukou ho'oka'awale iho ai. Mahalo a nui:

Aaron David Mahi

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A written statement for Senate Hearing Committee for Aaron D. Mahi nomination review to the Oahu Island Burial Council; Senator Clayton Hee Chair.

To the Honorable Senator Clayton Hee the members of the review committee let me first apologize for my absence in delivering my testimony in person but further express my appreciation for you allowing me to testify in this written form. Ke mahalo iho au me ka ha'a no.

My reasons for reapplying to a second term to the Oahu Island Burial Council as representative of the Ko'olau Poko moku is largely because of the on going work which is still in progress and of which I wish to follow through in the continued care of our iwi kupuna ma ka moku o ko'olau poko nei. Three areas which are in desperate need of continued vigilance and watchful care are the areas of Mokapu, well known as the Kaneohe Marine Base and the Ka'ewa'ewa Heiau Historical Preservation Park under the management of Hawaii Memorial Park, and the district of Kualoa which include both the Kualoa Ranch owned and operated by the Frances Morgan Family and Kualoa Park which fall under the auspices of the City and County of Honolulu. In these last six years the OIBC has bridged a much stronger relationship with both the Ohana and landowners and managers of this particular moku. This bridge relationship was fostered under many of the representatives who preceded me and of whom I am most thankful for their aloha and care in seeing the many issues through in bringing to these needs a sense of peace and closure to our po'e Hawai'i. These mentors of whom I served on this council to name a few were Mr. Van Horn Diamond and Mr. Kalani Kini. It was through my work with these gentlemen and the many families individuals and civic groups who constantly respond to the needs of Iwi kupuna has given me the burning desire to continue this work. These individuals and organizations have given me both reason and purpose to see these needs through. It is my hope that during my continued term if granted by this committee that the many iwi kupuna that are still not interned be brought to peaceful rest. It is my desire to see positive relationships and resolutions take place in all of the issues facing landowners and Ohana in caring for the internment of Iwi Kupuna. A wonderful example of this positive notion is in progress between Kaneohe Ranch and the Ohana of Kailua. The relations between the Ranch management development plans and the Mahoe and Desilva Ohana has been very positive in caring for the Iwi Kupuna in the Kailua township area.

I am not one to speak about my self or my qualities but if I were to describe myself I can say that I am a listener, a thinker, and a doer in bringing peaceful resolution when ever possible. I can meet conflict head on and will never give up a belief or a principle. I can take and absorb the most stringent of criticism and be humble in the acceptance of approval.

As far as a single example of me standing out as a representative on the OIBC I wish to leave this to those who have volunteered to speak on my behalf.

Attached to this testimony are the remaining appendages to your request.

I submit this testimony in humility and forthrightness - me ke Aloha no na mea o hala Hawaii a ka welo -

Aaron D. Mahi

At this present time I can see no conflicts that would curtail my ability in serving a second term with OIBC.

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Aaron D. Mahi

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