

TESTIMONY
GM 311

Presentation Before the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture

February 19, 2010

Noreen Ohai-Daniels

Kokee State Park Advisory Council

Chairman Hee, members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to present a synopsis of my background for your consideration of my confirmation to the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council.

First, I would like to respectfully be excused from this hearing because, at the present time, I am being treated for a bout of "walking pneumonia". I am also suffering under the same constraints as the State regarding a budget crisis.

Therefore, I hope my written testimony will be accepted at this time.

I was born on the island of Kaua'i into a wonderful old Hawaiian family. My first memories are of time spent with my grandparents and cousins wandering the fields and shoreline looking for medicinal herbs, limu and all sorts of edible stuff clinging to the rocks on the reef.

My formative years were spent on Kaua'i and Oahu. My father was a commercial fisherman out of Kewalo Basin. My grandfather was a long time fish and game warden on Kaua'i and retired from the State with many wonderful memories of his work.

I finished my education in California and have had many college courses, but have never graduated with a degree. As my children are fond of saying, I've taken so many college classes I should have at least a master's degree by now.

My professional life has been mostly in the area of farming. However, I have spent some time in real estate sales, as a property and condominium resident manager and rental agent. I have also taught landscaping, farming, irrigation, tropical floral design, marketing and sustainable agriculture practices. At the present time we are trying to re-plant our farm due to heavy feral pig damage.

I was appointed to the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council by Governor Lingle on May 21, 2009 and have been serving in that capacity until the present time. I was appointed on an interim basis with the understanding that I would have to go through the Senate Hearing process when the Legislature convened in 2010.

I feel that I am able to contribute positively for the good of Koke'e State Park and am culturally, ethnically and spiritually connected to Kaua'i. My identity has been forged by my roots here and my wish is that Kaua'i should progress in a measured manner in order to fulfill the needs of its citizens as well as those who wish to share in the beauty and bounty of Kaua'i.

I hope that I can contribute an honest and open-minded vote for the betterment of Koke'e and its environs. I want to know that the Koke'e that I grew up with will be here for many generations of my grandchildren and the posterity of all of Hawaii.

I think that the three best qualities that describe me are my tenacity, my honesty and my reliability. I think that those are qualities that can add to the Advisory Council in our decision making and procedural processes.

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I have worked in the legislature as a Kaua'i liaison and feel that it has given me an intimate understanding of the island and it's needs as well as an understanding of the legislative process which could be of benefit to the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council.

I feel that a position on the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council to which I have been nominated is of great importance and necessary as we, the people of Kaua'i, act as stewards over the life and resources of our island home.

As a farmer I have been embedded in the environment for so many years that acting as an environmentalist is a daily part of my life. Farming teaches you early that you cannot sustain the land if you do not re-cycle, nurture, maintain and protect the land that feeds you. I feel that I bring that way of life with me in what I do, how I think and in my decision making.

I welcome the challenges ahead and look forward to continued service within the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council. I, therefore, respectfully ask for your support of my nomination to the Council.

I cannot foresee any conflicts that would interfere with my service on the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council. If there should come a time when I would feel that I have a severe conflict or an unmanageable position, I would excuse myself from a vote or, in the extreme, resign my position.

Mahalo, Noreen Ohai-Daniels

From: Erik in Kokee [erik@islandunderground.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 1:39 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: GM Number 311

Aloha Senators,

Please replace my previous testimony with this new version, as I thought 2 people were up for re-confirmation to the Kokee State Park Advisory Council, but have since found that it is only one.

As a member of the Kokee State Park Advisory Council, I have had the privilege of working with Noreen Ohai-Daniels. I understand she is up for re-confirmation to this Council before your Committee on Friday, February 19th at 3:30 PM, pertaining to GM #311.

Mrs. Ohai-Daniels is bright, thoughtful and hardworking. She is clearly an important and well-respected member of this Council.

I have enjoyed working with her on this community Council, and hope for this positive working relationship to continue. I wholeheartedly support this Governor's nominee re-confirmation to the Kokee State Park Advisory Council.

Mahalo, Erik Coopersmith

Erik Coopersmith, Kokee State Park Advisory Council, Member
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From: Nancy J Budd [nbudd@njbudd-law.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 1:12 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Support of GM 311

TO: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice-Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

RE: Support for GM 311, related to the confirmation of NOREEN OHAI-DANIELS to the Koke`e State Park Advisory Council

Hearing
Date: Friday, February 19th at 3:30 PM

As a member of the Koke`e State Park Advisory Council, I support the confirmation of the appointment of Noreen Ohai-Daniels to the council. Mrs. Ohai-Daniels has served on the council for some time and has proved to be a very valuable member. Ms. Ohai-Daniels shares a deep commitment to Koke`e and Waimea Canyon State Parks and is a thoughtful, hard-working and intelligent community representative. I would urge that she be confirmed to the KSPAC.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Budd

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