

TESTIMONY
GM531
LATE



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Legislative Testimony
GM 531 Noa Emmett Aluli

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian
Affairs

April 3, 2009

2:45 pm

Room: 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** the nomination of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to represent the Protect Kahoʻolawe ʻŌhana (PKO) on the Kahoʻolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

Dr. Aluli has a long, distinguished history with Kahoʻolawe. In 1976, he helped lead a group of Native Hawaiians in occupying the island to protest the U.S. Navy's use of Kahoʻolawe as a bombing site. As a member of PKO, he has helped shape the group's efforts to heal the wounds of the former target island. In 1980, PKO and the U.S. Navy signed a court-ordered consent decree granting access to the island and requiring the Navy to protect historic and cultural sites, clear surface ordnance and implement conservation programs. Since 1980, PKO has facilitated access to Kahoʻolawe for Native Hawaiians and the general public for religious, educational and scientific activities.

Over the last 30 years, Dr. Aluli has developed an intimate relationship with Kahoʻolawe, leaving his fingerprints across the island and touching the hearts and minds of countless Native Hawaiians and non-Native Hawaiians who cherish the island. Dr. Aluli has served as a KIRC commissioner since 1993 and currently is the chairperson of the commission. His knowledge, passion and dedication are critical to the success of KIRC, and we humbly ask that he be allowed to continue his important work in this capacity.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to confirm Dr. Aluli as a KIRC commissioner. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: suzan harada [environm@lava.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 7:35 PM
To:
Subject: GM533-Confirmation to the Natural Area Reserve System Commission included in the subject line.

Senator Clayton Hee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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Senator Hee,

This is a letter of endorsement for Arlene Buchholz to fill the open position to represent hikers on the NARS Advisory Committee. Ms. Buchholz has been a Sierra Club leader for over 16 years, is well acquainted with most of the trails on O`ahu and leads service trips to the neighbor islands. Hiking and service trips gives her first hand experience on the issues NARS faces in conservation and protection of native Hawaiian ecosystems. Her commitment and dedication can be measured as these activities are voluntary - she has easily served over 4000 hours of volunteer hours removing invasive species, building fences to protect ecosystems and other resource management projects.

Ms. Buchholz has served in various positions in Sierra Club; her thoughtfulness, insight and tact are great personal qualities that make it easy to work with her on volunteer projects. I believe she would make an excellent addition to the NARS Advisory Committee.

If additional statements are needed from me, I can be reached at 732-4489 or at environm@lava.net.

S. Kamali`o Harada
Leader,
Sierra Club, Hawai`i Chapter

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture &
Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice-Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture &
Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF KIM KU'ULEI BIRNIE,
PROTECT KAHO'OLAWE FUND/KOHEMALAMALAMA O KANALOA, DIRECTOR
'AHAHUI O NĀ KAUKA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In support of

GM 531 GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE NOA EMMETT ALULI to the
KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Monday, April 3, 2009, 2:45 PM, Conference Room 229

Aloha mai kākou... as a director of Kohemalamalama o Kanaloa/Protect Kaho'olawe Fund, a long-time member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and executive director of 'Ahahui o nā Kauka (Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians), all of which were founded by, among others, Noa Emmett Aluli, I am asserting support for Dr. Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission and ask that this Committee confirm his nomination.

Dr. Aluli has devoted more than 30 years to the protection and restoration of Kaho'olawe. One of the Kaho'olawe Nine, he is the only Kaho'olawe pioneer that remains committed to and involved in the visioning and implementation of the protection and restoration of the island's natural and cultural resources. His efforts include the stopping of the bombing, the ouster of military occupation, the establishment of infrastructure that holds the island and its surrounding waters in trust for some future Hawaiian entity, the calling and the catching of needed rains, the regreening of the 'āina, and the community education on and off island that has now spanned multiple generations.

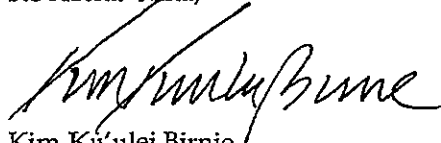
Dr. Aluli's real gift, the merging of his two worlds, is the vision of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe as a pu'uhonua, a place of refuge, with the power to heal us as individuals, as families, as a community, and as a nation. And he is able to attract support and build capacity to realize that vision.

No one knows Kanaloa Kaho'olawe's needs and resources better than Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli. I feel strongly that the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve will be a stronger entity with Emmett's position on its commission.

I, along with members of both the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and 'Ahahui o nā Kauka, support the confirmation of Noa Emmett Aluli to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Ke Aloha 'Āina,



Kim Kū'ulei Birnie
3546 Alani Drive, Honolulu 96822
Phone: (808) 383-1651 E-mail: kkb@aloha.net

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