

TESTIMONY
GM560
LATE



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA

KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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Testimony of

Michael K. Nahoopii, Executive Director

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

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

2:45 P.M.

State Capitol, Room 229

LATE TESTIMONY

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 560 – SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE COLETTE Y.P. MACHADO TO THE KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

Aloha Chairperson Hee, Vice-Chairperson Tokuda, and members of the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs. Governor's Message No. 560 nominates Colette Machado to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in the seat reserved for a representative of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express my strong support and recommend her confirmation.

Ms. Machado's involvement with the protection and restoration of Kaho'olawe began over 25 years ago as a member of the founding group, Hui Ala Loa on Molokai, continued with the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana (PKO), and eventually led to her appointment as one of the first KIRC Commissioners in 1994.

Ms. Machado was instrumental in the negotiations and implementation of a court-ordered Consent Decree, signed by the U.S. Navy and the PKO in 1980 under which the U.S. Navy suspended bombing for 10 days each month to allow PKO access for other restoration activities. Ms. Machado was integral to the organization and its regular access to Kaho'olawe; from setting up of camp and running the kitchen, to the formulation of safety rules and cultural protocols.

As a KIRC Commissioner, Ms. Machado first served as a representative of the PKO, then as a representative of OHA. She served as Vice-Chair for seven-years and participated in the development of a five-year strategic plan to assure the protection and restoration of the natural and cultural resources of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve; oversaw the development of the KIRC's annual budget and overall management of the organization. Throughout her service on the KIRC, Ms. Machado maintained a strategic vision for Kaho'olawe rooted in the ancestral knowledge of the island as a spiritual and sacred land, also noted as a center for training of navigators, and recognized for its role in the Hawaiian cultural renaissance. She was steadfast in protecting the future of Kaho'olawe for a future sovereign Native Hawaiian entity.

Again, we strongly support the confirmation of Colette Machado to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. Her long commitment to native Hawaiians and to Kaho'olawe makes her uniquely qualified for the position.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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