

**TESTIMONY**  
**GM531**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Friday, April 3, 2009  
2:45 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 531, SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND  
CONFIRMATION OF GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NOA EMMET ALULI,  
KAHO'OLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message (GM) No. 531 on the nomination of Dr. Noa Emmet Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) for a term to expire 6-30-2013. Dr. Aluli currently chairs, and serves as one of the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana (PKO) representatives on KIRC. He previously served on KIRC from 1991-1993 (as Vice Chair) and 1994-2001 (as Chair).

Dr. Aluli is the Medical Director External Affairs of the Moloka'i General Hospital and has been a physician in family medical practice with Moloka'i Family Health Center. In addition, Dr. Aluli is a founding Board Member of Aha Hui o Na Kauka, the Native Hawaiian Physicians Association, and is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine in the Departments of Family Medicine and Community Health and Native Hawaiian Health.

As a founding member of PKO, Dr. Aluli was instrumental in the stopping of military use of Kaho'olawe and the return of the Island Reserve to the State of Hawai'i. And as a member of KIRC, Dr. Aluli has continued to ensure the meaningful, safe use of Kaho'olawe for the purposes of the traditional and cultural practices of the native Hawaiian people, and to undertake the restoration of the Island Reserve and its waters.

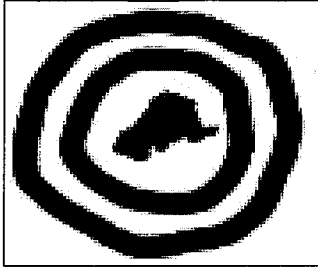
The Department strongly supports GM No. 532 on the nomination of Dr. Noa Emmet Aluli to KIRC

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  
KAHOOLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



**PROTECT KAHO'OLAWE 'OHANA**  
**P.O. Box 39**  
**Kaunakakai, Hawai'i 96748**

RE: GM 531 APPOINTMENT OF NOA EMMETT ALULI TO THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND  
RESERVE COMMISSION (KIRC)

Aloha Chair Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair Jill Tokuda and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs. My name is Robert Lopaka Aiwohi and I am submitting testimony in support of the re-appointment of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission on behalf of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana. I am the owner of Royal Hawaiian Shirtworks in Wailuku Maui and I am a longtime member of the 'Ohana, responsible for our annual Makahiki ceremony as well as ocean safety.

Under HRS Chapter 6K, it states that "One member shall be a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana." The term that Dr. Aluli is being nominated for is this seat on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. Dr. Aluli is eminently qualified to serve as the 'Ohana representative on the KIRC. He is a founding member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and he has dedicated a large part of his life's work to stopping the bombing of the island and protecting and reviving its natural and cultural resources.

Since January 1976 when he, George Helm, and others made their first historic landing on Kaho'olawe, Dr. Aluli has provided dedicated, steadfast, and visionary leadership for the well-being and healing of Kaho'olawe. Under his direction, the past 33 years, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana has carried out the demanding and rigorous responsibilities of Ke Kahu O Ka 'Aina or steward for the island. Dr. Aluli, has been consistently involved with the 'Ohana in the re-dedication of the cultural and religious sites of our ancestors on the island. He has helped conduct oral histories with kupuna about their experience on the island. He has supervised and monitored archaeological, hydrological, biological, marine, and ordnance clearance studies of the island. He also helped install check dams, water catchments, and develop revegetation projects for the island. Undoubtedly, Dr. Aluli is one of the leading experts on Kaho'olawe and its multi-faceted resources and needs.

From 1990 to 1993 Dr. Aluli served as the vice-chairman of the Kaho'olawe Island Conveyance Commission, was a member of the Governor's Kaho'olawe Planning Committee, and served on the Maui County Community Advisory Committee for

the Kaho'olawe Community Plan. From 1993 through 2001 and from 2002 through present, Dr. Aluli has served as chairman of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Professionally, Dr. Aluli is a primary care physician with the Moloka'i Family Health Center and is on the medical staff of the Moloka'i General Hospital. He has dedicated his life to the healing of both our people and our 'aina and we are nurtured under his care.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana. Aloha.



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALO A

NOA EMMETT ALULI, M.D.  
*Chairperson*  
CRAIG NEFF  
*Vice-Chair*

MILTON M. ARAKAWA, A.I.C.P.  
CHARLES PMK BURROWS, Ed.D.  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
JOHN WAIHE'E, IV  
AMBER NAMAKA WHITEHEAD

MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPI'I  
*Executive Director*

## KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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### TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL K. NAHOPII, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

On GM 531, Gubernatorial Nominee, Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli,  
to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

Before the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

April 3, 2009

Aloha Chairperson Hee, Vice-Chairperson Tokuda, and members of the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs. Governor's Message No. 531 nominates Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in the seat reserved for a representative of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO). Dr. Aluli filled this seat on July 1, 2002 upon the resignation of Mr. Craig Neff and was reappointed for another term starting July 1, 2005. On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express my strong support for Dr. Aluli and recommend his confirmation.

Over 25 years ago, Noa Emmett Aluli helped lead a group of Native Hawaiians in occupying Kaho'olawe in protest of the island's bombing by the U.S. Navy and to create Kaho'olawe as the public symbol illustrating Hawaiian issues and an ethic of caring for the land or *malama 'aina*. Since that time, a court-ordered Consent Decree signed by the U.S. Navy and the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, led by Noa Emmett Aluli, granted access to the island and required the Navy to protect historic and cultural sites, clear surface ordnance, begin soil conservation programs, eradicate goats and limit future ordnance training to the central part of the island; and

For over 20 years since 1980, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, led by Noa Emmett Aluli, has facilitated access to Kaho'olawe for Native Hawaiians and the general public for religious, educational and scientific activities.

In 1990, Noa Emmett Aluli was appointed to the Kaho'olawe Island Conveyance Commission, established by congress to identify terms and conditions for the return of the island to the State of Hawai'i.

In 1993, the Legislature of the State of Hawai'i created the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) and Noa Emmett Aluli was appointed as the chairperson.

During his tenure, he oversaw the conveyance of Kaho‘olawe back to the State of Hawai‘i and established the vision for the Reserve that calls for restored land and ocean and the island serving as the “crossroads for past and future generations, from which the native Hawaiian lifestyle is spread.” In that regard, Dr. Aluli led the KIRC in the development of its plans for future use, ocean management, cultural protocol, and environmental restoration. Further, under the leadership of Dr. Aluli, the KIRC adopted significant and innovative policies that incorporate Native Hawaiian values in areas relating to access, culture, education and burials; as well as promulgate administrative rules to better protect the ocean resources through Native Hawaiian cultural practices.

In November 2003, the Navy and its contractors ended their cleanup operations and the KIRC and the State of Hawai‘i assumed full control of the island, even though the Navy cleanup did not achieve the cleanup standards specified in the Memorandum of Understanding dictated by Congress and signed by the Navy and the State of Hawai‘i.

In June 2008, a second five-year strategic plan that required the reorganization of KIRC Staff was approved and implemented in order to prepare the KIRC for a more self-sufficient and sustainable future.

The KIRC, through the leadership of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli, has assumed control of Kaho‘olawe, is implementing the vision for the island’s restoration and meaningful safe use, pursuing further restoration of the reserve, and continues to manage activities on the island safely and responsibly until the recognition of a sovereign Native Hawaiian entity.

Again, we strongly support the confirmation of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission. His long commitment to native Hawaiians and to Kaho‘olawe makes him uniquely qualified for the position.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

TESTIMONY OF  
Ray Enos On GM 531, Gubernatorial Nominee, Dr. Emmett Aluli,  
to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

April 2, 2009

Aloha Chairperson Hee and Vice-Chairperson Tokuda and members of the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs. Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of Dr. Emmett Noa Aluli to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I have known Dr. Aluli for over thirty years. I first met him when he was a recent medical school graduate and shortly after he was arrested for trespassing on the island of Kaho'olawe. Emmett was one of the Kaho'olawe Nine who landed on Kaho'olawe on January 4, 1976 to protest the Navy's use of Kaho'olawe for military training and target practice. Emmett was part of the Protect Kahoolawe 'Ohana grassroots" organization which worked arduously to stop military bombing and ordnance delivery training on the island of Kaho'olawe and to allow for access to Kaho'olawe for cultural and religious practices.

Since that time, Emmett has led the charge towards the healing and restoration of Kaho'olawe. He was one of the founding members of the PKO and an original member of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. Emmett has evolved from "activist" to a recognized community leader. Though he is well known for his history and association with Kaho'olawe, he wears many hats and his community participation keeps him in touch with many aspects of his local community on Moloka'i and statewide.

Emmett has dedicated much of his life to the preservation and perpetuation of Native Hawaiian customs and practices. His versatility to deal with people and issues is reflected in his ability to meet and discuss issues at the same table with grassroots leaders, community members, state leaders to members of Congress, Admirals, and Secretaries of the Navy. He has been a practicing physician, board member on state boards and commissions, and member on national non-profit boards.

Emmett is a co-founder of the Pele Defense Fund, which is dedicated to the perpetuation of the beliefs, customs, practices, and ecosystems sacred to Pele, Hawaiian deity of the volcano. He is the Medical Executive Director of the Moloka'i General Hospital. He is a physician in family medical practice with the Moloka'i Family Health Center since 1976. He is a founding Board Member of 'Aha Hui o Na Kauka, the Native Hawaiian Physicians Association. He founded Na Pu'uwai, Inc., the Native Hawaiian Health Care System for Moloka'i and Lana'i. And he has been an Assistant Medical Professor at the University of Hawai'i, John A. Burns School of Medicine in the Departments of Family Medicine and Community Health and Native Hawaiian Health.

As a member of PKO, commission member and Chairperson of the KIRC, Emmett has left a trail of significant achievement, including stopping the bombing, returning the island of Kaho'olawe to the people of Hawai'i, and beginning the healing process and restoration of Kaho'olawe and other special lands in the State of Hawai'i. Under the leadership of Chair Aluli and citizen Aluli, Kaho'olawe has been restored as a rich, cultural and environmental resource for all of Hawai'i's people. He has led the way for Kaho'olawe to be a model of Native Hawaiian stewardship, management and governance. With his help, the KIRC is poised to go forward into the future in preparation for turning over the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve to the Native Hawaiian sovereign entity that is recognized by the state and Federal governments.

For all of the above, I strongly support the confirmation of Dr. Emmett Noa Aluli to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.



**TESTIMONY**  
**GM531**  
**(END)**