



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

Testimony on GM 517  
Confirmation of William Johnson Aila, Jr.  
Chairperson, Board of Land and Natural Resources

Governor Neil Abercrombie

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

February 12, 2011  
1:15 pm, Room 225

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and committee members:

I respectfully ask for your favorable support of my nominee William Johnson Aila, Jr. as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Since being appointed on November 29, 2010, Mr. Aila has shown tremendous leadership skills within the Department of Land and Natural Resources. His management abilities and skillset is exactly what is needed in the DLNR to move the state forward. He also understands the challenges ahead and that it will take all of us to make a difference.

Mr. Aila is the right person to lead DLNR and I am proud to have him as a member of my team to ensure a New Day in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration to confirm this leader.



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

February 11, 2011, 1:15 P.M.  
(Testimony is 1 page long)

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 517

Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with 8,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, *supports* GM 517, the appointment of William Johnson Aila, Jr., as the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources is charged with the care of millions of acres of state lands, hundreds of miles of coastline, over three hundred and fifty streams, all the state parks and recreational boating facilities, thousands of acres of coral reefs, and protection of populations of plant and animal life and historic, cultural and burial sites. This is a critical and important appointment.

William Aila is a highly respected, long-time advocate for preservation of the environment and cultural resources in Hawai'i. He's been a volunteer on numerous community boards, and has been a terrific spokesperson for the community of Wai'anae. He's also a longtime employee of DLNR and, as such, understands the significance and importance of this position.

Mr. Aila will do an excellent job of restoring public trust in the DLNR. He's proven his commitment to working with the community and has the unique ability to explain complex issues in a succinct and easy-to-understand fashion. While the Sierra Club does not agree with all of Mr. Aila's positions, we trust he will treat every stakeholder the same: with respect and aloha. And we're certain he will try to act in the best interest of the state.

William will be a welcome addition to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce**  
P.O. Box 597 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96809 • p.(808) 531.3744

For the Hearing of the Senate Committee on Water Land and Housing  
Scheduled for Saturday, February 12, 2011, at 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 225, Hawai'i State Capitol

TESTIMONY OF DIRK SOMA, PRESIDENT  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

IN SUPPORT OF

THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF

**WILLIAM JOHNSON AILA, JR.**

**AS CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
(GM 517)**

Aloha kakou;

Founded in 1974, the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce (NHCC) strives to encourage and promote the interests of Native Hawaiians engaged in commerce, services and the professions NHCC members participate in a variety of economic, social and public affairs.

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[Our Mission](#)

Mission Statement – To strengthen Native Hawaiian business and professions by building on a foundation of relationships, resources, and Hawaiian values.

In keeping with our mission, NHCC:

- Provides opportunities for networking among members, the people of Hawai'i and those engaged in business and industry.
- Serves as a means to organize the Hawaiian business community into a viable economic and social voice.

***“The voice of Hawaiian business”***

- Provides the necessary facilities for members' educational advancement in subject areas relevant to business, industry and commerce. Hawaiian Values & Principles of Conduct for NHCC Members

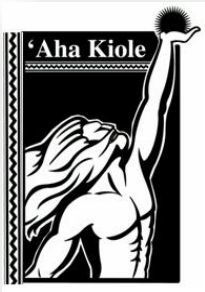
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The Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce is **IN SUPPORT** of the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. William Johnson Aila, Jr., as Chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Aila is eminently qualified to serve in these capacities as a result of his experiences in serving within the Department as Harbor Agent for the Wai'anae Boat Harbor.

In addition, he has dedicated himself to serving the community in a number of positions of leadership in numerous community organizations.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in favor of this confirmation.



Aha Kiolo Advisory Committee

**Testimony in Support with STRONG  
RESERVATIONS**

**Of the Chairperson of the Department of Land and  
Natural Resources (DLNR)**

**William Aila, Jr.**

Submitted to: Committee on Water, Land and Housing, Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz

Hearing Date: February 12, 2011, 1:15 p.m., Room 225

Submitted by: Vanda Hanakahi, Kiolo Moloka'i (Chair), Leslie Kuloloio, Kahoolawe, (Vice-Chair) Timmy Bailey, Maui; Winifred Basques, Lana'i; Pi'ilani Ka'awaloa, (Po'o) Hawai'i; Charles Kapua, O'ahu; Sharon Pomroy, Kaua'i; Keith Robinson, (Konohiki) Ni'ihau and on behalf of the other Members of the Aha Kiolo Advisory Committee and the 43 moku from each island they represent.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and members of the Water, Land and Housing Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support with strong reservations of Mr. William Aila, Gubernatorial Candidate for the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources. It is with deep thought and deliberation that we must express our grave concerns with this confirmation.

First of all, the spirit of our support is given to a Hawaiian who has been appointed to a key policy making position with the State of Hawai'i. However, this does not negate the fact that our concerns are grave and must be addressed in order for full support.

To begin with, the Aha Kiolo Advisory Committee (AKAC) came into being in 2007 through the passage of Act 212 to initiate the process to create a system of best practices that is based upon the indigenous resource management practices of moku (regional) boundaries, which acknowledges the natural contours of land, the specific resources located within those areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain resources and the community. This Aha Moku System of best practices is compatible with many of the State of Hawai'i agencies and departments. It is especially conducive to DLNR who holds the management reins over all natural and cultural resources in Hawaii.

Since 2007, the Native Hawaiian natural and cultural resource experts and kupuna of the forty-three moku of the State of Hawaii have been identified, activated and the ahupua'a consultation system has been completed through six statewide puwala, individual island puwala, and many public meetings and gatherings. The results of all of those public meetings were the consensus of the Native Hawaiian community and the general public to formally recognize the Aha Moku System and the Aha Kiole Commission through legislative action. That has commenced through the introduction of S.B, 23 and its companion bill, H.B. 1154.

Mr. Aila has consistently opposed the Aha Moku System for the past 6 years, and as DLNR Acting Director has actively opposed the formal recognition of the Aha Moku System through the creation of an Aha Kiole Commission to be located within the Department of Land and Natural Resources in this Legislative Session. And, although he has stated recently that he wants dialogue continued, we fear that is not the case. On January 20, 2011 all eight Kiole met with Mr. Aila to discuss the Aha Moku System and ask for his input on the proposed bill asking for the establishment of the Aha Kiole Commission. He was able to give us a half-hour and replied he would get back to us after consulting with his legal department. We did not hear from him until the House Hearing of the companion bill HB 1154 on February 2, 2011 where there were over 35 supporting testimonies and one opposition – DLNR. He sent his staff to oppose the bill. This does not inspire confidence in continuing a dialogue.

The AKAC submitted to the legislators and to Mr. Aila at our meeting, a copy of the Final Report of the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee, and supporting documents outlining analysis of state and county agency programs that impact natural and cultural resources. To date, we have not received a response from Mr. Aila on these documents which directly impacts Native Hawaiian relationships to the land and ocean. These documents are attached for your review, but in summary we need to have the following questions addressed:

1. How will Mr. Aila ensure that the community consultation process that is site-specific through the ahupua'a and moku system is integrated into the DLNR programs? This was the mandate of Act 212 – to integrate Native Hawaiian traditional and generational natural resource methodology into current government policy.
2. How will the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) protect the site-specific natural and cultural resource assets of ahupua'a and moku communities if they are not part of the Aha Moku System? The BLNR is comprised of seven members: one from each county, two at-large and the chairperson, the executive head of the department. They convene twice monthly to review and take action on department submittals including land leases and Conservation District Use Applications (CDUA). Almost all of these reviews and actions revolve around impacts to the ecosystem and environment. Currently, there is no mechanism for Native Hawaiian traditional resource input to the BLNR without the Aha Moku System.

3. With an admitted and acknowledge deficiency of manpower in their divisions, how will the DLNR handle the 43 moku districts which are so different in geography and resources in a timely manner, without the Aha Moku System consultation process?

In Mr. Aila's opposing testimony before the House Hawaiian Affairs Committee on February 2, 2011, he states that his opposition to the Aha Kiole Commission and the Aha Moku System was that it would conflict with the existing mission of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Water Commission. That mission is to "Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of visitors and the people of Hawaii nei in partnership with others from the public and private sectors." We do not see how integrating Native Hawaiian traditional and generational knowledge and methodology into current land and ocean management policies can conflict with their mission. Rather, the Aha Moku System through the Aha Kiole Commission will strengthen the mandate of the BLNR.

Finally, in two recent meetings, Mr. Aila posed this question which he stated was of utmost importance. "How do you mitigate the spiritual harm that was done to Hawaiians?" The answer to that question came immediately from our kupuna and Native Hawaiian practitioners. Hawaiians are so intrinsically entwined with the natural resources that they cannot be separated. When the land, water or ocean is harmed or destroyed, the Hawaiian spirit is debilitated. You mitigate the spiritual harm done to Hawaiians by giving them the voice they need in their own ahupua'a and moku. You empower Hawaiians to freely practice and share their Native Hawaiian traditional methodology in sustaining their 'aina, their oceans, their homes. You listen to them – they know how to protect and sustain their environment through generational knowledge passed down for centuries – they have been doing it for thousands of years.

Mr. Aila must show that he can be trusted with the welfare of the Native Hawaiian culture and their participation in ecosystem management. Until he can answer the questions posed to him by the Native Hawaiian natural resource practitioners, we cannot give him our full support.

Mahalo nui loa,

Vanda Hanakahi, Chair

Aha Kiole Advisory Committee

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## **Appendix to Testimony of Vanda Hanakahi**

### **Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing**

**February 12, 2011**

#### **Aha Kiole Advisory Committee Report**

**December 2010**

##### ***Hawai'i State Plan, Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes***

As stated in the previous sections of this report, the Aha Moku process is a Native Hawaiian traditional land and sea management process through which the main focus is to protect and preserve the natural and cultural assets and resources of Hawai'i. In its scope of integrating traditional resource knowledge into current government policy, the Aha Kiole studied the current resource management principles, beginning with the Hawaii State Plan, that govern the State of Hawaii to look at the similarities between the Aha Moku process and the different agency structures and how indigenous resource management methodology can be reasonably incorporated into existing policies.

Enacted in 1978, Chapter 226 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, more commonly known as the Hawaii State Plan (State Plan) is a statement of long-range, statewide policy for an array of economic, physical, and social development issues. Its purpose is "to serve as a guide for the future long-range development of the State; identify the goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for the State; provide a basis for determining priorities and allocating limited resources, such as public funds, services, human resources, land, energy, water, and other resources; improve coordination of federal, state, and county plans, policies, programs, projects, and regulatory activities; and to establish a system for plan formulation and program coordination to provide for an integration of all major state, and county activities." (Chapter 226, HRS, §226-1)

Although stemming from a traditional land and ocean management system dating from the 9<sup>th</sup> century A.D., the Aha Moku process has strong parallels and similar concepts to the State Plan. Both the State Plan and the Aha Moku process are based on the will of the people and the continuing well-being of the residents of Hawai'i. Both strive to provide a basis for determining priorities for land, water and other resources. The State Plan through agency functional plans, and the Aha Moku through adaptive management. Both are mandated to improve coordination of federal, state, and county plans and policies that will foster the continuing well-being of Hawai'i's assets. And, both have a system for plan formulation and program coordination to provide for integration of all major state, and county activities (consultation). Further, both need education and a sense of responsibility on the part of residents (code of conduct).

This section looks at critical parts of the State Plan, Parts I and II. It examines how the Aha Moku process can assist in fulfilling and enhancing its objectives especially in areas where government has had difficulty in carrying out their mandates:



## Part I. Overall Theme, Goals, Objectives and Policies

- §226-3. Overall Theme
- §226-4. State Goals
- §226-11. Objectives and policies for the physical environment – land-based, shoreline, and marine resources.
- §226-12. Objective and policies for the physical environment – scenic, natural beauty, and historic resources.
- §226-13. Objectives and policies for the physical environment – land, air, and water quality.

§226-3 Overall Theme. The State Plan states that “Hawai’i’s people, as both individuals and groups, generally accept and live by a number of principles of values which are an integral part of society. This concept is the unifying theme of the State Plan and the following principles or values have been established as its overall theme.”

1. *Individual and family self-sufficiency refers to the rights of people to maintain as much self-reliance as possible. It is an expression of the value of independence, in other words, being able to freely pursue personal interests and goals. Self-sufficiency means that individuals and families can express and maintain their own self-interest so long as that self-interest does not adversely affect the general welfare. Individual freedom and individual achievement are possible only by reason of other people in society, the institutions, arrangements and customs that they maintain. (§226-3:1).* The fundamental basis of the Aha Moku process is one of self-sufficiency of individuals and families. The value of independence has always been part of the Native Hawaiian culture. But the very fabric of the Hawaiian culture mandates that the general welfare of the people be maintained through the protection and sustainability of the natural resources of our islands.
2. *Social and economic mobility refers to the right of individuals to choose and to have the opportunities for choice available to them. It is a corollary to self-sufficiency. (§226-3:2)* In the context of the Native Hawaiian culture, it is important to note that when the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy occurred in 1893, Native Hawaiian families and resource practitioners relied on the land and sea for subsistence and stability in a time when it did not otherwise exist for Hawaiians. They did not have the social or economic mobility as outlined in the State Plan which itself did not come into effect until 1978. But as time has proven, it is these very practices that were kept in Native Hawaiian families that are the results of self-sufficiency.
3. *Community or social well-being is a value that encompasses many things. In essence, it refers to healthy social, economic, and physical environments that benefit the community as a whole. A sense of social responsibility, of caring for others and for the well-being of our community and of participating in social and political life, is important aspects of this concept. It further implies the aloha spirit—attitudes of tolerance, respect, cooperation and unselfish giving, within which Hawai’i’s society can progress. (§226-3:3).* The very meaning of the aloha spirit, the foundation of the Native Hawaiian culture is embodied in the Aha Moku process because this process is the embodiment of tolerance, respect, cooperation and unselfish giving. Social responsibility is a “*Kuleana*”

of everyone, especially as it pertains to the very land and ocean on which we live, and by which we survive.

§226-4 State Goals. In order to guarantee, for present and future generations, those elements of choice and mobility that insure that individuals and groups may approach their desired levels of self-reliance and self-determination, it shall be the goal of the State to achieve:

- 1) *A strong, viable economy, characterized by stability, diversity, and growth that enables the fulfillment of the needs and expectations of Hawaii's present and future generations.* The Aha Moku process, by its very nature can contribute to the stability and growth of Hawai'i. It's very goal is to ensure stability for future generations.
- 2) *A desired physical environment, characterized by beauty, cleanliness, quiet, stable natural systems, and uniqueness, that enhances the mental and physical well-being of the people.* For centuries, the Native Hawaiian people have maintained the natural physical environment of Hawai'i through a land and ocean resource management system that has been proven to work. For the most part, they have been successful in ahupua'a (land districts) where their traditional resource practices have continued.
- 3) *Physical, social and economic well-being, for individuals and families in Hawai'i, that nourishes a sense of community responsibility, of caring, and of participation in community life.* The Aha Moku process restores a strong physical and social sense of well-being. It is built around community responsibility and participation. It identifies and enables communities to work together in the common goal of nurturing and sustaining the unique ecosystem on which they depend.

§226-11. Objectives and policies for the physical environment – land-based, shoreline, and marine resources. Planning for the State's physical environment with regard to land-based, shoreline, and marine resources shall be directed towards achievement of the following objectives:

- 1) *Prudent use of Hawaii's land-based, shoreline, and marine resources.* This statement in itself describes the ahupua'a concept – a holistic complete natural resource management system.
- 2) *Effective protection of Hawaii's unique and fragile environmental resources.* The Aha Moku system ensures the effective protection of Hawai'i's environmental resources because it understands and implements measures to maintain a natural balance to the ecosystem. What occurs on either land or ocean affects the other. One cannot impact land or ocean without realizing the ripple effects on the other resources.

The Aha Moku process, one that has been used for generations parallels many of the objectives listed under §226-11. It either already employs the objective within its structure or is compatible with those that are listed below:

- 1) Exercises an overall conservation ethic in the use of Hawaii's natural resources.
- 2) Ensures compatibility between land-based and water-based activities and natural resources and ecological systems.
- 3) Takes into account the physical attributes of areas when planning and designing activities and facilities.

- 4) Manages natural resources and environs to encourage their beneficial and multiple uses without generating costly or irreparable environmental damage.
- 5) Considers multiple uses in watershed areas, provided such uses do not detrimentally affect water quality and recharge functions.
- 6) Encourages the protection of rare and endangered plant and animal species and habitats native to Hawaii.
- 7) Provides public incentives that encourage private actions to protect significant natural resources from degradation or unnecessary depletion.
- 8) Pursues compatible relationships among activities, facilities, and natural resources.
- 9) Promotes increased accessibility and prudent use of inland and shoreline areas for public recreational, educational and scientific purposes.

§226-12. Objective and policies for the physical environment – scenic, natural beauty, and historic resources. Planning for the State’s physical environment shall be directed towards achievement of the objective of enhancement of Hawaii’s scenic assets, natural beauty, and multi-cultural/historical resources. To achieve this objective, the policy of the State is to:

- 1) Promote the preservation and restoration of significant natural and historic resources. (One must identify the significant natural and historic resources. By historic, it is interpreted by the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee that these resources are those directly connected to the host culture, the Native Hawaiians. If this assumption is correct, then the preservation and restoration of significant Hawaiian natural and historic resources are already in process through the Aha Moku system.)
- 2) Provide incentives to maintain and enhance historic, cultural, and scenic amenities.
- 3) Promote the preservation of views and vistas to enhance the visual and aesthetic enjoyment of mountains, ocean, scenic landscapes, and other natural features.
- 4) Protect those special areas, structures, and elements that are an integral and functional part of Hawaii’s ethnic and cultural heritage. (This policy could not adequately be fulfilled because many of those special areas and structures, if pertaining to the host culture, could not be identified by academic means or were mistakenly identified by people who were not of that specific area. In the Aha Moku process, the people with generational knowledge in each moku (district) on each island identify their special areas, more commonly know to Hawaiians as *wahi pana* or *heiau*.)

§226-13. Objectives and policies for the physical environment – land, air, and water quality. Planning for the State’s physical environment with regard to land, air, and water quality would be achieved through the following objectives:

- 1) Maintenance and pursuit of improved quality in Hawaii’s land, air and water resources.
- 2) Greater public awareness and appreciation in Hawaii’s environmental resources.

The Aha Moku process ensures the maintenance and pursuit of improved quality in the land, air and water resources because the island moku structures are designed to uphold a sustained unspoiled environment through proven traditional resource management practices and generational knowledge of these resources. This is achieved within the moku structure because it encompasses the policies of the State Plan. which are:

- 1) Maintenance and pursuit of improved quality in Hawaii's land, air, and water resources. (If the Aha Moku process is implemented, then the quality in Hawaii's land, air and water resources will be improved.)
- 2) Greater public awareness and appreciation of Hawaii's environmental resources. (The Aha Moku system incorporates a built-in and active educational process geared towards greater public awareness of Hawaii's environment and ecosystem)
- 3) Promote effective measures to achieve desired quality in Hawaii's surface, ground, and coastal waters. (The Aha Moku process promotes the very same measures and has been proven to be successful through generations).
- 4) Reduce the threat to life and property from erosion, flooding, tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and other natural or man-induced hazards and disasters. (One of the strongest qualities of the Aha Moku process is that it adheres to adaptive management principles – management that depends on the empirical knowledge of natural resources to address and adapt to natural hazards and disasters. The Aha Moku process takes this into consideration and adapts to the restoration of resources and the return to balance.)
- 5) Foster recognition of the importance and value of the land, air, and water resources to Hawaii's people, their cultures and visitors. (One of the most important attributes of the Aha Moku process is that it encompasses all who are stakeholders in the resources of Hawaii and stresses the importance of constant communication between all cultures where knowledge of areas, places, history can be shared.)

## Part II. Planning Coordination and Implementation

The purpose of Part II of the Hawaii State Plan is to establish a statewide planning system to coordinate and guide all major state and county activities and to implement the overall theme, goals, objectives, policies and priority guidelines.

- §226-52. Statewide Planning System
- §226-52 (b): (2) E: 3. Strategic Planning Process
- §226-53. Office of Planning
- §205A-3.5. Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC)

§226-52. Statewide Planning System. The Statewide Planning System is guided by the overall theme, goals, objectives and policies of the State Plan. It establishes guidelines for decision making by the State and the counties and sets priorities for the allocation of resources.

### State Functional Plans

State functional plans are created through the Statewide Planning System and must be in conformance with the guidelines set forth by the State Plan. They should be prepared to address, but not be limited to, areas of agriculture, conservation lands, education, energy, higher education, health, historic preservation, housing, recreation, tourism, and transportation. Again, written in 1978, the State Plan did not include shoreline and ocean resources into its planning. It must now do so.

The preparing agency for each state functional plan shall also consider applicable federal laws, policies, or programs that impact upon the functional plan area. They shall define, implement, and be in conformance with the overall theme, goals, objectives, policies, and priority guidelines contained within the Hawaii State Plan.

In 2007, when the Hawaii State Legislature enacted Act 212, the Aha Moku Act, it charged the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee to “initiate the process to create a system of best practices that is based upon the indigenous resource management practices of moku (regional) boundaries, which acknowledges the natural contours of land, the specific resources located within those areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain resources and the community. The Aha Moku Council System will foster understanding and practical use of knowledge, including native Hawaiian methodology and expertise, to assure responsible stewardship and awareness of the interconnectedness of the clouds, forests, valleys, land, streams, fishponds, and sea. The council system will include the use of community expertise and establish programs and projects to improve communication, education, provide training on stewardship issues throughout the region (moku) and increase education.” (Act 212, Section 1, HRS).

In essence, when Act 212 was enacted, it satisfied the primary purpose of a state functional plan under the Department of Land and Natural Resources to which it is attached.

#### §226-52 (b): (2) E: 3. Strategic Planning Process

“The Office of Planning and other state agencies shall conduct strategic planning activities to identify and analyze significant issues, problems, and opportunities confronting the State, including the examination and evaluation of state programs in implementing state policies and the formulation of strategies and alternative courses of action in response to identified problems and opportunities.” “In conducting strategic planning activities, the office and other state agencies shall ensure that general public and agency concerns are solicited and taken into consideration.”

Since 2007, the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee has fulfilled every mandate and criteria stated for the necessary strategic planning process under the description as stated for a functional plan in Chapter 226, HRS. As previously stated, the Kiole were able to attend and participate in a series of public community conferences in 2006 and 2007 that were hosted by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Council, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Office of Planning-Coastal Zone Management, Hawaii Tourist Authority, Kamehameha Schools and the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. Prevented from holding their own public meetings due to the non-release of funding by the governor in place at the time, the Kiole were able to participate in a series of open planning meetings that were held statewide in 2010 by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Council. While the purpose of these meetings were to address the Council’s Fishery Ecosystem Plan, the Kiole was able to extract information on the Aha Moku System to complete their mandate from Act 212. The conferences were:

#### Series of Conferences: Ho’ohanohano I Na Kupuna Puwalu Series (held in Honolulu, O’ahu)

Conference 1 (Puwalu Ekahi: Lae’ula – Experts), August 15-17, 2006

Conference 2 (Puwalu ‘Elua: Ke Kumu Ike Hawai’i – Educators), November 8-9, 2006

Conference 3 (Puwalu ‘Ekolu: Lawena Aupuni – Policymakers), December 19-20, 2006

Conference 4 (Puwalu ‘Eha: Kukulū Ka Upena – Building the Structure), April 10-11, 2007

Conference 5 (Puwalu ‘Elima: E Ho’oni I Na Kai ‘Ewalu! E Ho’ale Ka Lepo Popolo! – Framework for resource conservation), October 31-November 1, 2007

#### Island-wide Strategic Planning Meetings

Island Planning Meeting 1: Moloka’i, July 7, 2010, Kaunakakai

Island Planning Meeting 2: Hawaii – Hilo, July 12, 2010, Hilo

Island Planning Meeting 3: Hawaii – Kona, July 13, 2010, Kona

Island Planning Meeting 4: Lana’i, July 15, 2010, Lana’i

Island Planning Meeting 5: Kahoolawe, July 16, 2010, Kihei, Maui

Island Planning Meeting 6: Maui, July 17, 2010, Kihei, Maui

Island Planning Meeting 7: Ni’ihau, July 26, 2010, Kekaha, Kaua’i

Island Planning Meeting 8: Kaua’i, July 27, 2010, Lihu’e, Kaua’i

Island Planning Meeting 9: O’ahu, July 28, 2010, Honolulu, O’ahu

#### Series of Conferences: Ho’o Lei Ia Pae’Aina Puwalu Series (Individual Island-wide public conferences).

Conference 1-Hawai’i (Ho’o Lei Ia Moku O Keawe-Kona), August 14, 2010, Keauhou, Kona

Conference 2 – Hawai’i (Ho’o Lei Ia Moku O Keawe-Hilo), August 21, 2010, Hilo

Conference 3 – Lana’i (Ho’o Lei Ia Nana’I Kaula), August 28, 2010, Lana’i

Conference 4 – Kahoolawe (Ho’o Lei Ia Moku O Kanaloa), September 10, 2010, Kihei, Maui

Conference 5 – Maui (Ho’o Lei Ia Moku O Kahekili), September 11, 2010, Kahului, Maui

Conference 6 – Ni’ihau (Ho’o Lei Ia Ni’ihau O Kahele Lani), September 17, 2010, Kekaha, Kauai

Conference 7 – Kaua’i (Ho’o Lei Ia Mano O Kalanipo), September 18, 2010, Kapa’a, Kaua’i

Conference 8 – O’ahu (Ho’o Lei Ia Moku O Kakuhihewa), September 25, 2010, Honolulu, O’ahu

Conference 9 – Moloka’i (Ho’o Lei Ia Moloka’i Pule O’o), October 2, 2010, Kaunakakai, Moloka’i

Conference 10 – Statewide (Ho’o Lei Ia Pae’Aina), November 19-20, 2010, Honolulu, O’ahu

Reports on all of these meetings were either submitted to the Hawaii State Legislature in the 2009 Legislative Report, or are being submitted in the 2011 Legislative Report. All fulfill the criteria listed in Chapter 226, HRS for a functional plan and a strategic planning process.

Strategic Plan Criteria 1: Identify and analyze significant issues, problems and opportunities confronting the state.

- As detailed in the 2009 Legislative Report and this report, the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee and Aha Moku representatives have painstakingly solicited public input on each of the forty-three (43) traditional moku (districts) in the State of Hawaii to identify and analyze issues and problems facing the State in resource management. Those issues were noted and submitted in the annual report to the Legislature. The opportunity to address these issues to the satisfaction of the general public would come through the Aha Moku process.

Strategic Plan Criteria 2: Examination and evaluation of state programs in implementing state policies.

- In every conference and meeting, state and county programs that implement state policies were examined and evaluated for their strengths and vulnerabilities. The Aha Kiole and Aha Moku representatives can offer solutions to address these vulnerabilities through the Aha Moku process

Strategic Plan Criteria 3: Formulation of strategies

- It has been proven throughout the past three decades that many of our governmental agencies have not been entirely successful in implementing programs that would protect Hawai'i's ecosystem. However, this can be rectified by the integration of the Aha Moku Process into the State system. Each of the eight Hawaiian main islands has formulated their own strategies as outlined in the individual island sections to address resource management.

Strategic Plan Criteria 4: Ensuring that the general public and agency concerns are solicited and taken into consideration

- All conferences and planning meetings were open to the public and agency representatives were invited to attend to give input and advice. Examples of agency concerns were shown at all of the conferences and most recently at the Ho'ō Lei Ia Pae'Aina Puwalu on November 19, 2010 when agency representatives discussed challenges to resource management including new technologies, water use, user conflicts and coastal developments. Additional discussions were held at this puwalu by county representatives who looked at resource management challenges through a county perspective.

Strategic Plan Criteria 5: Formation of task forces, ad hoc committees, or other advisory bodies comprised of interested parties may serve to facilitate public involvement in specific planning projects.

- All of the planning meetings and conferences were designed to encourage grass roots and communities to form the Ahupua'a and Aha Moku Councils which include residents and community members interested in the welfare of natural and cultural resources. Under the Aha Moku Process, every island has a Moku Council made up of the representatives of several ahupua'a, and a Kiole – the spokesperson for the island.

#### §226-53. Office of Planning.

The Office of Planning works to maintain an overall framework to guide the development of the State through a continuous process of comprehensive, long-range, and strategic planning to meet the physical, economic, and social needs of Hawaii's people, and provide for the wise use of Hawaii's resources in a coordinated, efficient, and economical manner - including the conservation of natural, environmental, recreational, scenic, historic, and other limited and irreplaceable resources which are required for future generations. They provide technical assistance in administering the Hawaii State Plan. It's duties includes recommendations to the Legislature; reviews of major plans, programs, projects and regulatory activities that are proposed by the state and county agencies; and analysis of existing state policies and rules and the update of state functional plans.

The Office of Planning's three main objectives are: 1) Fix responsibility and accountability to successfully carry out statewide programs, policies and priorities; 2) Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations of the executive branch; and 3) Ensure comprehensive planning and coordination to enhance the quality of life of the people of Hawaii.

#### §205A-3.5. Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC)

Chapter 205, HRS clarifies the lead agency's (Office of Planning) responsibility to maintain a public advisory body (MACZAC). The body is composed of twelve advisory members who are recruited from the Islands of Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i, and Hawai'i, and have diverse backgrounds in business, environment, native Hawaiian practices, terrestrial and marine commerce, recreation, research, and tourism. Their purpose is to work on the mapping of coastal parking access and recommendations regarding shoreline certification, commercial boating regulations, harbor facilities, ocean resource management, and cultural management, as well as other marine and coastal issues. They work closely with the coastal zone management and on the ORMP.

#### Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM)

The 2005 State Legislature designated the Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM) and its lead agency the State Office of Planning (OP) with responsibility for the overall implementation of the ocean resources management plan and required CZM to supply the Legislature with a final report for the Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP) update process.

In the last decade, communities realized that the set structure of how resources were managed in Hawaii was not working and began to look at ways to combine local expertise with western



science and government to create a balanced approach to managing land and resources. This approach resulted in updated ORMP.

The priorities of Hawaii's CZM Program for Marine and Coastal Affairs are (1) to review and periodically update the ORMP, (2) to coordinate overall implementation of the ORMP, giving special consideration to the plan's priority recommendations, and (3) to coordinate the development of state agency work plans to implement the ORMP. By incorporating the ORMP into the Office of Planning's newly completed strategic plan and operational plan, the CZM Program focuses on facilitating comprehensive ocean resources management throughout the state.

### The Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP)

The Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP), published in 1991, was developed by a multi-agency, cabinet-level council which included private sector and non-governmental representatives. It set forth guiding principles and recommendations for the State of Hawaii to achieve comprehensive and integrated ocean and coastal resources management. In addition to overall recommendations for a new governance structure and a comprehensive management system, the Plan included a series of specific policies and implementing actions for ten resource sectors. The State Legislature adopted the ORMP in 1994 and legislation was passed in 1995 which incorporated the plan into the CZM Program under OP. A review of the ORMP was conducted in 1998, and revealed a need for a revised ORMP to address changing priorities and new concerns relating to ocean resources management.

The ORMP is a statewide plan mandated by Chapter 205A, HRS. It represents a significant change in the way we approach natural and cultural resources management in response to public concerns that the existing functional management system is not working effectively.

Built on traditional Hawaiian management principles and lessons from past efforts, the ORMP is a shift toward integrated and area-based approaches to natural and cultural resources management that require greater collaboration among jurisdictional authorities and that will catalyze community involvement and stewardship. In effect, it is a bottom-up approach that builds on community partnerships.

In 2005 and 2006, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, through its Ocean Resources Committee, introduced and worked toward the inclusion of Native Hawaiian concepts – Aha Moku and Ahupua'a practices in regards to the CZM and ORMP. Their work with the Office of Planning resulted in the revised ORMP.

The updated plan replaces the first ORMP's sector-based approach with an integrated, place-based approach to management of ocean resources, based on land – sea links and the role of human activities and improved collaboration in governance. It is based on a three-perspective framework:

Perspective 1: Connecting Land and Sea;  
Perspective 2: Preserving Our Ocean Heritage; and  
Perspective 3: Promoting Collaboration and Stewardship.

### **Perspective 1: Connecting Land and Sea**

Careful and appropriate use of the land is required to maintain the diverse array of ecological, social, cultural, and economic benefits we derive from the sea. Strategic actions recommended by the Plan for this Perspective include reducing soil erosion and pollutant loads, developing beach management plans and protecting priority coastal areas and communities from coastal hazards.

### **Perspective 2: Preserving Our Ocean Heritage**

A vibrant and healthy ocean environment is the foundation for the quality of life valued in Hawai‘i and well-being of its people now and for generations to come. Management goals for this Perspective emphasize the improvement of coastal water quality, strengthening of marine protected area management, enhancing the ability of communities to restore and operate Hawaiian fishponds, and promoting sustainable ocean-based tourism.

### **Perspective 3: Promoting Collaboration and Stewardship**

Working together and sharing knowledge, experience, and resources will improve and sustain our efforts to care for the land and sea. This perspective highlights the need for community participation in cultural and natural resources management, and the exploration of place-based approaches including traditional principles of the traditional Hawaiian *ahupua`a* and land division, which was a self-sufficient unit running from land to sea.

Each of the accepted perspectives of the ORMP supports the values and concepts of the Aha Moku Process. In fact, it was the combined input of the Native Hawaiian people and the general public to use the language and concepts of the Ahupua`a and Moku process in the ORMP. This integration of Native Hawaiian values and methods in regards to ocean resource management validates once more, the importance of integrating the Aha Moku process into state policy.

### **§205, HRS. State Land Use Law**

The State Land Use Law, originally adopted by the State Legislature in 1961 is unique in the history of Hawaii land use planning. It establishes an overall framework of land use management whereby all lands in the State of Hawaii are classified into one of four districts: urban, rural, agricultural and conservation. To administer this state wide zoning law, the Legislature established the Land Use Commission (LUC). The LUC is responsible for preserving and protecting Hawaii's lands and encouraging those uses to which the lands are best suited.

Working within the Land Use Law is critically important to the Aha Moku process. The Aha Moku process is a holistic ecosystem management tool that encompasses all zones under the jurisdiction to the LUC. The LUC is composed of nine members who are appointed by the Senate. One member is appointed from each of the four counties. Five members are appointed

at-large. The Aha Kiole Advisory Committee recommends that a member of the Aha Kiole sit on the LUC as a member.

## **Aha Kiole Report**

***December 2010***

### ***State Agencies that Impact Natural and Cultural Resources***

Act 212 was enacted in 2007 by the Hawaii State Legislature and through that Act the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee was created to initiate the process to create a system of best practices that is based upon the indigenous resource management practices of moku (regional) boundaries, which acknowledges the natural contours of land, the specific resources located within those areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain resources and the community. This system of best practices or the Aha Moku process is compatible with many of the State of Hawai'i agencies and departments. Listed below are some of the more relevant agencies, their mission statements and examples of how the Aha Moku process, as a best-practices tool can be incorporated into their agency policies.

#### **Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)**

Act 212 mandated that the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee and the Aha Moku Councils be administratively attached to DLNR – “the department of land and natural resources shall provide support services to the advisory committee as the advisory committee deems necessary.” (Act 212, Section 2, 3d.)

Due to administrative and fiscal concerns, DLNR has not worked with the Aha Moku or Aha Kiole since Act 212 was passed. However, this is the right state department that should be a part of the process.

The mission statement of DLNR is “Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawai'i's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of visitors and the people of Hawai'i nei in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.” This very mission supports the foundation and basis for the Aha Moku Councils.

Throughout the past five years, the Aha Kiole, Aha Moku representatives and members of the general public have consistently tried to work with the DLNR administration with limited success. That is not to say that the staff was not supportive. On the contrary, all of the DLNR staff recognizes the value of integrating traditional resource knowledge into their policies. Many of them are practitioners, fishermen, or scientists dedicated to the welfare of Hawai'i's resources. Presentations from the Kiole were successfully given to the Department of Forestry and Wildlife in 2009. The problem then stems from an administrative perspective and fiscal responsibility. Nevertheless, the boards and divisions listed below are important components to the welfare of Hawai'i's ecosystem and compatible with the Aha Moku process.

## **DLNR - Boards**

### **Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)**

The BLNR is composed of seven members: one from each county, two at-large and the chairperson, the executive head of the department. The BLNR convenes twice monthly to review and take action on department submittals including land leases and Conservation District Use Applications (CDUA's). Since many of these reviews and actions involve protection of the ecosystem, it is prudent to include a member of the Kiole to sit on this Board.

### **§174C. The Commission on Water Resource Management**

In 1978, the State of Hawaii's Constitutional Convention identified the State's "obligation to protect, control and regulate the use of Hawaii's water resources for the benefit of its people." Under Article XI, Section 7, of the State Constitution, "The legislature shall provide for a water resources agency which, as provided by law, shall set overall water conservation, quality and use policies; define beneficial and reasonable uses; protect ground and surface water resources, watersheds and natural stream environments; establish criteria for water use priorities while assuring appurtenant rights and existing correlative and riparian uses and establish procedures for regulating all uses of Hawaii's water resources." This water resources agency is the Commission on Water Resource Management.

The Commission on Water Resource Management represents the State, as the trustee of water resources and has the constitutionally mandated responsibility to set policies, protect resources, define uses, establish priorities while assuring rights and uses and establishing regulatory procedures. They do this through the administration of the State Water Code, Chapter 174C, HRS which was adopted by the Legislature in 1987. Operating procedures are governed by administrative rules, which are Chapters 167 to 171, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

The Commission is made up of seven members, five of whom are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate. The remaining two are the Chairperson of the State Board of Land and Natural Resources, who serves as Chairperson of the Water Commission, and the Director of the State Department of Health. The Commission has jurisdiction over land-based surface water and ground water resources, but not coastal waters. Generally, the Commission is responsible for addressing water quantity issues, while water quality issues are under the purview of the State Department of Health.

“Ke Kahuwai Pono” or “the trustee who oversees the rightful sharing of water” is the logo of the Water Commission. This logo mirrors the concepts and values of Native Hawaiians in their perspective of water. Both the Water Commission and the Aha Kiole believe that water is the source of life and is a precious asset that can never be squandered, wasted or polluted. The Aha Moku process revolves around the sustainability of Hawai'i's ecosystem which is totally dependent on its water sources. Surface and ground water critically impacts coastal waters. Without fully knowing and understanding the connections between land and ocean, connections that are made by the surface and ground water, these resources cannot be effectively managed.

The Aha Kiole recommends that 1) a Kiole be made a part of the State Water Commission where he/she can be the liaison between government in regards to water and the specific communities that issues on water may affect. 2) The State Water Code be evaluated and brought up to date in regards to the distinct relationship between surface and ground water, and coastal areas.

#### Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission

The Legislature created the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to manage the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve while it is held in trust for a future Native Hawaiian sovereign entity. The KIRC is administratively attached to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. KIRC is composed of seven (7) commissioners: 3 representatives of Protect Kahoolawe 'Ohana; 1 representative of the Maui County Public Works & Environmental Management; the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; 1 representative of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and 1 representative of Native Hawaiian Organizations.

Kaho'olawe is a unique place where one quickly becomes aware of the spiritual connection to the 'āina—the wind, ocean, land, and heavens. When KIRC began planning for the restoration of the island, it was understood that cultural awareness would guide the restoration.

It is important to state that although Kahoolawe is now unoccupied by residents, it was once a home of Native Hawaiians and is still used regularly by descendants of the original occupants who now live in Honuaua, a moku on the Kihei side of Maui. Since the restoration of the Aha Moku Councils, lineal descendants of the original families of Kahoolawe of Honuaua have come forward with empirical knowledge of Kahoolawe, its resources, assets and cultural history. This will be shared with KIRC.

The Aha Kiole recommends that the Kahoolawe Kiole become a permanent member of the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission as he will represent the lineal descendants of the original Native Hawaiian occupants of Kahoolawe.

#### Natural Area Reserves Commission

The Natural Area Reserves Commission (NARS) was established by the Legislature in 1971 to preserve and protect as pristine and unchanged as possible. Its purpose is to protect Hawai'i's terrestrial and aquatic natural resources so that present and future generations may be able to learn about and appreciate these natural assets. NARS advises the BLNR and the governor on matters having to do with native ecosystems. They are governed by §195-6, HRS.

Created to preserve and protect Hawaiian biological ecosystems and geological formations, NARS currently consists of 19 reserves on five islands, totaling 109,165 acres. The Commission is mandated to establish policies and criteria regarding the management, protection, and permitted uses of areas which are part of the reserves system and to advise the governor and the BLNR on any matter relating to the preservation of Hawai'i's unique natural resources.

When examining the make-up of the NARS Commission, it was noted that of the eight Commission members, and five ex-officio members, there is not one representative of the Native Hawaiian people. The Commission is made up of scientists with a representative from the marine biology sector, geology sector, water sector, botany sector, ecology sector; representatives from monitoring, hunter and hiker groups. The ex-officio group consists of the

Chair of BLNR, the Director of the Office of Planning, the Superintendent of Education, the president of the University of Hawaii, and the Chair of the Board of Agriculture. Yet, every segment of the Commission deals with what Native Hawaiians have been protecting and preserving through traditional empirical knowledge and methodology for centuries.

The Aha Kiole believes that in order to understand the true essence of the resources both land and ocean, that NARS is mandated to preserve, it is necessary to understand the relationship of these resources to each other and to the people, the history of each reserve and its importance to the Native Hawaiian culture. The Kiole recommend that a member of the Aha Kiole be made a permanent member of the Natural Area Reserves Commission.

### **DLNR - Divisions**

As previously stated, the Aha Kiole and Aha Moku process is administratively connected to DLNR but have had very little success in working with any of the divisions since 2007. However, it is hoped that with this new administration, a closer relationship between the Aha Kiole, Aha Moku Councils and fulfilling the mandate of Act 212 can be achieved.

#### **Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)**

The mission of the Aquatic Resources is to manage, conserve and restore the state's irreplaceable aquatic resources and ecosystems for present and future generations. DAR manages through programs in commercial fisheries and resource enrichment, protection, habitat and education, and recreational fisheries. They focus on long-term sustainability of the resources. In the past five years, DAR has begun to understand the importance of the ahupua'a system and how resources in the ocean must depend on the health of the land to flourish. This has been shown through their pilot programs and partnerships with environmental organizations such as the Makai Watch program and other environmental groups. However, these partnerships have not gone far enough in the protection of site-specific marine areas and their resources. This is apparent because there was not enough information from the Native Hawaiians with the empirical knowledge of those areas and because the very structure of these programs were top-down, and not community-based. Active participation with the Aha Moku Councils will enable DAR to work closer with communities with more productive results.

#### **Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)**

The mission statement of DOFAW is "Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of visitors and the people of Hawaii nei in partnership with others from the public and private sectors."

DOFAW is a critical component of DLNR because it regulates so much of what is important to Hawai'i's ecosystem and environment. Their mission statement focuses on the protection of natural, cultural and historic resources yet this division has not partnered with the host culture, the Native Hawaiians who have the empirical knowledge of Hawai'i's ecosystem.

When one examines the different components of this division it is important to note that the Aha Moku process, when integrated into these components can be a critical source of knowledge,

resource and liaison between DOFAW and communities. The components of DOFAW that the Aha Moku process can strengthen are:

- Legacy Lands Conservation Program (LLCP)
  - Many of Hawaii’s cultural, natural, agricultural, historical, and recreational resources are lost when private lands possessing these resources are sold and developed. The LLCP provides grants to local organizations and agencies seeking to purchase and protect lands having these unique and rare valuable resources which include watershed protection, coastal areas, beaches and ocean access, natural areas, habitat protection, agricultural protection, cultural and historic sites, open spaces and scenic resources.
- Forest Stewardship Program
- Historic Trail Protection and Development
- Na Ala Hele Trail and Access System
- Watershed Partnership Program
- Habitat Conservation Plans
- Hunting in Hawaii

#### Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE)

DOCARE is responsible for enforcement activities of DLNR and has full police powers and enforces all State laws and rules involving state lands, parks, historical sites, forest reserves, aquatic life and wildlife areas, coastal zones, conservation districts, state shores, as well as county ordinances involving county parks. DOCARE also enforces laws relating to firearms, ammunition and dangerous weapons.

One of the most critical aspects of DOCARE is that they do not have enough manpower to police every community or every resource site. The Aha Moku process will assist in this effort through community consultation and participation with this division.

#### Land Division

Responsible for managing state-owned lands in ways that will promote the social, environmental and economic well-being of Hawaii’s people; the Land Division also maintains an inventory of state lands, including ceded lands and serves as the office of record. It maintains a central repository of all government documents relating to land dating back to the “Great Mahele” of 1848. Where acquisitions of privately-owned lands or lands owned by other government entities are required by the State for public purposes, the division is responsible for acquiring these lands through negotiations, condemnations or land exchanges.

The Aha Kiole and Aha Moku Councils will be a beneficial resource to the Land Division simply because through this process, generational knowledge of site-specific areas can be accessed from a time before the Great Mahele.

### Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL)

This division is responsible for overseeing approximately 2 million acres of private and public lands that lie within the State Land Use Conservation District. In addition to privately and publicly zoned Conservation District lands, the OCCL is responsible for overseeing beach and marine lands out to the seaward extent of the state's jurisdiction – 3 miles seaward.

Particularly because their jurisdiction over the marine lands exists, the OCCL will benefit from becoming more involved with the Aha Kiole and Aha Moku Councils. Native Hawaiians empirical knowledge of the land and sea resources cannot be duplicated or learned through western science. Their knowledge of the environment stems from generations of observation and proven practice in sustaining and protecting these very resources.

### State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD)

The mandate of SHPD is to preserve and sustain reminders of earlier times which link the past to the present. The division is made up of three main components: History and Culture, Archaeology and Architecture. SHPD also is responsible for the management of burial sites over 50 years old. Approximately 98% of the burial cases handled by the division relate to native Hawaiian skeletal remains.

#### Burial Councils

There are five Island Burial Councils that are administratively attached to SHPD, responds to 2-3 inadvertent discoveries each week and is involved to up to 250 burial cases annually. Each Island Council is composed of one representative from each geographic region of the island and representatives of development and large property owner interests.

The representation of each Island Burial Council from the Hawaiian geographic region is as follows:

Hawaii: Kohala, Kona, Ka'u, Puna, Hilo and Hamakua

Maui: Lahaina, Wailuku, Makawao and Hana

Lanai: Lana'i

Molokai: West Molokai, Central Molokai, East Molokai, and Kalawao

Oahu: Waianae, Ewa, Kona, Ko'olaupoko, Ko'olauloa and Waialua

Kauai: Waimea, Koloa, Lihu'e, Kawaihau, Hanalei and Na Pali

Niihau: Niihau

Part of the criteria for serving on the Island Burial Council aside from possessing an understanding of Hawaiian history, culture, customs and practices is that SHPD shall request appropriate Hawaiian organizations to submit names of candidates for regional representation to the department for consideration. Another criteria is that at least 20% of the regional representatives shall be appointed from a list of at least nine candidates provided by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. This has shown to be problematic in many cases simply because the list of



representatives is submitted from agencies that most likely are not familiar with the geographic and cultural histories of the ahupua'a of each moku. Further, decisions on what happens to 'iwi are also shared with developers and landowners, many who do not come from Hawai'i and only have monetary interests involved.

Native Hawaiians consider 'iwi kupuna and their burials to be of the highest importance and very sacred to the families. Decisions on what happens to the 'iwi kupuna must be made by the lineal descendants of the area where the iwi are found. Further, most Native Hawaiian people do not belong to organizations, but are of the main stream Hawaiian population and consumed by work and survival.

The Aha Kiole makes the following recommendations for the Burial Councils:

1. That the composition of the Island Burial Councils be made up of 1 representative of each traditional moku on each island to be:
  - a. Hawaii: Kohala, Kona, Ka'u, Puna, Hilo and Hamakua (6)
  - b. Maui: Hamakuapoko, Wailuku, Kula, Kaupo, Kaanapali, Honuaula, Kipahulu, Lahaina, Kahikinui, Hana, Koolau and Hamakualoa
  - c. Kahoolawe: Honuaula
  - d. Lana'i
  - e. Moloka'i: Kaluakoi, Palaa, Kawela, Koolau, and Halawa
  - f. Oahu: Waianae, Ewa, Kona, Ko'olaupoko, Ko'olauloa and Waialua
  - g. Kauai: Koolau, Halelea, Napali, Kona, Puna
  - h. Niihau: Niihau
2. That the list of applicants of for Burial Councils be submitted by the Kiole of each Island to SHPD.

**The Aha Kiole and Aha Moku Councils propose that the Aha Moku Process be integrated into the Department of Land and Natural Resources in support of its recommendation to include the Aha Moku System as part of the management regime of natural resources in Hawai'i by:**

- Making a member of the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee a permanent member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; (Note: the Kiole can rotate among the islands.)

- Making a member of the Aha Kiole Advisory Committee a permanent member of the State Water Commission;
- Re-evaluating the State Water Code in regards to the relationship between surface and ground water and coastal and marine resources;
- Making the Kiole of Kahoolawe a permanent member of the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission; and,
- Making a member of the Aha Kiole a permanent member of the Natural Area Reserves Commission.

### **Department of Agriculture**

The Hawaii State Department of Agriculture (DOA) is a critical component in the well-being and health of Hawaii's ecosystem and environment. Focused on agriculture and aquaculture, in the last century, the DOA is the division where the transition from one-crop plantations such as pineapple and sugarcane has gone to diversified agriculture such as nursery products, seed crops, and vegetable and fruit crops.

The DOA is governed by the Board of Agriculture (BOA) which was established on May 13, 1903 as the Board of Commissioners of Agriculture and Forestry, then under the Territory of Hawaii. It is committed to the safeguarding and beneficial use of agricultural resources so an adequate food supply for the people of Hawaii can be maintained.

An executive board, the BOA is composed of ten members – 1 from each of the counties of Hawai'i, Maui and Kauai; 3 at-large members; the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture; the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR); Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT); and the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources-University of Hawaii. The BOA provides policy direction for the DOA and has the authority to grant permission for the importation of animal and plant species.

The mission statement of the DOA, under their Strategic Plan last updated in December 2008 states "To lead the State's effort to maintain the agricultural sector of Hawaii's economy, including livestock production, forestry, crops and aquaculture, in a strong and competitive condition by providing policies, services, loans, subsidies, environmental protection, land and water, operations, facilities, advice, coordination, and information so as to achieve appropriate rates of growth, high levels of employment, reasonable returns on investment, and steady gains in real personal income." (Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Strategic Plan, Dec. 16, 2008)

It is troubling to note that since the BOA was established in 1903 and throughout the years ending in 2010, nowhere in their policies or strategic plans are Native Hawaiian culture, history or contribution to the agriculture of Hawaii listed. Rather, there is a strong dependence on western methods and science to analyze and make policies, rules and decisions about agriculture and aquaculture for everyone in Hawaii. Further, there are numerous references to plantations, early immigrants and western influences on the agricultural efforts in Hawaii. There is no acknowledgement of the role that Native Hawaiians played in ecosystem balance through their use of land and ocean. There is no acknowledgement that the aquaculture trade in Hawaii is

rooted in a Hawaiian cultural practice of raising and sustaining a food source through fishponds and open ocean farming. Rather, the focus has been on encouraging an open ocean market for artificial fish cages with no prior knowledge of the areas where these cages are proposed or of the impact on Native Hawaiian fishing or gathering rights. The same holds true for agricultural lands and water use. No credit has been given to the host culture of Hawaii nor that their traditional resource management on land or sea sustained thousands of people prior to western contact and can contribute to the sustainability of our food source today.

The Aha Moku process can strengthen and augment the DOA Strategic Plan for Hawai'i. In any event, the history and contribution of Hawaiian *mahiai* or farmers must be part of the DOA overall policy for maintaining the agricultural sector of Hawaii's economy. And, the science of Native Hawaiian "fish farming" on land, in rivers, streams and fishponds, and in the open ocean must become a part of the BOA and their policies for agriculture and aquaculture in Hawaii.

**The Aha Kiole and Aha Moku Councils propose that the Aha Moku Process be integrated into the Department of Agriculture to support its recommendation to include the Aha Moku System as part of the management regime of natural resources in Hawai'i by:**

- Making a Kiole a permanent member of the Board of Agriculture;
- Incorporating the Aha Moku Process into the Strategic Plan for the Department of Agriculture

**Department of Transportation**

Another of the important components to the Native Hawaiian culture is the need for access within an ahupua'a whether on land or in the ocean. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible for the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of facilities in all modes of transportation within the State of Hawaii. This includes the operations of 11 commercial service airports, 4 general aviation airports; 9 commercial harbors; and 2,450 lane miles of highway.

Formed in 1959 after Statehood, the DOT has three divisions: airports, harbors and highways. And, since county transportation systems must work hand-in-hand with the state system, the county's Planning Commissions and Department of Public Works help in knowing the needs of the people in regards to transportation. The mission of the DOT is: "To provide a safe, efficient, accessible, and intermodal transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, and enhances and/or preserves economic prosperity and the quality of life."

The DOT, through its subsidiaries and contractors has begun to look at incorporating Native Hawaiian concepts into its programs on identifying traditional ahupua'a boundaries.

# **Aha Kiole Advisory Committee Report**

**December 2010**

## ***Hawai'i State Counties and their relationship to the Aha Moku System***

The State of Hawaii, aside from the state governmental agencies and policies, are also regulated through four counties – the County of Hawaii; the Maui County which covers the islands of Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i and Kahoolawe; the City and County of Honolulu which covers O'ahu; and the County of Kaua'i which covers the islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau. The counties play a strong role in relationship to the Aha Moku process. The general plans of each county, along with their charters, govern the day-to-day operations and overall administration of island living. County policies follow the mandates of the Hawaii State Plan and incorporate the state policy of understanding that “community or social well-being is a value that encompasses many things. In essence, it refers to healthy social, economic, and physical environments that benefit the community as a whole. A sense of social responsibility, of caring for others and for the well-being of our community and of participating in social and political life, is important aspects of this concept. It further implies the aloha spirit – attitudes of tolerance, respect, cooperation and unselfish giving, within which Hawaii's society can progress.” (§226-3).

As additionally stated in the Hawaii State Plan, by which all state and county planning is guided, “ County general plans shall indicate desired population and physical development plans and shall address the unique problems and needs of each county and regions within each county.” It goes on to state that “ County general plans or development plans shall further define the overall theme, goals, objectives, policies, and priority guidelines contained within this chapter. State functional plans shall be taken into consideration in amending the county general plans.” (§226-52)

County general plans keep order and are compatible with state operations. Community development plans, as mandated in county general plans are directly related to the people of any specific district. These plans, by their very nature, have a direct affiliation with the Aha Moku process as both are grass-roots and community driven. And, although each county has mandates on how to deal with their communities, the descriptions of their processes differ slightly. It is therefore prudent to examine each County general plan and its policies in regards to community plans and the inclusion of the Aha Moku process into those plans.

Since 2006, when the Ho'ohanohano I Na Kupuna Puwalu Series began, and in 2007 when Act 212 was enacted, communities statewide realized that the first step in taking responsibility for the welfare of resources located within the areas where they live would be to start with their own

counties. Integrating the Aha Moku process into government policy would begin at home – in their specific ahupua’a and districts and through the different county community planning.

### **County of Hawai’i**

The first Hawai’i County Charter was authorized by State law in 1968 and has since served as the “constitution” of Hawai’i County providing the framework for the organization and operation of county government. There have been numerous charter reviews and amendments to the charter, the most current taking place on November 4, 2008. (Hawaii County Charter, 2008 Edition).

#### General Plan

The general plan for the County of Hawai’i is overseen by the Windward and Leeward Planning Commission, the Planning Director, and the Planning Department. Their role is to review the plan, any amendments and other modifications and transmit their recommendations to the mayor and the County Council for consideration and action. The process for amendment of the general plan is more detailed, but generally once decisions are reached by the County Council, resolutions are drafted, heard in public hearings, voted on and if passed, become ordinances and amendments to the general plan.

The Aha Moku process is site-specific and deals with definite resource areas. These areas are represented by all of the moku of Hawaii Island and are included in one or the other of the two Planning Commissions. The Windward Planning Commission encompasses the moku of Puna, Hilo, Hamakua and Ka’u. The Leeward Planning Commission encompasses Kohala and Kona.

The County of Hawaii General Plan is the policy document for the comprehensive development of the Island of Hawaii. Its purposes identify the visions, values and priorities that are important to the people residing in Hawaii County. It provides the framework for regulatory decisions and is coordinated with federal and state programs. One of the most important functions of the general plan is to “improve the physical environment of the County to make it more functional, beautiful, healthful, interesting and efficient”. (Hawaii County General Plan May 2010).

Towards this end, the general plan includes Community Development Plans (CDP’s) for each district. Districts are identified as being the same as moku areas. Since 2008, moku representatives have begun incorporating ahupua’a concepts into their individual community plans as citizens of those specific districts. Each CDP reflects the strong community vision and lifestyle of its residents. Each is compatible with the Aha Moku Process and even more importantly, each CDP, in their vision statements reflects the wishes of the communities to incorporate the ahupua’a concepts into their lifestyles.

### **County of Maui**

The County of Maui Charter was ratified on January 2, 2003 and encompasses the islands of Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i and Kahoolawe. Daily operations and regulatory policies are administered for the County through its General Plan which was first adopted in 1980 and updated in 1990. The General Plan also comprises nine Community Plans which provide recommendations concerning land use and matters that are specific to each region. As a requirement of the Maui County Code, community plans are updated every ten years. Currently, this process of updates began in 2010 and is estimated to take approximately 30 months to complete. Community plans should be completed by 2013. The Community Plans are written for Kihei-Makena, Paia-Haiku, Wailuku-Kahului, Makawao-Pukalani-Kula, Hana, West Maui, the islands of Lana'i, Moloka'i, and Kahoolawe.

Both the General Plan and the Community Plans are strategic-planning documents which guide government action and decision-making; and, are part of the planning hierarch which includes, as primary components, the Hawaii State Plan and State Function Plans.

While the islands of Moloka'i, Lana'i, and Kahoolawe are included in the Maui County Community Plans, each island is distinctly different with different history, goals, and objectives. However, all of the Islands in the Maui County are persistent in their descriptions of what their residents want – to become more involved in their community processes and to preserve the specific ambiances, cultural histories and distinct ecosystems of their islands. The Aha Moku Process is geared towards that end and can enhance and strengthen each island Community Plan.

### **City and County of Honolulu**

The General Plan for the City and County of Honolulu is comprised of the policies that govern the island of O'ahu and is the focal point of a comprehensive planning process that addresses all concerns affecting the health, welfare, economic issues and the environment. First adopted in 1977, amendments were adopted regularly over the years ending in 1992. The General Plan is a guide for all levels of government, private enterprises, neighborhood boards and citizen groups.

Comprised of eleven components, natural environment ranks as one of the highest concerns of the population. The natural environment of O'ahu is considered to be the islands greatest asset and one that is capitalized on by the visitor industry, the economic wheel that generally supports the City and County of Honolulu. The City's policies therefore, are to protect and enhance these attributes through education and public awareness, and to work against the degradation of these assets.

Of all of the main Hawaiian Islands, O'ahu has the largest population numbering approximately 902,168 with 75% of the state population residing in the City and County of Honolulu. Over the decades, the population has steadily increased and natural resources gave way to economic necessities. This has been problematic in regards to the Aha Moku Process as the process focuses on the protection and preservation of natural resources many of which have been altered or destroyed on O'ahu. However, the ahupua'a concepts and processes are still alive in the more

rural areas of O'ahu such as Waianae, Waialua, Ko'olauloa, and Ko'olaupoko. The central Honolulu districts and the Kona moku are more difficult to restore as these are the most heavily populated and altered resource districts.

### **County of Kaua'i**

The General Plan for the County of Kaua'i was revised in 2000 by the Kaua'i County Planning Department to focus on the policies that govern the development of the island. It is intended to improve the physical environment, health, safety and general welfare of the people of Kaua'i. It establishes strategies, policies and implementing actions. Residents of the different areas of Kaua'i, in addressing planning for their districts are involved in the following Development Plans: Lihue Town Core Urban Design Plan; Kapaa-Wailua Development Plan; Koloa-Poipu-Kalaheo Development Plan; and the Kilauea Town Sub-Area Plan.

All of the Kauai County Development Plans touch on the importance of preserving natural and cultural resources, including the need for environmental protection and restoration. However, the focus is on development and economic stability rather than on enhancing the Kaua'i lifestyle that is the preferred way of living on Kaua'i. Protection of natural resources, while stated in each Development Plan, is not as intensive as it could be. The Aha Moku Process can fine-tune yet strengthen each of the Development Plans. Since 2000 when the General Plan was last amended, the consciousness of the residents of Kaua'i has consistently turned toward resource sustainability. All of the Development Plans for Kaua'i should be updated and the Aha Moku Process integrated into the Planning.

**The Aha Kiolo and Aha Moku Councils propose that the Aha Moku Process be integrated into all County Community and Development Plans in support of their recommendation to include the Aha Moku System as part of the management regime of natural resources in Hawai'i.**



## Testimony in support of William Aila, Appointment to Chair of Department of Land and Natural Resources

Submitted to: The Committee on Water, Land and Housing

From: Kitty M. Simonds, President Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and the Committee members,

The Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club was formed to support proper management of Hawaii's natural and cultural resources. We support the appointment of Mr. Aila, with reservation (see attached) to the post of Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). While we are concerned that his experience and training may not have prepared him for this job, we hope he will be able to grow into the position and deliver the DLNR leadership that was lacking in the past administration.

We support as a priority for DLNR the conducting of an outside review of its ocean regulations, processes and policies. Our interaction with the public indicates a strong need for such a review. What regulations are proper, necessary, enforceable and based on science? This examination should be done independently in each county and should involve moku representatives, fishermen and the general public. We ask the new Chair to begin planning for this review as one of his first major administrative acts. We stand ready to assist him in this task.

We have some specific questions for Mr. Aila.

- DLNR is one of the biggest departments in state government. Despite its far-reaching responsibilities, it has experienced a thinning of its ranks, through attrition and staff reduction. Given this situation, how do you plan to improve on your predecessors' performance in carrying out the department's mission?
- The Pew Charitable Trusts are among aggressive environmental organizations that you have been aligned with. The Pew Trusts are wealthy and influential. The state of Hawaii, including DLNR, is facing budget challenges. What are the possibilities for enlisting the Pew Trusts to assist your department financially in managing Hawaii's cultural and natural resources?

Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club  
P.O. Box 240388. Aina Haina Station  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96824

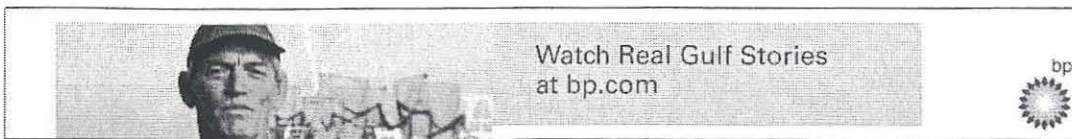




- Fishing is vital to Hawaii, to commercial, recreational and subsistence fishers (in addition to consumers, stores and restaurants). Commercial fishing already requires permits. Those who fish for recreation say ocean resources are public and that they should not have to pay to pursue them. Other states require recreational fishers, whether residents or visitors, to buy permits, as a source of revenue and data. How likely is it that DLNR will require Hawaii residents and visitors to obtain permits for recreational fishing in salt water?
- DLNR opposed recent legislation (HB 1154) to formally recognize the Aha Moku system and to create an Aha Kiole Advisory Commission. Why is your department resisting a measure that would enhance efforts of native Hawaiians in managing their resources?

Thank you for this opportunity for the Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club to present its support for, and questions to, interim Director William Aila.

Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club  
P.O. Box 240388, Aina Haina Station  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96824



# Star Bulletin

Vol. 12, Issue 182 - Sunday, July 1, 2007

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Reader Poll

Who should be the starting quarterback for the UH football team?

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## Our Side Of The Story

Edwin Ebisui Jr.

## Critics persist in taking unfair swipes at fishery council

THE Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council lives with controversy; it is the nature of its mission. The council interacts with community groups and diverse interests. Its allies and opponents are continuously shifting, depending on the issues before the council and the decisions it makes. The council strives to serve all sides responsively. Its process is open, transparent and inclusive.

The council and its staff work long hours, weekends and holidays to responsibly manage ocean resources. The council consults federal legal advisers and operates under a carefully monitored budget with annual independent audits and the regular scrutiny of other federal agencies, including Congress and the Commerce Department.

Recently, a group of individuals have used the media in an attempt to prompt Congress and the inspector general to investigate the council. These same individuals have spoken at length at council meetings. We have answered their questions and provided them with documents. However, they will not be satisfied. They apparently prefer to cling to their agenda, morph their charges and ignore the facts.

Contrary to their allegations, the council and its staff did not sponsor, promote or lobby for any piece of state legislation, including **House Bill 1848**. The council and its staff do respond to inquiries from legislators and did organize a series of meetings with the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and several state agencies to encourage the participation of indigenous communities in the fishery management process as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other federal directives. These meetings were historic and immensely beneficial, yet some people apparently feel threatened by them.

THESE CRITICS have a history of attempts to discredit the council, its members and staff. Their list of misinformation includes accusations that the council is under investigation. While there was a request for an investigation in 2005, the council responded to it and has been informed by its parent Commerce Department agency that there is no such investigation.

Failing to make a convincing case against the council, the critics have shifted their focus to a personal attack on the council's

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executive director, Kitty Simonds, claiming she's the nation's fifth-highest paid federal official. Research would show that her pay is fully consistent with the federal civil service pay scale, and there are many other federal employees in Hawaii who are paid as much or more. The executive director succeeded three predecessors in 1983 and has served since then under many chairmen (including me), four national administrations and four state administrations. To counteract these charges, this year on June 22 at the close of its 138th meeting, the council gave Simonds a unanimous vote of confidence.

NEVERTHELESS, repetition of untruths can spread an impression of wrongdoing and waste. Unfortunately, some respected news media and other well-meaning organizations have mistaken these complainants as representatives of legitimate environmental concerns and have blindly accepted their allegations and insinuations, and regurgitated the misinformation without taking the time or effort for independent review before re-publication.

These complainants do not have the support they project through the use of titles of organizations to which they are affiliated. They are individuals with axes to grind. They do not represent the concerns of Hawaii's larger environmental or Hawaiian communities. Do the organizations have active and functioning governing bodies? Did the governing bodies of the respective organizations sanction their actions beforehand? Are the allegations made for personal interests and agendas, rather than conservation? "Who are these people and who do they really represent?" would be a good place to start.

COUNCIL WORK, by its very nature, is difficult and contentious. As required by the national standards contained in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, council work requires consideration of many competing interests and points of view before making decisions for the greater good of society. Council members do not have "constituencies"; it is not a matter of commercial fishing vs. recreational fishing vs. conservation, because ultimately we all have the same interest -- responsible management of the marine resources for food, cultural practices, recreation, aesthetics and enjoyment in perpetuity.

Edwin Ebisui Jr. is five-term vice chairman of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, a small boat fisherman and an attorney.

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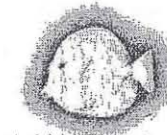
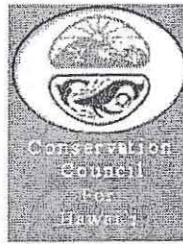
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Na Imi Pono



A 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to reef defense



## PRESS RELEASE

JUNE 20, 2007

### ENVIRONMENTAL & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS CALL FOR WESPAC CONGRESSIONAL HEARING AND THE RESIGNATION OF WESPAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KITTY SIMONDS

A Native Hawaiian cultural organization, Na Imi Pono, three of Hawaii's leading environmental organizations -- the Hawaii Audubon Society, the Snorkel Bob Foundation, and the Conservation Council for Hawaii -- and a national science and policy organization, the Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI), wish to publicly state that they are very concerned about the recent complaints filed against the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (WESPAC).

Collectively, all five organizations are calling for the resignation of Kitty Simonds, the Executive Director of WESPAC. Collectively they stated, "These complaints are from very credible persons, are well documented, and demonstrate a systematic pattern of behavior that is at best unethical and at worst illegal. Spending federal taxpayer money on political lobbying activities undermines the trust of the public in our government. These are only the latest allegations that Ms. Simonds has acted improperly as the Executive Director of WESPAC. It is clear that she has been responsible for allowing and fostering the unethical climate within WESPAC and we believe WESPAC needs a clean start and that Ms. Simonds should step down."

In order to ensure that WESPAC gets a clean start, these organizations are also calling on Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to exercise oversight of WESPAC. "We take these allegations very seriously and think that our congressional leaders should as well," said, Bill Chandler, Vice President of MCBI. "I am very concerned these complaints appear to document a pattern of disregarding science in favor of political agendas by a federal agency that is responsible for the health of our fisheries".

William Aila, the Director of Na Imi Pono said "I am particularly concerned because it appears that WESPAC has been attempting to hide their illegal activity under the cover of Native Hawaiian practices, creating divisions within the Hawaiian community, and creating a climate in which it erroneously appears that Hawaiians are discriminating against non-Hawaiians."

**1 MORE PAGE...**

Marjorie Ziegler, the Executive Director of Conservation Council for Hawaii said, "WESPAC is a federal agency charged with protecting and managing our fisheries, but it appears from the evidence in the complaints that they are instead engaging in illegal activity designed to undermine these goals."

Robert Wintner, the Executive Director of the Snorkel Bob Foundation, said "I think that the complaints filed against WESPAC represent a growing recognition that the federal government has done a very poor job managing our fisheries, further undermining the health of Hawaii's reef's. The four women who are giving testimony against WESPAC should be congratulated for their courage and dedication. Very few people are willing to put themselves on the line and challenge a powerful federal agency for the good of Hawaii's people and marine environment."

Linda Paul, the Director of the Aquatics Division of the Hawaii Audubon Society said, "As Hawaii's oldest conservation group, the Audubon Society wishes to state that we think it is very important that our congressional leaders take these complaints very seriously, and do everything they can to support a complete investigation into all allegations."

For more information contact:

William Aila, Director, Na Imi Pono  
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Bill Chandler, Vice President, Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI)  
202-546-5346 bill@mcbi.org

Linda Paul, Aquatics Director, Hawaii Audubon Society (HAS)  
808-548-3474 linpaul@aloha.net

Robert Wintner, Executive Director Snorkel Bob Foundation  
808-874-8405 robertw@snorkelbob.com

Marjorie Ziegler, Executive Director Conservation Council for Hawaii (CCH)  
808-593-0255 mz@conservehi.org

# Wespac plan integrates practices of ahupuaa

## GATHERING PLACE

Antoinette Lee  
and Leimana DaMate

**F**OR thousands of years, Hawaiians practiced a stringent common-sense land and ocean use management process that focused on the protection of the ecosystem and preservation of natural resources. This process was created by eons of observation of nature and then put into practical use. It's simple: The health of the ocean depends on the health of the land, and vice versa, a true symbiotic relationship. It's also a proven practice that translates into Hawaiian science.

Recently, a number of articles have focused on how the fisheries in Hawaii waters, including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, are in decline. Commercial fishing opponents loudly and vocally blame others for the loss of our fisheries. They blame the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

The communities must be involved — all communities, all ethnic races from all walks of life.

(Wespac), fishermen — both commercial and recreational — and everyone else for the decimation of our resources and species although the best-known Western science was used at the time. Our own research has shown otherwise. Since Wespac was created in 1976, it has banned destructive fishing methods, including bottom-set gillnets, explosives, poisons and bottom longlines; imposed fishing moratoriums; and created the Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plans, the first of its kind in the United States.

While Wespac was going forward with its ocean protection processes, the Hawaiian people were striving to address deep concerns about protecting our natural and cultural resources. Hawaiians have been strongly advocating for integrating the ahupuaa process, a common-sense approach to environment protection. When Hawaiians and Wespac finally came together, it was a natural collaboration. Both are striving for the same thing: ecosystem resource protection.

The ahupuaa approach is

strongly supported by Gov. Linda Lingle and her administration, including the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the state Office of Planning, as was stated in the Ocean Resources Management Plan workshop held in October. The Hawaii Ocean and Coastal Council also actively supported incorporating Hawaiian traditional methods, or Hawaiian science, into governmental regulatory policy. A big part of the ahupuaa process and also a big part of Wespac's Fishery Ecosystem Plans is seasonal closures based on spawning cycles.

A shift in perspectives on the part of the state of Hawaii is necessary if we — and by "we" I mean the people of Hawaii in partnership with the governmental entities — are to protect our environment. DLNR is in the process of creating 15 permanent fishery area closures around the state. These areas are predominantly located where Hawaiians fish. This is not ahupuaa integration, but a concession to a Western process that has already proved to have failed. Before permanent closures are finalized, discussion, research and justified reasons for the site selections must be done. The communities must be involved — all communities, all ethnic races from all walks of life. We are all stakeholders in protecting our environment and preserving our ecosystem. The Legislature recognizes this and is

moving House Bill 2587, relating to marine resources, in an effort to address this critical issue.

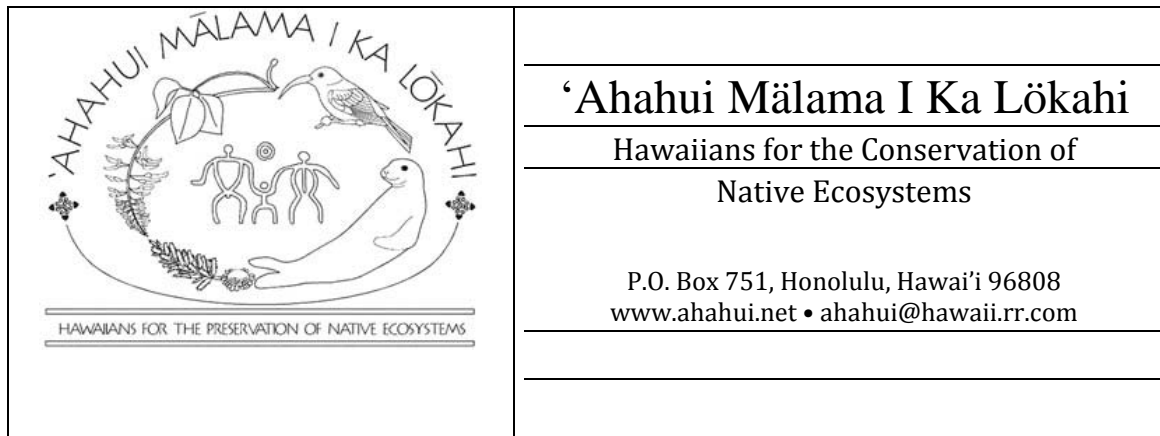
Wespac has embraced the ahupuaa concept and indigenous cultural integration and has begun the dialogue with Hawaiians on how to incorporate Hawaiian science into practical protection for our marine fisheries and aina. The state and counties have embraced ahupuaa on the Hawaii Ocean and Coastal Council. The people have shown their support of ahupuaa through more than 30 community meetings across the state during the past three years. History has proved that Hawaiians were successful in sustaining their environment through Hawaiian science, ahupuaa and seasonal closures based on spawning cycles.

*Antoinette Lee is president and Leimana DaMate chairwoman of the Ocean Resources Committee, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. The AOHCC, formed by Prince Jonah Kuhio in 1918, is the oldest Hawaiian organization in Hawaii.*

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WESPAC



Committee: Water, Land and Housing

Date: Saturday February 12, 2011

Time: 1:15 pm

Place: Conference Room 225

Chairperson and members of the Committee,

I’m Chuck “Doc” Burrows, co-president of Ahahui Malama I ka Lokahi, a native Hawaiian conservation organization of 2000 members both here in Hawaii and across the continent that is dedicated to the conservation of indigenous native cultural sites and ecosystems. I am also the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club that through the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs has a membership of 4,000 in 50 chapters on the continent and in Hawaii. I am testifying on behalf of these two organizations in support of William Johnson Aila, Jr. to be considered and confirmed as the Chairperson to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I have personally known and have worked with William Aila Jr. on issues pertaining to the ecological and cultural protection and conservation of Hawaiian archaeological sites and ecosystems on the leeward coast of Oahu. I was greatly impressed on how he was able to articulate both verbally and in writing the scientific justification to construct the predator control fencing in the Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve to protect the increasing Albatross nestings, resting monk seals and coastal native plants. As a Hawaiian cultural practitioner, he was also mindful of the concerns of Kanaka Maoli in protecting and respecting the sacredness of the limestone feature known as Leina a ka ‘Uhane (Spirit Leap) and to be balanced with the Hawaiian conservation values of aloha and malama aina of Hawaii’s endemic plant and animal species and marine ecosystem. I am certain that of any past or future BLNR chairpersons, William Aila Jr. will bring to this position a unique perspective from his Hawaiian cultural activism along with his

pragmatic real work experiences to deal with the formidable issues and concerns of the DLNR and to formulate policies that will provide solutions that are fair and justifiable.

When I was asked to convene a panel of Alaskan natives and Hawaiian cultural practitioners at the Association Of Hawaiian Civic Clubs 2007 Convention in Anchorage, Alaska to speak on the issues of ecological and cultural impacts on the marine resources by mega-corporations exploitations from oil drilling, mineral mining and large-scale commercial fishing, I invited Bill Aila to be on the panel. Bill was able to share his work experience as the Waianae harbormaster, his stories of long-line and seine fishing in the central Pacific and of the urbanization and military activity impacts on Hawaiian cultural sites and terrestrial ecosystems. He and Dr. Emmett Aluli of the KIRC and PKO were both able to relate their experiences of common concerns with other indigenous natives including how they incorporated modern scientific best management practices in their fields of operations.

We of Ahahui Malama I ka Lokahi and the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club as the curators for Ulupo Heiau and Na Pohaku o Hauwahine, the Hawaiian cultural and ecological sites in Kawainui Marsh, Kailua and have worked closely with the State Parks, DOFAW and past BLNR chairpersons, therefore strongly recommend that this committee consider and confirm William Johnson Aila Jr. as the BLNR chairperson

Aloha pumehana,  
Charles K. Burrows, Ed.D.  
Co-President, Ahahui Malama I ka Lokahi  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club  
Email: [chuckb@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:chuckb@hawaii.rr.com)  
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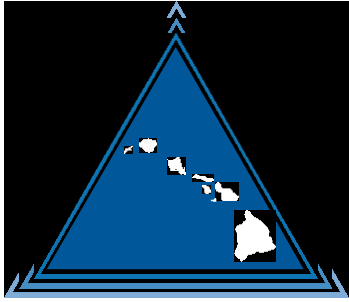
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Testimony for WLH 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM GM517

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Vince Kana`i Dodge  
Organization: `Ai Pohaku  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [aipohaku@hotmail.com](mailto:aipohaku@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:

**Sovereign Councils  
of the**



**Hawaiian Homelands  
Assembly**

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To

**COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING**

**Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair**

**Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair**

**From: Kamaki Kanahele**

**Chairman**

**Sovereign Councils of the Hawaiian Homelands**

**Assembly (SCHHA)**

**Feb. 12, 2011**

The SCHHA is in Support of the confirmation to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM JOHNSON AILA, JR., for a term to expire December 31, 2014.

Aloha Mr. Chair, members of the Committee. I am Kamaki Kanahele, Chair of the Sovereign Councils of the Hawaiian Homelands Assembly (SCHHA) whose membership is identified as beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920). The SCHHA is here today in support of the confirmation to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM JOHNSON AILA, JR., for a term to expire December 31, 2014.

For the record, Mr. Chair, the SCHHA is Hawaii's largest beneficiary native Hawaiian organization consisting of 31 homestead associations, totaling 276 elected officers to those associations, our actual members - state-wide (including Lanai) and also, for the first time, included in the Oahu membership group of associations, a waitlist organization called the Association of Hawaiians for Homestead Lands (AHHL). Combined, the SCHHA would represent nearly three-fourths of Hawaii beneficiaries both on and off the lands.

As Governor Neal Abercrombie's theme, "A New Day in Hawaii" begins to be amplified as a reminder of things to come, so it shall be also with we beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homelands Trust. Never before have our native communities been accorded a place at the decision-making table and rarer still, to the Chair of the DLNR. We believe that this bodes well for our Hawaii, when, for the first time a native Hawaiian, Mr. Aila, whose ancestry and culture demands a full accountability, like that of every kanaka maoli, to preserve, protect, and defend to the fullness extent possible, ka honua (the earth) of ka aina (the land), ka moana (the ocean), and na lani (the heavens) in perpetuity, a sacred trust obligated to Mr. Aila by the requirements of his birthright. How than, Mr. Chairman, does one look to the full measure of the appointment of Mr. Aila to this seat? He is a Kanaka Maoli and it is on him and his labors shall this great burden rest, forever.

Your kokua to confirm Mr. Aila as Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources is appreciated.

Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club

P.O. Box 532

Hau'ula, HI. 96717

Committee on Water, Land, and Housing  
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair and  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice-Chair and  
Committee Members

RE: Testimony in Support of the Appointment for consideration and confirmation for the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources for William Johnson Aila, Jr.

Aloha Senator Dela Cruz and Senator Malama Solomon & Committee Members,

I would like to submit testimony in support of William Johnson Aila Jr. as the Chair for the Board of Land and Natural Resources for the State of Hawai'i.

I have had the opportunity of viewing his resume submitted and I have never seen so many Boards and Commissions a person as Mr. Aila has rendered service to in order to gain the knowledge that is needed for this opportunity to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I am also a member of the AOHCC Board of Directors and Friends of Kahana and would like to also add their support as our last meetings held, we were able to discuss the merits of Mr. Aila. First and foremost, mahalo to Governor Abercrombie for his appointment of many members of his cabinet that are native Hawaiian. I feel in this time of understanding our role as native Hawaiians and perhaps the discussions and essence of Nationhood or self governance, we need

a leader that will work for the benefit of the native Hawaiians and the entire State of Hawai'i and its people. The importance of the work will entail a person that has given as much as Mr. Aila in his many roles, responsibilities he has held and the quality of his service to be able to serve in this capacity. The knowledge of land-base, water resources and ocean resources are very important to the people of Hawai'i.

Other areas of importance is the understanding of all types of leases in the State of Hawai'i. As an example, a lease from the Department of Hawaiian Home lands is not the same as a State lease issued for residential community and agriculture and 999 year leases that all exist in the Ko'olauloa moku.

Mr. Aila is a giving person in that his involvement in the reinternment of the iwi found in our moku and reinterned displayed a leader that was very humble and compassionate versus others that may not have ever rendered service in these areas. I support Mr. Aila as a native Hawaiian that will learn all he can in this capacity and work towards the betterment of the native Hawaiians as the peoples of these Islands and for all that have made Hawai'i their home.

Again, please accept my testimony for a well-deserved leader for service to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Owau me ka ha'a ha'a

Danielle Ululani Beirne-Keawe, President

# **Waianae Kai Hawaiian Homestead Association**

**COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING**

**Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair**

**Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair**

**From: Kalena Hew Len , President**

## **Waianae Kai Hawaiian Homestead Association**

**Feb. 12, 2011**

**Aloha Mr. Chair, members of the Committee. I am Kalena Hew Len, President of the Waianae Kai Homestead Association, whose membership is identified as beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920. I am here today in support of the confirmation of the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM JOHNSON AILA, JR., for a term to expire December 31, 2014.**

**For the record, Mr. Chair, Waianae Kai is a native Hawaiian community and a member of the SCHHA. I also serve as Kahu of the SCHHA.**

**In his most recent responsibilities as Harbor Agent for the Waianae Board Harbour, whose division is located within Department of Land and Natural Resources, Mr. Aila is not new to DLNR and its workings having been a part the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation System since 1987. His knowledge of the Land issues and management in his job as Research Assistant at the Wahiawa Plantation for Dole. Worked the land himself in owning his own Nursering and Landscaping business acquiring a list of prominent clientele Gem store chain and Payless Stores. Labored strongly in ocean issues from bottom fishing to being a part of the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council serving as co-chair for Pelagic Advisory Sub-Panel to WESPAC. His resume addressing and actually participating in efforts to protect and lands, seas and skies is not new to what is expected of a native Hawaiian such as Mr. Aila. "Malama Ka Aina, Kai, Kalani" take care of the land sea and skies. Mr. Aila has a history of knowing his obligations as a native Hawaiian to do exactly that.**

**I ask the committee to confirm Mr. Aila as Chair to the DLNR, Mahalo**

**Kalena Hew Len, President, Kalea Pa'a, V.P., Laureen Irvine, Sec., Esther Smith, Trea.**

**86-303 Hokupaa Street, Waianae, 96792**



Testimony to the Committee on Water Land and Housing

Saturday, February 12, 2011; 1:15 PM

Conference Room 225

**Speaking in Support**

**RE: In Support of William Johnson Aila, Jr. as Chair of the BLNR**

Chair Senator Dela Cruz; Vice Chair Malama Solomon; Senators of the Water Land and Housing Committee:

My Name is James E. Coon. I am the President of the Ocean Tourism Coalition representing issues of the nearly three hundred ocean activity businesses across the State of Hawaii. I am speaking in support of the nomination of Mr. William Johnson Aila, Jr. as the Chairman of the DLNR and BLNR.

I have known Mr. Aila for many years. We in the OTC have worked on legislative issues with Mr. Aila on which we have agreed and issues on which we agreed to disagree. In every instance we have found Mr. Aila to be reasonable, well informed and courageous to stand for issues that he believed in yet willing to look at unintended consequences and make changes where necessary.

Mr. Aila is well aware of the many issues we in the Ocean Tourism Industry are dealing with and as a former employee of the Department of Boating and Ocean Recreation; he will have additional insight on ocean and coastal management issues. His strong Hawaiian roots will ensure that Hawaiian cultural values are fairly represented and considered.

In short we believe that Mr. Aila is an excellent choice for this position. We look forward to working with him in protecting and preserving our natural environment and providing a stable regulatory environment in which our many small ocean enterprises can survive.

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, President OTC

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tori@wilddolphin.org](mailto:tori@wilddolphin.org)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM517 on 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 7:53:32 AM

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Testimony for WLH 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM GM517

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Wild Dolphin Foundation  
Organization:  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [tori@wilddolphin.org](mailto:tori@wilddolphin.org)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2011

Comments:

In strong support due to ethics and service to community, the land and the ocean of Hawaii.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [wildside@sailhawaii.com](mailto:wildside@sailhawaii.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM517 on 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 7:54:08 AM

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Testimony for WLH 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM GM517

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: WildSide Specialty Tours  
Organization:  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [wildside@sailhawaii.com](mailto:wildside@sailhawaii.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2011

Comments:

In strong support due to ethics and service to community, the land and the ocean of Hawaii.



PO Box 1434

Kilauea, HI 96754

February 11, 2011

Aloha Chairman Dela Cruz and Vice Chairman Solomon:

I am writing to support the appointment of William Aila to the challenging position of Chairman of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Although I had other candidates in mind, when his nomination was announced, I instinctively said: " Ah. Yes! Wonderful"

The reasons I was so excited and so instantly convinced that he was the person for the job are:

- his work experience within a division of the DLNR;
- his advocacy for community-based marine conservation;
- his respect within the conservation community;
- his respect within the Native Hawaiian community;
- his willingness to step forward and take on leadership roles.

I have never met Mr. Aila. But I know diverse individuals who have met and/or worked with him. The characteristic they all mention is his ability to listen.

I am very grateful that Mr. Aila is willing to take on this most demanding job.

Please vote for his confirmation.

With aloha and gratitude for your service.

Beryl Blaich

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [blakemcelheny@yahoo.com](mailto:blakemcelheny@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM517 on 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 9:04:14 AM

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Testimony for WLH 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM GM517

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Blake McElheny  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [blakemcelheny@yahoo.com](mailto:blakemcelheny@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2011

Comments:  
Aloha.

I support the appointment of William Johnson Aila, Jr., as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources because he has the experience, skills, and proven dedication to the resources to be an effective director of this challenging department. I am confident he will serve with integrity, provide much-needed leadership, and bring people together to solve the challenges we face protecting our sacred sites, cultural practices, ocean, freshwater, ceded lands, forests, watersheds, harbors, recreation areas, and habitat for unique Hawaiian species.

He is honest, fair, respectful, intelligent, and hard-working. Over many years and by many actions, Mr. Aila has demonstrated his commitment to protecting our land and resources. He has worked with hundreds of Native Hawaiian practitioners, community leaders, active citizens, landowners, businesses, citizen organizations, agency representatives, and elected officials.

Mr. Aila's personal and professional background will serve him well as Director of the DLNR. As harbormaster for Waianae and working at other state harbors as well, Mr. Aila is already familiar with our state harbors, boating, ocean laws and regulations, protecting ocean resources, and addressing conflicts that sometimes arise between ocean users.

Thank you very much.  
Take care,  
Blake McElheny

February 11, 2011

To: Committee On Water, Land and Housing  
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Soloman, Vice Chair

RE:

GM157 Consideration and confirmation to the Chairperson of the  
Department of Land and Natural Resources, William Johnson Aila Jr.  
Saturday, February 12, 2011 at 1:15 PM

Dear committee Chairs and members of the committee

I am submitting personal testimony in support of William. As a professional working in the Waianae community and the community at large specializing in homelessness, substance abuse, mental health and the traditional practice of Lomi Lomi, William has always been professionally supportive in providing collaborative services.

When I was directing the homeless shelter in Waianae, William had given of his own time to provide cultural and mentoring to residents housed there. I have also sat on committees in the community where William shared both his professional expertise as Harbor Master as well as cultural and historical facts that has helped me to become a more knowledgeable member.

I humbly request your confirmation of his appointment as head of DLNR.

Mahalo Nui  
Cathie Alana MPA,CSAC,LMT

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [waioli2@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:waioli2@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM517 on 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Friday, February 11, 2011 5:22:10 PM

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Testimony for WLH 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM GM517

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: chris kobayashi  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [waioli2@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:waioli2@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and members of the committee:

I am asking for your full support and confirmation of gubernatorial nominee, William Johnson Aila, Jr. as Chair of the Board of Natural Resources.

It is about time that we have a man like him overseeing Hawaii`s land and natural resources.

Mahalo nui!

Chris Kobayashi

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Eat@manaai.com](mailto:Eat@manaai.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM517 on 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 9:50:51 AM

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Testimony for WLH 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM GM517

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Daniel Anthony  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [Eat@manaai.com](mailto:Eat@manaai.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2011

Comments:

Here some points if you're to testify:

WHY I SUPPORT MR. AILA AS DIRECTOR OF THE DLNR:

I support the appointment of William Johnson Aila, Jr., as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources because he has the experience, skills, and proven dedication to the resource to be an effective director of this challenging department. I am confident he will serve with integrity, provide much-needed leadership, and bring people together to solve the challenges we face protecting our sacred sites, cultural practices, ocean, freshwater, ceded lands, forests, watersheds, harbors, recreation areas, and habitat for unique Hawaiian species.

I have known Mr. Aila for at least 15 years working to protect native Hawaiian plants and animals in the Wai'anae mountains and along the Wai'anae coast. He is honest, fair, respectful, intelligent, and hard-working.

Over many years and by many actions, Mr. Aila has demonstrated his commitment to protecting our land and resources. He has worked with hundreds of Native Hawaiian practitioners, community leaders, active citizens, landowners, businesses, citizen organizations, agency representatives, and elected officials.

Mr. Aila's personal and professional background will serve him well as Director of the DLNR. As harbormaster for Wai'anae and working at other state harbors as well, Mr. Aila is already familiar with our state harbors, boating, ocean laws and regulations, protecting ocean resources, and addressing conflicts that sometimes arise between ocean users.

As a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner, fisher, hunter, and gatherer, Mr. Aila will also bring an important perspective to the director's office. He has worked on protecting Native Hawaiian burials, iwi, and traditions, protecting water quality and marine resources that feed people and sustain businesses, and preserving sacred and other important cultural sites. For example, he worked with state and federal agencies, and the public to formulate policies to accommodate traditional and customary practices for the Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctuary in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. He also worked to protect essential watersheds, native ecosystems, and habitat for unique Hawaiian species, including the critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal, Laysan albatross, and wedge-tailed shearwaters in the Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve.

Mr. Aila has been honored with this most prestigious appointment, while being given the tremendous responsibility of leading the DLNR in difficult times. I look forward to working with him and the department. Please support GM 517 and Mr. Aila. Mahalo nui loa.

**Testimony of  
Dr. Davianna Pōmaika'i McGregor  
Saturday, February 12, 2011 @ 1:15pm  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In Support of G.M. 517 to Appoint William Aila as the Chair of the  
Board of Land and Natural Resources**

Aloha Chairperson Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Solomon. I am Dr. Davianna Pōmaika'i McGregor, a professor of Ethnic Studies at UH Mānoa and the interim Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana member on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I testify in support of the appointment of William Aila as the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I have long admired and supported his courageous leadership of the struggle to stop military exercises at Mākua Valley.

He provided the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana with valuable insights in his capacity as a fisherman and cultural practitioner.

I believe that he has important qualities to enable him to provide enlightened leadership of the department who manages the Crown and Government lands of the Kingdom of Hawaii which are controlled by the State of Hawai'i. He is honorable; forthright; clear - minded; respectful of our Native Hawaiian communities; brilliant and visionary.

I thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for appointing William Aila in this leadership position and I urge your committee to confirm his appointment.

Aloha . . . Aloha 'Āina



February 12, 2011

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING

TESTIMONY OF DAWN N.S. CHANG, PRINCIPAL OF KU'IWALU CONSULTING

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 517**

**GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WILLIAM JOHNSON AILA, JR.**  
Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair and Members of the Committee:

I support the nomination of Mr. William Johnson Aila, Jr. as the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Mr. Aila for over 30 years as the Wai'anae Small Boat Harbor Master with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) when I was the senior Deputy Attorney General and, more recently in my capacity as a consultant. As the Harbor Master, Mr Aila earned respect from both the commercial and recreational boating community, native Hawaiian fisherman, and community at large for his ability to treat people fairly and with respect. He was willing to make the hard decisions in a timely fashion. Although there were members of the community that did not necessarily agree or support decisions made by Mr. Aila, I believe they always felt that he listened to them and at least gave them an opportunity to be heard. Likewise in the context of my private consulting work, I have on numerous occasions sought the assistance of Mr. William to get an understanding of the community, and in particular the Native Hawaiian community's sentiment about various issues.

Besides his respect in the community, Mr. Aila's integrity is above reproach. Being an administrator means more than having administrative skills but as important if not more, is the ability to have the respect and credibility of people in the community. I am extremely confident that William Aila has the ability, patience, and respect to diplomatically but decisively address some of the very challenging issues facing DLNR, including issues related to native Hawaiian burials and the management of ocean resources and conservation lands.

I respectfully ask that William Aila's nomination receive the consent of your committee, and be forwarded to the full Senate for confirmation. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on Mr. Aila's nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
Principal

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kanealii@il.hawaii.net](mailto:kanealii@il.hawaii.net)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM517 on 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Friday, February 11, 2011 8:59:21 PM

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Testimony for WLH 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM GM517

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Diane Kanealii  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kanealii@il.hawaii.net](mailto:kanealii@il.hawaii.net)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:

We look forward to working with someone who understands our issues as Native people of Hawaii. We support William Aila as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and pray he does a good job of protecting the Natural resources for the future generations of Hawaii.



**From:** [Dom Heacock](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for GM 517; hearing date February 12, 2011, at 1:15pm  
**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 12:54:03 AM

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Dear Hawaii State Senators,

I strongly support Governor Abecrombie's appointment of William Aila, Jr. as the Director of the Dept. Of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and I urge the members of the Senate Committee on Land, Water and Housing to confirm Mr. Aila's appointment.

Mr. Aila is uniquely suited as a Director of DLNR because of his experience working for this department. He has intimate knowledge of Hawaiian ecosystems, and knows the mission, goals and objectives, and organizational and operational workings of DLNR as a Public Trust agency.

Finally, Mr. Aila is intelligent, honest, fair, a hard-worker, and he has a unique ability to build partnerships between watershed communities and government which are essential to long-term resource conservation and to the equitable allocation of natural resources among various user groups.

Please confirm Mr. Aila as Director of DLNR.

Mahalo nui loa, Malama Pono,  
Don Heacock,  
Kauai Sustainable AgroecoSystems  
2265 Hulemalu Road  
Lihue, Kauai, HI 96766

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Glennon T. Gingo](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for William Aila for DLNR Chairperson  
**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 10:12:17 AM

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Please accept my submission in support of the appointment and confirmation of William Aila as DLNR Chairperson and department head.

Respectfully,

Glennon Gingo  
Holualoa, Hawaii  
Island of Hawaii

Glennon T. Gingo R(B), CIPS  
Hawaii & Pacific Commercial Properties  
Direct: 808-960-9348  
Email: [Freediving@earthlink.net](mailto:Freediving@earthlink.net)  
P.O. Box 396  
Holualoa, Hawaii 96725

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [gfilaban@aol.com](mailto:gfilaban@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM517 on 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Friday, February 11, 2011 6:39:10 PM

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Testimony for WLH 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM GM517

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Gwen Ilaban  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [gfilaban@aol.com](mailto:gfilaban@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:

Please consider and confirm WILLIAM JOHNSON AILA to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo!

**From:** [Jerry Isham](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [fishybusinesshawaii@gmail.com](mailto:fishybusinesshawaii@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support for DLNR chair Mr Aila  
**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 8:32:48 AM

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My name is Jerry Isham and I live in Waianae and support Mr Aila in becoming the next DLNR Chair. I have known Mr Aila all my life and can tell you like his father he is a well respected man in our district. he is an Honest man. he's respectful, and is well educated in this area of work, but most of all cares about the land and natural resources and would make the right decisions to manage them in a fair way. We can only be so lucky that Mr Aila is willing to step up to the plate for this controversial and most of the time frustrating position Please support Mr Ailas nomination. Thank you!

**From:** [GLBT Caucus Chair](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM517 on 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 1:40:48 AM  
**Attachments:** [top.letterhead](#)

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< ;>

The Caucus met William Aila, Jr. when he was a candidate for Governor in 2006.

We found him to be a compassionate man, who has demonstrated his management skills while caring for the aina.

Why is this important? Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono: the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness. The person who chairs the Board of Land and Natural Resources should have "righteousness" - a reverence for the aina.

Having served as the Harbor Master at Waianae Boat Harbor, William Aila, Jr., is a person with "hands-on" experience who will get things done. He won't make decisions in a vacuum. He will thoughtfully weigh proposals for development against the "life of the land".

We believe William Aila, Jr., will make wise decisions that will perpetuate the life of the land.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

**Jo-Ann Adams**, Chair  
[GLBT Caucus of the  
Democratic Party of Hawaii](#)

**From:** [Kaliko Amona](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Strong support for GM 517  
**Date:** Friday, February 11, 2011 5:29:03 PM

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Testimony to the Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

DATE: Saturday, February 12, 2011

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 225, State Capitol

GM517: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM JOHNSON AILA, JR., for a term to expire December 31, 2014.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the appointment of William Aila, Jr. as the Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Mr. Aila has the experience, skills, and dedication necessary to effectively lead the Department.

I have known Mr. Aila for ten years through his work as a representative to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council, Papahānaumokuākea Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group, and other community activities. I have witnessed firsthand William's extraordinary leadership capacity and integrity. He is fair, intelligent, honest, and respectful.

Mr. Aila's experience as a former employee of the Department of Land and Natural Resources will be invaluable in leading the department through difficult times.

Please support GM 517 and Mr. Aila.

Thank you,  
Kaliko Amona  
Hale'iwa, Hawai'i

THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

DATE: Saturday, February 12, 2011  
TIME: 1:15 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 225  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Re: GM 517 – Testimony in **SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and members of the committee,

I would like to share my **SUPPORT** and request that you recommend William Aila be confirmed as the Director of the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources. He has served in the DLNR as a harbor master and has good working knowledge of how the DLNR currently works and how it should work.

I believe he is open to discussion where people may differ with the DLNR's interpretation of laws or rules and I believe he will try to be as fair as possible. He may make unpopular choices at times but I do believe that these tough decisions come with this kuleana as Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I would hope that Director Aila would always remember the people of Hawaii, whom he will serve, and that he would really listen to their concerns and try to help them while being mindful of the laws of the State of Hawaii when problems arise.

Mahalo nui i ka heluhelu ana o ko`u manao.

Kama Hopkins

SENATE COMMITTEE ON:  
WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

ATTN: CHAIR DONOVAN DELACRUZ & VICE-CHAIR MALAMA  
SOLOMON

**Testimony in Strong Support of GM 517:**  
**Supporting the Confirmation of William Aila as**  
**Chair of the Board of Land & Natural Resources**

February 12, 2011, 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon, and Members of the Committee:

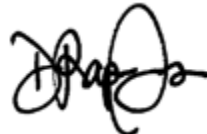
**I am testifying in strong support of GM 517, and urge you to confirm William Aila as the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.** William has the scientific and cultural backgrounds, vision, and temperament to successfully lead the multitude of agencies within the Department of Land and Natural Resources ("DLNR") who are responsible for managing some of Hawai'i's most precious treasures.

For the last fifteen years of so, I have worked on a range of natural and cultural resource issues and interact regularly with DLNR's agencies and staff. Based on this experience, I have serious concerns about the welfare of both the staff and the resources that those individuals are mandated to manage.

I believe that William's experience as a harbor master, administrator, cultural practitioner, commercial and subsistence fisherman, and active and respected member of the Wai`anae community are the perfect combination to enable him to successfully guide DLNR into the future. Please vote to confirm him.

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss William's qualifications in greater detail. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,



D. Kapua Sproat  
1515 Nu`uanu Avenue #148  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817  
E: [kapua.sproat@gmail.com](mailto:kapua.sproat@gmail.com)



# Karen M. Holt

---

Post Office Box 354 # Kaunakakai, Hawai'i 96748

February 11, 2011

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha e Senator Dela Cruz:

This letter is written in support of the appointment of William Aila to head the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Aila comes to this job with two decades of hands-on experience as the Harbor Master in Wai'anae, where he has worked tirelessly to protect the natural resources of both land and sea. His approach to this work has been consistent and principled, and over the years he has been a firm but respectful voice in numerous efforts to save the natural legacy that was left to all of us by the first inhabitants of these islands.

Today, many of our most precious natural assets are imperiled by threats that range from inadvisable development in fragile ecosystems, to climate change on a global scale. I believe that Mr. Aila is the right man to lead the State's efforts to insure that we protect Hawai'i's natural legacy for the generations to come.

I respectfully ask you to approve Mr. Aila's appointment.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Karen M. Holt  
Moloka'i

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [khoppe4@gmail.com](mailto:khoppe4@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM517 on 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 10:56:52 AM

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Testimony for WLH 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM GM517

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Katie Hoppe  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [khoppe4@gmail.com](mailto:khoppe4@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2011

Comments:

For as long as I can remember William Aila has been a pillar to the Wai`anae community, and I cannot think of a more honest, hard working intelligent man.

**From:** [Keolani L Noa](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [keolani@hawaii.edu](mailto:keolani@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** Testimony :gm517  
**Date:** Friday, February 11, 2011 5:45:48 PM

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HEARING:GM517

**DATE:** Saturday, February 12, 2011

**TIME:** 1:15 p.m.

**PLACE:** Conference Room 225

State Capitol

I am in FULL SUPPORT of Gov. Abercrombies appointment of Mr. WILLIAM JOHNSON AILA JR as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the term set to expire December 31, 2014

Sincerely, Mr Henry Noa

[GM 517](#)  
[Testimony](#)  
[Status](#)

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to WLH  
the Chairperson of the Board of Land and  
Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
WILLIAM JOHNSON AILA, JR., for a term to  
expire December 31, 2014.

Mrs. Keolani Noa  
STEM Outreach Coordinator  
Kapi'olani Community College  
4303 Diamond Head Road  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Phone: 808 734-9236  
Fax 808 7349151  
E-mail: [keolani@hawaii.edu](mailto:keolani@hawaii.edu)  
<http://www.hawaii.edu/kccstem>

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [changkwaix@aol.com](mailto:changkwaix@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM517 on 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Friday, February 11, 2011 7:12:53 PM

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Testimony for WLH 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM GM517

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kevin Chang  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [changkwaix@aol.com](mailto:changkwaix@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:

Aloha members of the Committee on Water Land and Housing,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Mr. William Johnson Aila Jr. as the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and urge you to confirm him. I know Mr. Aila personally through my work in the field of biocultural conservation and land preservation and believe he will honor the position and serve the people of Hawai'i well.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha

Kevin

Testimony in support of GM-517, consideration and confirmation to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM JOHNSON AILA, JR., for a term to expire December 31, 2014. Submitted to COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING; Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

Kāko’o ‘o Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna O Hawai’i Nei (Hui Mālama) iā William Aila no ke kulana “Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.” Ua ho’okumu ‘ia ‘o Hui Mālama na Edward lāua ‘o Pualani Kanahale ma Kēkēmapa, makahiki ‘umikūmāiwakanawalukūmāwalu ma muli o ke kaumaha a me ke aokanaka maila i ka hana lauma’ewa ma luna o ho’okahi kaukani a ‘oi iwi kupuna no Honokahua, Maui

*Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna O Hawai’i Nei (Hui Mālama) supports William Aila for the position of Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Hui Mālama was created by Edward and Pualani Kanahale in December of 1988 because of the sadness and enlightenment that occurred due to the reproachable acts committed upon over a thousand ancestral remains from Honokahua, Maui.*

Mai ia manawa aku, kōkua, kāko’o a a’o aku ‘o Hui Mālama i nā kānaka, ‘ohana a kaiāulu he nui wale ho’i i ka ‘oihana kanu Hawai’i. Na kēia ho’āla ‘oihana nō i ho’iho’i i nā iwi kūpuna i ko lākou wahi moe loa, ma ko waihona, ma ko awaloa a la’i ke keha a ke’ae i ka honua.

*From that time on, Hui Mālama has helped, supported and taught many citizens, families and communities the Hawaiian burial practice. The revival of this practice has allowed ancestral remains to be returned back to their final resting places and back to the dignity of serenity in order for them to saturate the earth.*

‘O William Aila kekahi o ia mau kānaka i a’o i nā pule, oli, hana mea pono a ‘aha kanu iwi no kēia ‘oihana. ‘O ke kanu Hawai’i ho’i ka mea e ho’iho’i ai ka mana i ka ‘āina a ho’omau ka lōkahi o ke kanaka me kona ‘āina ‘ōiwi. Penei ho’i e mau ai ka lupalupa o ke kanaka, ka ‘āina a me kona mau kumu waiwai. I ka ‘aha kanu, hō’ike mau ‘o William i kona aloha ‘āina a aloha kūpuna ma kāna hana maiāu a no’ono’o pono. He hana ko’iko’i a la’a loa nō ia a hō’ike mau ‘o William i ke kūo’o a hō’ihi.

*William Aila is one of those citizens who learned the prayers, chants, implement making and burial ceremony associated with this practice. Hawaiian burial practice is what allows us to return our mana back to the land so that the unity between Hawaiian and land continues. This unity is how the native Hawaiian, the land and land resources flourish. During reburial ceremony William consistently has shown his love for land and ancestors by demonstrating skill and excellent concentration. Reburial ceremony is a very critical and sacred process and William has proved his seriousness and respect for it.*

Ua maopopo iā Hui Mālama ka nui kaumaha e ‘auamo ai a me ka paio mau o nā mana’o kū’ē ma kēia ‘ano kuleana pa’akikī loa. A ‘oiāi mākou i kū’ē’ē nui me ko William mālama ‘ana iā Pua Aiu lāua ‘o Phyliss Cayan ma ko lāua kulana ma “State Historic Preservation Division” (SHPD) a ma kona pūlima wale i ka “Programatic Agreement for mass transit,” Mana’olana mākou e ho’omana’o ‘o William i nā mea i a’o ‘ia.

*Hui Mālama can relate to the overwhelming pressure and constant conflict that needs to be shouldered in a difficult position like this. And although we strongly disagree with William’s decisions to support Pua Aiu and Phyliss Cayan in their current positions at State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) as well as his unfortunate signing of the Programmatic Agreement for mass transit, we are hopeful that he shall remember his teaching and training.*

I ka wā pa’akikī na William nō e ho’i i kona mau kumu, kūpuna, ‘aumākua a ākua ho’i e ‘ike, e ikaika, e akamai, e ‘ike pāpālua, e māna. Hilina’i pū ho’i mākou ‘O Hui Malama e ho’ohana ana ‘o ia i nā ha’awina a me ka ‘ike i loa’a maila e kū’oko’a a kūpa’a ho’i ma hope o ka ‘āina a me ka nui kūpuna e o nei ma loko o kēlā a me kēia. ‘O ko uka ‘oe, ‘o ko kai ‘oe, ‘O ko lewa ‘oe, ‘O ko honua ‘oe e like ho’i me kāna i ho’ohiki ai i nā nui kūpuna iā ia e kanu ana iā lākou ma loko o ia wahi ‘āina ho’okahi.

*In difficult situations William will surely return to his foundation, to his teachers, ancestors, family guardians and ancestral dieties to reflect upon the things that he was taught, so that he may see, be strong, acquire the intelligence, to see beyond the surface, to find the spirituality in what he does. We, Hui Mālama also trust that he will use the lessons and knowledge gained from this practice to be able to stand independent and firm on behalf of the land and the collective ancestors that endure within everything in the land. Those of the uplands, those of the ocean, those of the atmosphere and those of the earth just like he promised the collective ancestors as he buried them in the very same land.*

Ma muli o kēia mākou ‘o Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna O Hawai’i Nei e kāko’o ai iā William Aila no ke kulana ‘o “Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

*Because of this we, Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna O Hawai’i nei support William Aila for the position of Chairperson of Board of Land and Natural Resources.*

“He ali’i ka ‘āina, he kauā ke kanaka,”

*The land is chief, Man is his servant,*

Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna O Hawai’i Nei

February 12, 2011

The Honorable Donovan L. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

**GM 517 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, William Johnson Aila, Jr., for a term to expire December 31, 2014**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

Aloha and good afternoon. On behalf of my family, L. Keanu Young III and Kaholole'a'anaoke'aukai Young, I am pleased to be able to submit testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Mr. William Aila Jr., as the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

Many moons ago I served as the Committee Clerk for Representative Roy Takumi when he was the Chair of the Ocean Recreation and Marine Resources Committee, which no longer exists at the legislature. My background is in marine biology and it was my first experience with the legislative process. Time and again during our legislative hearings, Mr. Aila would show up to testify in person, always ensuring that the Committee knew he was testifying on his own behalf and not representing the Department of Land and Natural Resources as he was the Waianae Harbormaster. I remember always being impressed with the fact that someone would take a day off from work and come all the way into town to attend a legislative hearing. Mr. Aila always seemed genuine in his desire to protect Hawaii's natural resources, even when his views were not popular.

Some years later while enrolled in the Public Administration program at the University of Hawaii, our class was tasked with writing a paper on someone we admired. Many of those in my class chose national figures such as Bill Gates or Martha Stewart. I decided that I wanted to write mine on Mr. Aila. By that time I was no longer working at the legislature and I was uncertain how he would react to this odd request from someone he did not even know. I tentatively made a call to the Waianae Boat Harbor one day and spoke to Mr. Aila. I think that he likely thought that my request seemed off-the-wall but he not only agreed but welcomed me to "tail" him to a DLNR meeting taking place on the North Shore. His lovely wife loaned me an album of newspaper clippings detailing Mr. Aila's extremely active civic life. I watched him take a position at the North Shore meeting on fisheries and I attended a meeting where the military was discussing its use of Makua Valley for live fire training. Mr. Aila invited me to Makua Valley to observe a day of live fire training, an experience I will never forget.

Through Mr. Aila I visited MA'O Organic Farm and saw his influence there as well. Much more than a farm, MA'O gives local area youth hands-on experience working the land, exposure to Native Hawaiian cultural practices and the opportunity to gain practical experience and knowledge through their Youth Leadership Training College Internship program. Indeed, the scope of Mr. Aila's involvement with pressing social issues is impressive.

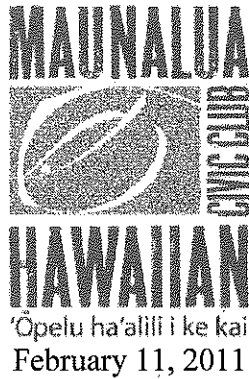
In short, Mr. Aila's dedication to Hawaii and its people are extraordinary. I believe that his years of experience with fisheries issues, his connection to the land and his deep roots in the Native Hawaiian community will all serve him well in his role as Chair for the Board of Land and Natural Resources. He will bring a balanced view to an agency which, like many others in state, has suffered due to inadequate funding and resources. We believe that under Mr. Aila's leadership, Hawaii's precious natural resources now stand a fighting chance.

We humbly request the Committee see fit to approve Mr. Aila's nomination today and send this recommendation to the Senate for a full vote.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Click  
L. Keanu Young III  
Kaholole'a'anaoke'aukai Young





## Testimony in support of William Aila, Appointment to Chair of Department of Land and Natural Resources

Submitted to: The Committee on Water, Land and Housing

From: Kitty M. Simonds, President Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and the Committee members,

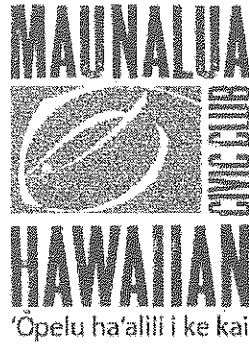
The Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club was formed to support the proper management of Hawaii's natural and cultural resources. We support the appointment of Mr. Aila, with reservation (see attached), to the post of Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). While we are concerned that his experience and training may not have prepared him for this job, we hope that he will be able to grow into the position and become the leader that this position was lacking in the last administration.

We support the need for DLNR to begin an outside review of their ocean regulations, processes and policies. Our engagement with the public indicates that there is a strong need for this to take place. What regulations are proper, needed, enforceable and based on science? This review should be done independently in every county, with the involvement of moku representatives, fishermen and the public. We ask the new Chair to begin planning for this review as one of his first major administrative acts. We stand ready to assist him in this task.

We specifically have some questions for Mr. Aila:

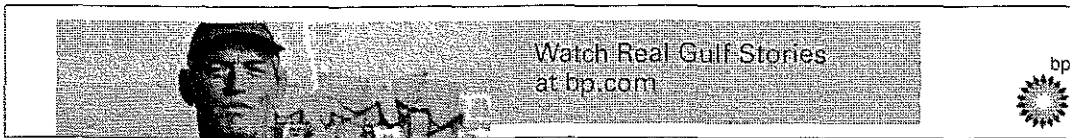
- DLNR is one of the biggest departments in the State of Hawaii with a large staff and many public responsibilities. We are aware that there is a thinning of the ranks at the Department. How do you plan to get this job done?
- You have aligned yourself with many environmental organizations in particular the PEW Charitable Trust. This Trust is very wealthy and influential. The State of Hawaii is facing budget challenges. DLNR is responsible for managing public resources for the State to benefit the public. Will the Pew Trust assist you financially to properly manage our cultural and natural resources?

Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club  
P.O. Box 240388, Aina Haina Station  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96824



- Fishing is very important in Hawaii, particularly for those who are commercial, recreational or subsistence fishers. Fishers say that the ocean's resources are public resources and that they shouldn't have to pay to use it. Other states in the US require fishermen, both local and tourists, to get permits, which provide funding for their agencies and collect data for monitoring resources. To ensure that Hawaii can monitor fishing activities so that we continue to fish and provide food for our ohana, would you be willing to create a permitting system similar to others in the US that would require Hawaii citizens and/or tourists to get salt water fishing permits?
- DLNR opposed House Bill 1154, to formally recognize the Aha Moku system and to create an Aha Ki'ole Advisory Commission. Why?

Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club  
P.O. Box 240388. Aina Haina Station  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96824



# Star Bulletin

Vol. 12, Issue 182 - Sunday, July 1, 2007

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## Our Side Of The Story

Edwin Ebisui Jr.

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(1996-Present)

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the **BIG**

Reader Poll

Who should be the starting quarterback for the UH football team?

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## Critics persist in taking unfair swipes at fishery council

THE Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council lives with controversy; it is the nature of its mission. The council interacts with community groups and diverse interests. Its allies and opponents are continuously shifting, depending on the issues before the council and the decisions it makes. The council strives to serve all sides responsibly. Its process is open, transparent and inclusive.

The council and its staff work long hours, weekends and holidays to responsibly manage ocean resources. The council consults federal legal advisers and operates under a carefully monitored budget with annual independent audits and the regular scrutiny of other federal agencies, including Congress and the Commerce Department.

Recently, a group of individuals have used the media in an attempt to prompt Congress and the inspector general to investigate the council. These same individuals have spoken at length at council meetings. We have answered their questions and provided them with documents. However, they will not be satisfied. They apparently prefer to cling to their agenda, morph their charges and ignore the facts.

Contrary to their allegations, the council and its staff did not sponsor, promote or lobby for any piece of state legislation, including **House Bill 1848**. The council and its staff do respond to inquiries from legislators and did organize a series of meetings with the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and several state agencies to encourage the participation of indigenous communities in the fishery management process as mandated by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other federal directives. These meetings were historic and immensely beneficial, yet some people apparently feel threatened by them.

THESE CRITICS have a history of attempts to discredit the council, its members and staff. Their list of misinformation includes accusations that the council is under investigation. While there was a request for an investigation in 2005, the council responded to it and has been informed by its parent Commerce Department agency that there is no such investigation.

Falling to make a convincing case against the council, the critics have shifted their focus to a personal attack on the council's

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- » A devil of a time awaits



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executive director, Kitty Simonds, claiming she's the nation's fifth-highest paid federal official. Research would show that her pay is fully consistent with the federal civil service pay scale, and there are many other federal employees in Hawaii who are paid as much or more. The executive director succeeded three predecessors in 1983 and has served since then under many chairmen (including me), four national administrations and four state administrations. To counteract these charges, this year on June 22 at the close of its 138th meeting, the council gave Simonds a unanimous vote of confidence.

NEVERTHELESS, repetition of untruths can spread an impression of wrongdoing and waste. Unfortunately, some respected news media and other well-meaning organizations have mistaken these complainants as representatives of legitimate environmental concerns and have blindly accepted their allegations and insinuations, and regurgitated the misinformation without taking the time or effort for independent review before re-publication.

These complainants do not have the support they project through the use of titles of organizations to which they are affiliated. They are individuals with axes to grind. They do not represent the concerns of Hawaii's larger environmental or Hawaiian communities. Do the organizations have active and functioning governing bodies? Did the governing bodies of the respective organizations sanction their actions beforehand? Are the allegations made for personal interests and agendas, rather than conservation? "Who are these people and who do they really represent?" would be a good place to start.

COUNCIL WORK, by its very nature, is difficult and contentious. As required by the national standards contained in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, council work requires consideration of many competing interests and points of view before making decisions for the greater good of society. Council members do not have "constituencies"; it is not a matter of commercial fishing vs. recreational fishing vs. conservation, because ultimately we all have the same interest — responsible management of the marine resources for food, cultural practices, recreation, aesthetics and enjoyment in perpetuity.

Edwin Ebisui Jr. is five-term vice chairman of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, a small boat fisherman and an attorney.

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Nadine Kam

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Brendan Sagara

##### The Buzz

Erika Engle

##### Editorial Cartoon

Corky Trinidad

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Richard Borreca

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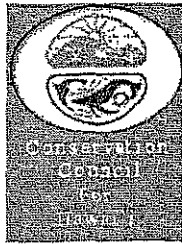
Printer-friendly

E-mail Editorial Dept.



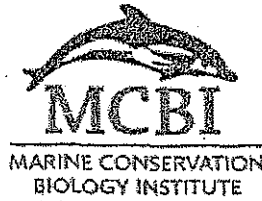


Na Imi Pono



*The* **Snorkel Bob**  
*Foundation*

*A 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to reef defense*



## PRESS RELEASE

JUNE 20, 2007

### ENVIRONMENTAL & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS CALL FOR WESPAC CONGRESSIONAL HEARING AND THE RESIGNATION OF WESPAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KITTY SIMONDS

A Native Hawaiian cultural organization, Na Imi Pono, three of Hawaii's leading environmental organizations -- the Hawaii Audubon Society, the Snorkel Bob Foundation, and the Conservation Council for Hawaii -- and a national science and policy organization, the Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI), wish to publicly state that they are very concerned about the recent complaints filed against the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council (WESPAC).

Collectively, all five organizations are calling for the resignation of Kitty Simonds, the Executive Director of WESPAC. Collectively they stated, "These complaints are from very credible persons, are well documented, and demonstrate a systematic pattern of behavior that is at best unethical and at worst illegal. Spending federal taxpayer money on political lobbying activities undermines the trust of the public in our government. These are only the latest allegations that Ms. Simonds has acted improperly as the Executive Director of WESPAC. It is clear that she has been responsible for allowing and fostering the unethical climate within WESPAC and we believe WESPAC needs a clean start and that Ms. Simonds should step down."

In order to ensure that WESPAC gets a clean start, these organizations are also calling on Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to exercise oversight of WESPAC. "We take these allegations very seriously and think that our congressional leaders should as well," said, Bill Chandler, Vice President of MCBI. "I am very concerned these complaints appear to document a pattern of disregarding science in favor of political agendas by a federal agency that is responsible for the health of our fisheries".

William Aila, the Director of Na Imi Pono said "I am particularly concerned because it appears that WESPAC has been attempting to hide their illegal activity under the cover of Native Hawaiian practices, creating divisions within the Hawaiian community, and creating a climate in which it erroneously appears that Hawaiians are discriminating against non-Hawaiians."

1 MORE PAGE...

Marjorie Ziegler, the Executive Director of Conservation Council for Hawaii said, "WESPAC is a federal agency charged with protecting and managing our fisheries, but it appears from the evidence in the complaints that they are instead engaging in illegal activity designed to undermine these goals."

Robert Wintner, the Executive Director of the Snorkel Bob Foundation, said "I think that the complaints filed against WESPAC represent a growing recognition that the federal government has done a very poor job managing our fisheries, further undermining the health of Hawaii's reef's. The four women who are giving testimony against WESPAC should be congratulated for their courage and dedication. Very few people are willing to put themselves on the line and challenge a powerful federal agency for the good of Hawaii's people and marine environment."

Linda Paul, the Director of the Aquatics Division of the Hawaii Audubon Society said, "As Hawaii's oldest conservation group, the Audubon Society wishes to state that we think it is very important that our congressional leaders take these complaints very seriously, and do everything they can to support a complete investigation into all allegations."

For more information contact:

William Aila, Director, Na Imi Pono  
808-216-5601 ailaw001@hawaii.rr.com

Bill Chandler, Vice President, Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI)  
202-546-5346 bill@mcbi.org

Linda Paul, Aquatics Director, Hawaii Audubon Society (HAS)  
808-548-3474 linpaul@aloha.net

Robert Wintner, Executive Director Snorkel Bob Foundation  
808-874-8405 robertw@snorkelbob.com

Marjorie Ziegler, Executive Director Conservation Council for Hawaii (CCH)  
808-593-0255 mz@conservehi.org

# Wespac plan integrates practices of ahupuaa

## GATHERING PLACE

*Antoinette Lee  
and Leimana DaMate*

**F**OR thousands of years, Hawaiians practiced a stringent common-sense land and ocean use management process that focused on the protection of the ecosystem and preservation of natural resources. This process was created by eons of observation of nature and then put into practical use. It's simple: The health of the ocean depends on the health of the land, and vice versa, a true symbiotic relationship. It's also a proven practice that translates into Hawaiian science.

Recently, a number of articles have focused on how the fisheries in Hawaii waters, including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, are in decline. Commercial fishing opponents loudly and vocally blame others for the loss of our fisheries. They blame the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

The communities must be involved — all communities, all ethnic races from all walks of life.

(Wespac), fishermen — both commercial and recreational — and everyone else for the decimation of our resources and species although the best-known Western science was used at the time. Our own research has shown otherwise. Since Wespac was created in 1976, it has banned destructive fishing methods, including bottom-set gillnets, explosives, poisons and bottom longlines; imposed fishing moratoriums; and created the Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plans, the first of its kind in the United States.

While Wespac was going forward with its ocean protection processes, the Hawaiian people were striving to address deep concerns about protecting our natural and cultural resources. Hawaiians have been strongly advocating for integrating the ahupuaa process, a common-sense approach to environment protection. When Hawaiians and Wespac finally came together, it was a natural collaboration. Both are striving for the same thing: ecosystem resource protection.

The ahupuaa approach is

strongly supported by Gov. Linda Lingle and her administration, including the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the state Office of Planning, as was stated in the Ocean Resources Management Plan workshop held in October. The Hawaii Ocean and Coastal Council also actively supported incorporating Hawaiian traditional methods, or Hawaiian science, into governmental regulatory policy. A big part of the ahupuaa process and also a big part of Wespac's Fishery Ecosystem Plans is seasonal closures based on spawning cycles.

A shift in perspectives on the part of the state of Hawaii is necessary if we — and by "we" I mean the people of Hawaii in partnership with the governmental entities — are to protect our environment. DLNR is in the process of creating 15 permanent fishery area closures around the state. These areas are predominantly located where Hawaiians fish. This is not ahupuaa integration, but a concession to a Western process that has already proved to have failed. Before permanent closures are finalized, discussion, research and justified reasons for the site selections must be done. The communities must be involved — all communities, all ethnic races from all walks of life. We are all stakeholders in protecting our environment and preserving our ecosystem. The Legislature recognizes this and is

moving House Bill 2587, relating to marine resources, in an effort to address this critical issue.

Wespac has embraced the ahupuaa concept and indigenous cultural integration and has begun the dialogue with Hawaiians on how to incorporate Hawaiian science into practical protection for our marine fisheries and aina. The state and counties have embraced ahupuaa on the Hawaii Ocean and Coastal Council. The people have shown their support of ahupuaa through more than 30 community meetings across the state during the past three years. History has proved that Hawaiians were successful in sustaining their environment through Hawaiian science, ahupuaa and seasonal closures based on spawning cycles.

*Antoinette Lee is president and Leimana DaMate chairwoman of the Ocean Resources Committee, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. The AOHCC, formed by Prince Jonah Kuhio in 1918, is the oldest Hawaiian organization in Hawaii.*

RECEIVED

'06 MAY -3 A8:48

WESPAC

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kaulu100@hotmail.com](mailto:kaulu100@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM517 on 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Friday, February 11, 2011 9:23:27 PM

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Testimony for WLH 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM GM517

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Koalani Kaulukukui  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kaulu100@hotmail.com](mailto:kaulu100@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:

Please confirm William J. Aila, Jr. as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Mr. Aila brings the experience, skill, perseverance, and dedication necessary to lead this critical agency, which is charged with stewarding Hawai`i's precious natural resources.

The state, including DLNR, is trustee for our vital public trust resources like our land, freshwater, ocean resources, and wildlife, and I trust Mr. Aila will uphold all of the solemn fiduciary responsibilities required of a trustee. As a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner, fisher, hunter, and gatherer, Mr. Aila is in a unique position to steward our resources as did the konohiki of old, with the ability to effectively allocate and manage scarce resources in a responsible, sustainable, and fair manner, while continuing to protect and perpetuate the native culture.

The DLNR Director faces an extremely difficult and often thankless job, yet it is one of the most important posts in Hawai`i. I can think of no better candidate than Mr. Aila to take on the challenge. Please support GM 517 and confirm Mr. Aila.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.





## **American Friends Service Committee**

### ***Hawai'i Area Program***

2426 O'ahu Avenue • Honolulu, HI 96822 • Phone 808/988-6266 • Fax 808/988-4876  
Website: [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org) • Email: [kyle.kajihiro@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.kajihiro@gmail.com)

February 11, 2011

To: Chair Sen. Delacruz, Vice-Chair Sen. Solomon and members of the Hawai'i State Senate  
Committees on Water, Land and Housing  
Saturday, February 12, 2011, 1:15pm, Conference Room 225

From: Kyle Kajihiro, Program Director, AFSC Hawai'i

Subject: SUPPORT Appointment of WILLIAM JOHNSON AILA, JR. to Chairperson of the Board of  
Land and Natural Resources

Aloha Senators Delacruz, Solomon and members of the committees. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I am Kyle Kajihiro, Program Director for the American Friends Service Committee – Hawai'i Peace and Justice.

We support the nomination of William Johnson Aila, Jr to Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I have personally known Mr. Aila for more than thirteen years through his leadership in the Wai'anae community. He has consistently been a strong advocate for the protection of the environment and Hawai'i's rich cultural heritage. And he has been a person of great integrity.

As a Native Hawaiian and a practitioner of aloha 'aina and malama 'aina, Mr. Aila operates from a deep cultural understanding of the relationship between humans and the environment that will enhance the mission of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Please approve his nomination. Thank you very much.

**TESTIMONY, GM 517**

Provided to the COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING  
Senator Donovan M. Dela-Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice-Chair

**HEARING SCHEDULED FOR**

Saturday, February 12, 2011  
1:15 PM  
Conference Room 225  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**ON THE MATTER OF CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION**

To the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resource, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
**WILLIAM JOHNSON AILA, JR.**  
For a term to expire December 31, 2014

‘Ano‘ai me ke aloha no! Good afternoon, Honorable Chair Dela-Cruz, Honorable Vice-Chair Solomon and committee members. It is my great pleasure and honor to provide this testimony in support of gubernatorial nominee William J. Aila, Jr. to the position of Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources for a term to expire December 31, 2014.

I first met William in 2000 when I began working in Wai‘anae. Over the last decade there have been numerous opportunities for engaging in shared endeavors and celebrations relevant to community development; cultural education, protection, and preservation; and environmental sustainability. Here is a man who is consistently honest, fair, and just – a true community pro-activist whose love of family, friends and community supports his efforts in upholding and perpetuating our indigenous culture and heritage congruent with our fragile environment in beautiful Hawai‘i nei.

His good works contribute to efforts that will ensure that everyone who calls Hawai‘i home today, and in the years to come, will do so as a collective citizenry—one that is cognizant of requisite values and practices that nurture, maintain, and sustain our life spirit and well being. These values and practices include being respectful and responsible, judicious and equitable, compassionate and empathetic, hard working and diligent. William exemplifies these characteristics and attributes, easily attested to by his years of service as Harbor Agent of the Wai‘anae Small Boat Harbor; and active membership, often in leadership roles, in organizations congruent with preserving and protecting cultural, environmental and human rights.

William is an extremely astute listener, lifelong learner, a man of humility and will. I know him to be true to his conviction and beliefs, a warrior in the face of challenges, but also as someone who will accept compromise as appropriate toward benefiting the greater good.

His nomination as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources is significant as I believe him to be the first true indigenous cultural practitioner whose knowledge and skills can only serve to benefit Hawai‘i. Perhaps the work that he will guide in this position may set precedents for others to follow in terms of understanding and managing fragile and finite natural resources important to our health and well being. Indeed, I firmly believe that his efforts and approaches in navigating and negotiating through challenges in the arena of Hawai‘i’s land and natural resources issues will contribute to ensuring a sustainable future within the context of our global community. There is an *‘ōlelo no ‘eau* or traditional Hawaiian poetical anecdote that states:

He ho‘okele wa‘a no ka lā ‘ino.  
*A canoe steersman for a stormy day.*  
A courageous person.  
[592]

This saying infers the necessity and importance of recognizing and extolling a courageous person who is willing to work exceedingly hard to ensure the safety of all “in the canoe.” We, the people of Hawai‘i, are all in this canoe together.

Therefore, I strongly support and urge your consideration and subsequent confirmation of William J. Aila, Jr. to honorably serve in the position of Chairperson for the Board of Land and Natural Resources as nominated by Governor Neil Abercrombie.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to participate in this process.

**From:** [Mardi LaPrade](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** letter in support of Mr. Aila  
**Date:** Friday, February 11, 2011 6:09:27 PM

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Dear Sirs,

Please accept the appointment of Mr. William Johnson Aila, Jr. as Director of the Department of Land and Natural resources. He is committed to protecting our land and natural resources. Because he is a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner, and outdoorsman, he will be able to understand the challenges and importance of protecting historical and cultural sites for future generations. Please support GM 517 and Mr. Aila.

Thank you,

Mardi LaPrade



## CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII'I

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing  
Hearing: Saturday, February 12, 2011  
1:15 p.m.  
Room 225

Support for GM 517 Appointment of William Johnson Aila, Jr.,  
as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports GM 517 and the appointment of William Johnson Aila, Jr., as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources because he has the experience, skills, and proven dedication to the resource to be an effective director of this challenging department. I am confident he will serve with integrity, provide much-needed leadership, and bring people together to solve the challenges we face protecting our sacred sites, cultural practices, ocean, freshwater, ceded lands, forests, watersheds, harbors, recreation areas, and habitat for unique Hawaiian species.

I have known Mr. Aila for at least 15 years working to protect native Hawaiian plants and animals in the Wai'anae mountains and along the Wai'anae coast. He is honest, fair, respectful, intelligent, and hard-working.

Over many years and by many actions, Mr. Aila has demonstrated his commitment to protecting our land and resources. He has worked with hundreds of Native Hawaiian practitioners, community leaders, active citizens, landowners, businesses, citizen organizations, agency representatives, and elected officials.

Mr. Aila's personal and professional background will serve him well as Director of the DLNR. As harbormaster for Wai'anae and working at other state harbors as well, Mr. Aila is already familiar with our state harbors, boating, ocean laws and regulations, protecting ocean resources, and addressing conflicts that sometimes arise between ocean users.

As a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner, fisher, hunter, and gatherer, Mr. Aila will also bring an important perspective to the director's office. He has worked on protecting Native Hawaiian burials, iwi, and traditions, protecting water quality and marine resources that feed people and sustain businesses, and preserving sacred and other important cultural sites. For example, he worked with state and federal agencies, and the public to formulate policies to accommodate traditional and customary practices for the Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctuary in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. He also worked to protect essential watersheds, native ecosystems, and habitat for unique Hawaiian species, including the critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal, Laysan albatross, and wedge-tailed shearwaters in the Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve.

Mr. Aila has been honored with this most prestigious appointment, while being given the tremendous responsibility of leading the DLNR in difficult times. I look forward to working with him and the department. Please support GM 517 and Mr. Aila. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler



**Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu**

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org) • web: [www@conservehi.org](http://www@conservehi.org)

P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Maura O'Connor \* Vice-President: Hannah Springer \* Treasurer: Kim Ramos \* Secretary: Rick Barboza

Directors: Madelyn D'Enbeau \* Maka'ala Ka'aumoana \* Julie Leialoha

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler



**KAHEA**  
THE HAWAIIAN-ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE

PROTECTING  
NATIVE HAWAIIAN  
CUSTOMARY &  
TRADITIONAL RIGHTS  
AND OUR FRAGILE  
ENVIRONMENT

Office  
1149 Bethel Street, Ste. 415  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Mailing Address  
P.O. Box 37368  
Honolulu, HI 96837

toll-free phone/fax  
877.585.2432

www.KAHEA.org  
kahea-alliance@hawaii.rr.com

KAHEA: the Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance is a non-profit 501(c)3 working to protect the unique natural and cultural resources of the Hawaiian islands. KAHEA translates to english as "the call."

*In support of William 'Ailā as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources*

February 12, 2010  
GM517 1:15 pm room 225

Aloha pumehana Chairman Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing,

KAHEA supports the confirmation of William 'Ailā, Jr. as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

As an alliance of Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, conservation advocates, resource experts, parents, educators, farmers, fishers, planners, business owners, and other concerned residents, KAHEA works to protect the natural and cultural resources upon which we all depend. In our work, we have had many opportunities to engage with Mr. 'Ailā. Although we have not always agreed with his position, we have always found him to be respectful, hardworking and professional with all concerned.

We strongly believe that Mr. 'Ailā is the best choice to lead the Department of Land and Natural Resources through these uncertain and dangerous times. This department and its Board face many serious challenges in the coming years, both in respect to upholding its mandate to properly manage Hawaiian public trust lands and waters, and its responsibility to the nā 'iwi kūpuna of these islands. Mr. 'Ailā's skills, knowledge, and experience make him uniquely qualified to navigate difficult decisions and reconcile conflicts.

As Director, we expect Mr. 'Ailā will be a principled proponent of proper process, public participation and transparent decision-making, all in the best interest of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources, as well as her people.

We respectfully urge this committee to support his confirmation.

Mahalo,

Miwa Tamanaha  
Executive Director

Marti Townsend  
Program Director

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair  
Sen. Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water, Land, & Housing  
Saturday, Feb.12, 2011

**Testimony in support of GM 517, confirming William J. Aila as chair of DLNR**

I am writing in support of William Aila's confirmation for the DLNR chair position. I am a commercial fisherman here on Oahu. Over the years, I have seen a great deal of animosity and conflict between fishermen and environmentalists. Although I can see that both groups often share a common interest, it's difficult for both sides to see eye to eye. What is needed is somebody who can bridge this gap and bring the two together.

Because Mr. Aila has a background in fishing and understands it, but has also demonstrated that he is able to work with conservation groups, I firmly believe that he is the best person for the job.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Ross', written in a cursive style.

Matthew Ross

- As a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner, fisher, hunter, and gatherer, Mr. Aila will also bring an important perspective to the director's office. He has worked on protecting Native Hawaiian burials, iwi, and traditions, protecting water quality and marine resources that feed people and sustain businesses, and preserving sacred and other important cultural sites. For example, he worked with state and federal agencies, and the public to formulate policies to accommodate traditional and customary practices for the Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Sanctuary in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. He also worked to protect essential watersheds, native ecosystems, and habitat for unique Hawaiian species, including the critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal, Laysan albatross, and wedge-tailed shearwaters in the Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve.
- Mr. Aila has been honored with this most prestigious appointment, while being given the tremendous responsibility of leading the DLNR in difficult times. I look forward to working with him and the department. Please support GM 517 and Mr. Aila. Mahalo nui loa.
- 
- Meala Bishop 2396014
- 47146 Pulama Road Rd.
- Kan., Hi. 96744



February 9, 2011

**Subject: Testimony in Support of William Aila, Jr. – GM517 on February 12, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.**

Dear Senator Donovan Dela Cruz:

I am honored to provide testimony in support of William Aila, Jr. to be confirmed as the next Chairperson for Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have had the pleasure to have worked very closely with William for the past 16 years at the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation and I have seen first hand just how concerned he is with protecting the natural resources of our islands. He has been active in the Waianae community and throughout the island for most of his life.

William has all of the necessary qualities to lead the Department of Land and Natural Resources. He has proven that he is honest, trust worthy, intelligent and knowledgeable on a number of natural resource issues. If William does not know the background of a particular issue, he will do his research and get the necessary information.

One thing that sets William apart is that he truly listens to everyone and is genuinely interested in what your concerns may be. He works together to come up with a viable solution to any issue. He isn't the type of person to put someone off because he is too busy. No matter how busy he is, he will take the time to sit down with a person and hear their concerns. You will not find too many people like that in this day and age.

In addition to all of the regular harbormaster's duties at Waianae, William took the lead on the Oahu District Dive team, which took the honor of 2010 DLNR Team of The Year. During his years as the lead diver, he came up with innovative ideas to reduce wear and tear on various types of mooring systems which reduced maintenance and repair costs. He was instrumental in raising and removing a number of sunken vessels in Keehi Lagoon and throughout the state small boat harbors.

I could go on and on about all the positive things that William Aila, Jr. has done throughout the years, but there isn't enough paper to list them all. That should show you just how perfect a fit he is to lead the Department of Land and Natural Resources. As an employee of the Department, I would be honored to work with him. I hope that you do the best thing for the Department and confirm him as the next Chairperson for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo,

Meghan Statts

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [info@schha.org](mailto:info@schha.org)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM517 on 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Friday, February 11, 2011 5:44:02 PM

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Testimony for WLH 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM GM517

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Michael Kahikina  
Organization: Sovereign Councils of the Hawaiian Homelands Assembly  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [info@schha.org](mailto:info@schha.org)  
Submitted on: 2/11/2011

Comments:

Aloha Mr. Chair, members of the Committee. I, Michael Kahikina, Chair of the SCHHA Legislative Committee, whose membership is identified as beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920. I am here today in SUPPORT of the confirmation of the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM JOHNSON AILA, JR., for a term to expire December 31, 2014.

For the record, Mr. Aila is a Waianae resident and a native Hawaiian.

He has been an employee of DLNR for 23 years most recently as the Harbor Master for the Waianae Small Boat Harbor, whose division is located within Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Aila labored strongly in ocean issues from bottom fishing to being a part of the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council serving as co-chair for Pelagic Advisory Sub-Panel to WESPAC. His resume addressing and actually participating in efforts to protect and lands, seas and skies is not new to what is expected of a native Hawaiian such as Mr. Aila. Mr. Aila has a history of knowing his obligations as a native Hawaiian to do exactly that.

I ask the committee to confirm Mr. Aila as Chair to the DLNR, Mahalo

Michelle Takai  
575 Cooke St., Ste A#1716  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Legislative Testimony  
**GM 517 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE CHAIRPERSON  
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WILLIAM JOHNSON AILĀ, JR.,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2014**

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

February 12, 2011

1:15 pm

Room: 225

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I am writing in SUPPORT of the appointment of William J. Ailā, Jr., as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

Mr. Ailā possesses the necessary training, background, and expertise to serve as the BLNR Chairperson. He has a deep understanding of his kuleana as a child of this land, for his kūpuna and his mo‘opuna. He understands the uniqueness of Hawaii’s environment and the importance of preserving our natural and cultural resources for future generations. He has the ability to speak and act knowledgably and honorably for the environment, indigenous culture and history of Hawai‘i. His calm demeanor, diplomatic and facilitation skills, and ability to represent difficult issues in a respectful and thoughtful manner will enable him to effectively serve in this most pivotal position.

Mr. Ailā has practical and substantive expertise and experience in all areas of the BLNR’s responsibilities, including such diverse issues as public lands, near shore and deep water fisheries, burials of iwi kūpuna, management and cultural respect for Papahānaumokuākea, ceded lands, archaeological preservation, permanent protection of significant cultural lands, cultural and subsistence gathering rights, and natural resources as cultural resources.

Mr. Ailā is an upstanding, ethical, and trustworthy man whose reputation precedes him. He follows through on his promises and consistently does the right thing, at the right time, for the right reasons. He will remain true to his cultural and familial traditions and his Native Hawaiian relationship to his homeland. Hawai‘i’s natural, cultural and historic resources need a person of Mr. Ailā’s character, incredible work ethic, and ability to be responsible for their perpetuation. He provides the people of Hawai‘i with confidence that the constitutionally intended mission of the BLNR and its statutory mandates will be upheld and not subjugated to political whims.

Throughout his public and private life, Mr. Ailā has proven his commitment to Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources; his intent and ability to listen, learn and clearly communicate public trust beneficiary concerns and rights to and through his actions; his leadership talent; his honest outreach efforts; and his ability to make difficult decisions that carry the weight of balanced and thoughtful consideration. For all of the above reasons, I wholeheartedly support Mr. Ailā’s appointment without reservation and urge the Committee to confirm his nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tashjatong@yahoo.com](mailto:tashjatong@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM517 on 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 9:26:44 AM

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Testimony for WLH 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM GM517

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Natashja  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [tashjatong@yahoo.com](mailto:tashjatong@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2011

Comments:

Uncle william aila is a solid aina man, approachable, knowledgeable and most of all honest, he will be a great leader to watch over this land and its natural resources.

Pamela W. Bunn  
41-027 Hilu Street  
Waimanalo, HI 96795  
February 11, 2011

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Re: Strong Support of GM 517

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Vice-Chair Solomon,

I write in enthusiastic support of the appointment of William Johnson Aila, Jr., as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Mr. Aila has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to protecting our land and natural resources, and I believe that he has the experience, skills, and dedication to be an effective director of this challenging department.

Mr. Aila has worked with Native Hawaiian practitioners, community leaders, active citizens, landowners, businesses, citizens' organizations, agency representatives and elected officials. I have no doubt that he will provide the sorely needed leadership to bring people together to address the challenges we face in protecting our fragile cultural and natural resources. As a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner, fisher, hunter, and gatherer, Mr. Aila will also bring an important perspective to the director's office.

I urge you to support GM 517 and Mr. Aila.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Pamela W. Bunn

84-755 Ala Mahiku #72-A  
Makaha, Hawaii 96792

Aloha, Chairman Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Malama Solomon,  
and Members of the Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Re: GM 517 Confirmation to Chairperson, DLNR  
Governor's Nominee William Wilson Aila, Jr.  
Saturday, February 12, 2011

My name is Patricia Patterson, and I live in Makaha Valley on the Wai`anae Coast. I served with William on the Weed and Seed Task Force, Mohala I Ka Wai and the Wai`anae Watershed Planning. I observed him on the Ukanipo Heiau Advisory Committee from the time the extent of the Heiau was revealed by one of the Army's many wildfires in Makua Valley.

I was a minor part of the group assuring meaningful samples were taken for the Makua E.I.S. in a manner similar to the Advisory Group to the Army that William is leading in regard to sampling strategies, health studies and plans for removal of ammunition off the Wai`anae Coast. I'm so thankful he is doing that and also is on the National Marine Protected Areas Advisory Council as it adopts measures to include views of Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders and especially Native Americans and Alaskan Natives whom I have supported throughout my long life and wide travels.

Further, I have observed Mr. Aila in activist and Hawaiian cultural experiences, especially in Makua Valley. He always acts appropriately and as a leader. For many years we have both attended Wai`anae Neighborhood Board #24. His presentations are always well thought out and presented authoritatively, and I always agree with him!

Finally, when William ran for Governor of the State of Hawaii, I supported him. It was fun to march down the road in the Kailua Fourth of July Parade and have people come up to me and ask about him. The first thing I told them was that he is in one of the best marriages I have ever observed. And, the last thing I will say today is the same. Melva and William have their own careers, but they support each other totally in their family life and in our community. I know she will continue to support him in this new endeavor as most of us on the Wai`anae-Makaha Coast will do as

well.  
2011

Mahalo, Pat Patterson, February 11,

TESTIMONY OF REGINALD V. CASTANARES, JR.,  
President  
Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

**IN SUPPORT OF MG 517**

BEFORE THE SENATE:  
COMMITTEE ON WATER LAND AND HOUSING

February 12, 2011; 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Rm. 225

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Soloman and Members of the Committee.

My name is Reggie Castanares, I have the privilege to serve the Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council of the AFL-CIO as its President. Our organization and affiliates' represent the largest association of the constructions trades workers in Hawaii with 16 specialty crafts and trades labor organizations.

The members of the Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council and I extend our warmest aloha and congratulations to "Bill" upon his nomination by Governor Abercrombie. Thus it is an honor to respectfully request your Committee's favorable action on "Advise and Consent" to Governor's Message 517 for confirmation of William Johnson Aila, Jr., as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources for a term to expire December 31, 2014.

There are many functions of State government which focus upon our host culture and the importance of maintaining the traditions, practices and values of our kupuna. However, there is no other Department or Agency within our government which has the awesome responsibility to preserve and protect those cultural values we hold dear, as much as the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Governor Abercrombie's appointment of Bill, as the Chair of DLNR truly is where the rubber meets the road in his "A New Day in Hawaii" campaign theme.

When you hear the name William Aila, you recognize immediately that our aina and na mea Hawaii, now have a life long champion of caring for all of those resources which define us, our culture and our place in the universe.

No one disputes his integrity, his leadership skills, his knowledge of his culture and yes his competency as a bureaucrat within the system which is Hawaii State Government. I am confident that he will work tirelessly in behalf of this administration but more so in behalf of the people of Hawaii and the aina and resources which make Hawaii so unique.

The Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Labor Organizations are please to endorse Bill's confirmation. We know that our precious resources will be protected under his watch.

Mahalo.



**From:** [Richard Ha](#)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Confirmation hearing William Johnson Aila DLNR Chair, Rm 225, 1:15pm, Feb 12  
**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 6:05:15 AM

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I am very strongly in favor.

I was on the panel that helped interview candidates for positions in Gov Abercrombies cabinet. We interviewed William Aila for 30 minutes.

He convinced me that he was going to be able to connect with the people in the agency and be able to transform the DLNR. He also convinced me that he was going to be impartial, transparent and follow due process. He also convinced me that he would be able to move Gov Abercrombie's New Day agenda forward. He said that he was going to resign from his many community activity's, so he could eliminate potential conflicts so he could concentrate on the Duties of the position.

Richard Ha  
Hamakua Springs Country Farms

I,Sent from my iPad

**PEARL HARBOR HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB  
P. O. BOX 66 AIEA, HAWAII 96782**

**TESTIMONY OF IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
ANTOINETTE L. LEE**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 517  
SUPPORTING WILLIAM JOHNSON AILA, JR  
WITH DEEP RESERVATIONS**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & HOUSING  
Saturday, February 12, 2011; 1:15 p.m.; Room 225

Aloha Chairman Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and members of the committee on Water, Land and Housing. I am Antoinette Lee, Immediate Past President of the Pearl Harbor Hawaiian Civic Club here to testify in support of William Aila with Deep Reservations as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs Board of Directors at their retreat held on January 22, 2011 voted to support Mr. Aila in order to support Governor Abercrombie's selection of a Native Hawaiian to a key policy making position. I am fully aware that we, the Pearl Harbor Hawaiian Civic Club under its own Autonomy is a minority in supporting Mr. Aila with Deep Reservations.

The Pearl Harbor Hawaiian Civic Club is a very active club with a membership of 218 members. We are very active in the community and play a very active part in our Oahu District Council and the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs with many of our membership holding leadership positions. Our Club has been very active in attending the Puwalu's that started in 2006 with the late cultural teacher and Kumu Hula John Kaimikaua and Legislation that developed from all of the discussions with our Kupuna and practitioners that the Puwalu brought out. For the first time our Kupuna and practitioners, lawaia and mahiai came forward to share their mana`o and experiences because much of what was practiced by our ancestors has not been written down. Over 100 attended the first Puwalu and the outcome of this puwalu was the need for aha moku councils for each island. This was the start of much more conversations between our Kupuna, fisherman, practitioners, lawaia and mahiai which led to Act 212 and a composition of an Aha Kiole that became a law. Mr. Aila submitted his name to the list of names that the Governor would choose as Aha Kiole. Is he disgruntled that he was not selected by Governor Lingle to be one of the Kiole?

Mr. Aila in his resume speaks of all the wonderful things he accomplished while working for Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and yet while he was working for them he never once thought about consulting the Indigenous People of Hawai'i. He kept criticizing every move that WESPAC made which in spite of all the accusations he made against them and filing complaints of them doing illegal acts, all of which were not found we pressed on determined to develop an aha moku council commission. The rest is

history. Mr. Aila in his capacity right now as the Interim DLNR has voted against SB 23, Relating to the Aha Kiole Commission which the Hawaiian Civic Clubs support. Our question is how will Mr. Aila now as the DLNR with history of being against everything we have worked for be able to make sound and non prejudiced fair decisions.

In 2007, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in its Annual Convention held in Anchorage, Alaska discussed a resolution to exercise one of our Hawaiian Values of saying Mahalo to an Organization who came forward to assist us with the Puwalu's. Mr. Aila joined the Nanaikapono Hawaiian Civic Club prior to coming to this convention so he could speak against this resolution and pointed out that WESPAC was under investigation by the Inspector General which he started. We were denied the right to exercise one of our Hawaiian Values to just say Mahalo of which Mr. Aila bragged about in the Honolulu Weekly published in December 2007. Mr. Aila never again renewed his membership to that club since then. We were used and abused by Mr. Aila. We hope that Mr. Aila will be able to live and practice our Hawaiian Values taught to us by our Ancestors and Kupuna being the DLNR. We shall forever be thankful to WESPAC, OHA, HTA and Kamehameha Schools for assisting us. Without their help we would never have been able to put together forums that the community needs to organize in order to effectively work together on protecting while sharing these resources.

We have walked the walk and talked the talk on encouraging communities to take responsibility for their island resources and to relieve our state of the tremendous task they have before them. We know the State and DLNR has NO money, although we have recently heard that DLNR has an excess of four million dollars. We Hawaiians have stepped up to the plate and asked to be part of the solution. We're not asking for any money. We have been denied money that was allocated to us by the Law. We just don't understand that we are saying DLNR let us help you and they are saying no we don't need your help. How many times has the Hawaiian community stepped up to help to be part of the solution? Is Mr. Aila using the history of his involvement being against all that we have tried to do cloud his decisions? He says he needs to hear from his Attorneys, however they have all been working on this same issue since 2006. It's not a new project. We as Hawaiians understand that it is a Kakou thing. Our Ancestors lived this concept for 400 years and our people since 1893. Is Mr. Aila going to be able to be objective and be able to work with the people with no prejudices? Mr. Aila says in his resume that he has been President and Chair to so many very controversial groups will he be able to make decisions in the best interest of our State?

Our Club is concerned and we would like to Honor the Governor's wishes in his selection that is why we say we SUPPORT WITH DEEP RESERVATIONS.  
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

February 12, 2011

To the Honorable Members of the Water, Land and Housing Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of William Ailā as the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Uncle Bill for many years. I consider him to be one of the great champions of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources. No individual has served as a better ambassador for bringing many stakeholders together in the interest of environmental and social sustainability. He has the knowledge, leadership skills, and diplomat skills necessary to pull the Department out from the its current state and make it successful and prosperous.

I consider it a great honor to call him my friend.

I am a member of many Hawaiian organizations, including the Honolulu Civic Club of Honolulu, Kuini Pi'olani Hawaiian Civic Club, Native Hawaiian Bar Association, Kona Moku Chair of the O'ahu Island Council for the Native Hawaiian Education Council, Acting `Aha Moku representative for the `Aha Ki`ole, `Ahahui Ka`ahumanu, Daughters of Hawai'i, Chair of the Hawaiian Working Group for the Sanctuary Advisory Council for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and more. So I am aware that there is a minority of Hawaiians who are not supporting this nomination. I know these individuals and I have respect for them. I nonetheless believe Uncle Bill should be confirmed.

Great leaders do not become so without making hard decisions. Being that the confirmation hearing today comes after a hearing on SB609, I hope this committee has an appreciation of how passionate and complex a community Hawaiians can be. Decision making is not easy in our community. Therefore, it should be no surprise that Uncle Bill has made hard decisions that resulted in some ruffled feathers. I believe that this should serve as an indicator of his great potential as a leader for the Department. He can make difficult decisions. And we all know difficult times, and therefore difficult decisions, are ahead.

I can say with tremendous confidence that I do not believe there is a better candidate anywhere for this critical post. Therefore, it gives me great pride to give William Ailā my strongest support for Chairperson of DLNR.

E mālama pono,

Trisha Kehaulani Watson, JD, PhD

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tori@wilddolphin.org](mailto:tori@wilddolphin.org)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM517 on 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 7:53:10 AM

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Testimony for WLH 2/12/2011 1:15:00 PM GM517

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: victoria cullins  
Organization:  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [tori@wilddolphin.org](mailto:tori@wilddolphin.org)  
Submitted on: 2/12/2011

Comments:

In strong support due to ethics and service to community, the land and the ocean of Hawaii.