

TESTIMONY
GM 316

February 22, 2010

Senator Clayton Hee
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission
G.M. No. 316

e aloha mai e Senator Hee,

Herewith responses to questions as requested:

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission?

Hawai`i's cultural and natural resources are fragile and fleeting. There have been impressive efforts with regards to scientific approaches to the preservation and protection of Hawai`i's flora and fauna, specifically with Hawai`i's endangered native species. To varying degrees, these efforts have assisted better processes to take place to preserve Hawai`i's ecosystem, but one aspect that has historically and commonly been overlooked is the role native Hawaiian culture and perspectives play. My specific expertise and background provides the Commission with another dimension in thinking about what we are trying to protect and how we go about doing so. I am honored to serve on this Commission to help bring a more balanced approach to conservation.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission?

Members are chosen based upon specific criteria and expertise to ensure a well balanced view on the preservation and protection of Hawai`i's natural and cultural resources. Our role is to listen, synthesize the information and ultimately provide recommendations to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Legacy land Conservation Commission.

I believe I am qualified for this position because I understand the value of servitude and I care deeply about Hawai`i's cultural preservation and protection. I currently serve as the Project

Coordinator for the Halawa Luluku Interpretive Development (HLID) Project. The Project Coordinator is the neutral liaison between Federal Highways Administration, Hawai'i Department of Transportation, Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the community. My role as Project Coordinator is to interpret, design and develop and implement cultural projects that serve towards to mitigation due to adverse impacts of the interstate H-3. Cultural and natural resources have been severely affected by the H-3, and being a part of the mitigation effort gives me added insight to multi-agency perspectives and collaboration. This position requires that my decision making is fair, balanced and culturally appropriate.

In addition to my work experience, my particular architectural study at the University of Hawaii focused on Native Hawaiian built environment, including kau hale (house clusters), heiau (temples), ko'a (shrines), ki'i (images) and other forms of Hawaiian architecture. As a positive benefit of that study, I have had the honor and privilege to meet and work with cultural practitioners that have taught me much hands-on skills with cultural site rehabilitation and restoration. Therefore, fortunately, I have been blessed with the opportunity to extend by knowledge beyond study and into practice. This duality enables me a more well-rounded perspective to receive as well as provide meaningful information towards the preservation and protection of Hawai'i's cultural and natural resources.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I would like to be part of leaving a legacy to the next generation; to those passionate about the preservation and protection of Hawai'i's cultural and natural resources. A legacy that includes being open to collaboration, encourages best practices in land and/or easement acquisition, and continues educating on the importance of cultural perspectives and what it brings to the State. I hope to be a part of Hawai'i's efforts in finding new and innovative ways to protect our resources, linked to stronger commitments and understandings of Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Legacy Land Conservation Commission?

Loyalty. I believe that Hawai'i, its land and its ancestors, has always provided me with the sustenance I need. Hawai'i has nurtured me to this point and continues to provide for me and my 'ohana. For this reason, I remain forever loyal to her and to her preservation and protection. This relationship is not unique but it does take discipline and gratitude. My loyalty and commitment places Hawai'i before my own needs and serves towards providing the Commission with another perspective, which helps guide our hearts and minds toward better decisions.

Discipline. I have been honored to serve as a Po'o (head) within Pa Ku'i A Holo under the Royal Hawaiian Academy of Traditional Arts (RHATA). RHATA primarily trains Native Hawaiians in the traditional arts of protocol, diplomacy, strategy, and above all healing. Formal training in both contemporary and traditional schools and actual field experience (restoration practice and community coordination) provide me with a more complete understanding on how better to accomplish the interpretation and implementation of culturally sensitive projects and programs.

Initiative. I enjoy collaborating with fellow commission members and appreciate and respect each of their disciplines. However, I commonly will take the initiative to challenge fellow commissioners to think outside of their comfort zone by engaging in culturally based discussions. By advocating and taking initiative of cultural issues (which are imbued in every part of Hawai'i's fabric), the Legacy Land Conservation Commission has grown and expanded into areas that other commissions may have not or yet to achieve.

(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Legacy Land Conservation Commission?

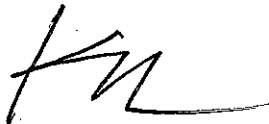
My continued experience in the art, science and philosophy of lua in Pa Ku'i A Holo has led me to many positive avenues, each involving and testing my commitment to Hawai'i's people, land and future. Although my life has been faced with many adversities, my perseverance in an endangered cultural practice has reminded me of just how delicate Hawai'i is and how easily we can all face loss if we do not consciously decide and commit to preserve and protect it. I humbly bring this perspective to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission and hopefully, over time, we can all together see that the preservation and protection of Hawai'i is more than a career choice but a life choice.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interests?

I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest arising during your service on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. If one were to arise, I would recues myself from any discussion or decision making processes.

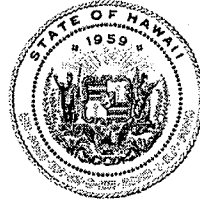
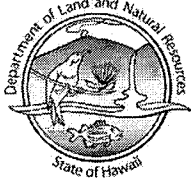
Please let me know if you need further clarification on any of the answers that I have provided.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,



Kaiwi Nui Yoon
439 Kuliouou Road
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

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

**Wednesday, February 24, 2010
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 316
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE LEGACY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KAIWI NUI
YOON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2014**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message (GM) 316 to appoint Kaiwi Nui Yoon to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission for a second term to expire 6-30-2014.

Pursuant to statutory requirements (§173A-2.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes), Mr. Yoon is an O'ahu resident and is knowledgeable about native Hawaiian culture.

Mr. Yoon is currently the Oahu Conservation Land Manager for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. He has also served as the Director of Cultural Affairs for The Festival Companies, Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center, and acted as a liaison with the Native Hawaiian community for many years. He is trained in various native Hawaiian cultural practices and is a member of several native Hawaiian organizations and of the Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association. Mr. Yoon is formally trained as an architect with emphasis in Native Hawaiian Land Use and Architecture and also has experience in market strategy and research and business management. He maintains affiliations with several architectural and marketing organizations.

Mr. Yoon has led the Commission and the Legacy Land Conservation Program in incorporating native Hawaiian knowledge and input into the application process in an appropriate and respectful way. His continued membership would benefit the Commission and the Department.

The Department supports GM 316 on the reappointment of Kaiwi Nui Yoon to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.



GM 316

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Legacy Land Conservation
Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee,
Kaiwi Nui Yoon, for a term to expire 6-30-2014**

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

February 24, 2010

2:45 p.m.

Room: 229

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM 316, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kaiwi Nui Yoon, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Mr. Yoon has been instrumental in helping OHA with the preservation and protection of Hawai'i's cultural and natural resources. He serves on other similar OHA initiatives and has demonstrated a genuine sincerity, passion and proficiency in these affairs. It is comforting to know that Mr. Yoon is always willing and available to represent OHA with dignity and excellence. OHA is confident that his nomination to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission will greatly assist Hawai'i's efforts in the preservation and protection of our cultural and natural resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

THE
TRUST
for
PUBLIC
LAND



HAWAII

GM 316

**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
APPOINTMENT OF KAIWI NUI YOON TO LEGACY LAND COMMISSION**

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, February 17, 2010, 1:30 p.m., Rm. 308

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>

The Trust for Public Land's (TPL) Hawaiian Islands Program supports the re-appointment of Kaiwinui to the State Legacy Land Conservation Commission. TPL is a national non-profit conservation organization that helps communities and public agencies conserve land for people. In Hawai'i, we have helped to conserve over 36,000 acres of land. In two major projects, Wao Kele o Puna and Waimea Valley, we partnered with the Land Management Hale (Division) of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

I have known Mr. Yoon in a professional capacity for approximately three years. I worked with him when he served as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' O'ahu Conservation Land Manager for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and interacted him in his position as an appointed member of the State of Hawai'i Legacy Land Conservation Fund Commission, which reviews and ranks applications for state funding of land conservation projects (TPL is often an applicant for these funds).

In both positions, Kaiwinui is a strong advocate for consideration of, and sensitivity to, Hawaiian culture and values. Specifically, in the State Legacy Land Conservation Fund Commission, Kaiwi Nui successfully advocated for requiring applicants for Legacy Land funding to include in their applications, in addition to the land's general conservation values, basic information about native values inherent in the land. He presented a training module to the Commissioners regarding cultural sensitivity and protocols. He consistently reminded the Commission of native connections to the land and environment. He is a will be a strong representative for Hawaiian culture if confirmed.

Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands Program Director
(808) 524-8563 (direct)

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 24, 2010

TIME: 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Subject: GM 316

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Tokuda and members of the committee,

My name is Bob Lindsey, Trustee-Hawai`i Island of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and I support Kaiwi Nui Yoon being appointed to the Legacy Land Conservation Committee.

I know Kaiwi Nui personally through his work at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. This young kanaka has been instrumental in helping us with the preservation, protection and perpetuation of Hawai`i's cultural and natural resources. Diligence, passion, kuleana, aloha and lokomaika`i are just a few descriptors of Kaiwi Nui. He brings to his daily work at OHA dignity, deep mana`o and excellence and I know he will continue to do the same as a commission member.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Robert K. Lindsey, Jr.
Trustee – Hawai`i Island
Office of Hawaiian Affairs

From: malamapono@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 4:31 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Testimony - Support for Kaiwi Nui Yoon - Reappointment to Legacy Land Conservation Commission

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair; Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice-Chair; Members of the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

From: Mahealani Cypher, President, Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

Re: GM316 - Gubernatorial Nomination, Kaiwi Nui Yoon, Legacy Land Commission

Aloha to Senator Hee and the Members of this Committee.

On behalf of the Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, we wish to offer our strong support for the reappointment of Kaiwi Nui Yoon to serve on the State Legacy Land Conservation Commission for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

We have worked with Kaiwi Nui on various cultural conservation matters over the past few years, and have found him to be deeply committed to the conservation and preservation of our important cultural and environmental resources. He is knowledgeable about modern-day resource management issues, yet is rooted in his Hawaiian cultural heritage.

He brings fresh perspectives to the deliberations of the Commission, with a sensitivity to the needs and concerns of both conservationists and landowners alike.

We urge your committee's favorable decision on this nomination.

Mahalo for this opportunity offer our mana`o.

Mahealani Cypher
Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club
P. O. Box 664
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Ph. (808) 235-8111 / 226-4195

TESTIMONY
GM 316
(END)