

GM 558



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

10 January 2011

State Boards and Commissions
c/o Office of the Governor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

To the State Boards and Commissions:

I am writing to express my support of Renwick "Uncle Joe" Tassill who is applying to serve as a member of the Department of Home Lands Commission.

Uncle Joe has a wealth of knowledge and experience that will contribute to the Commission's work. He is caring, professional and conscientious about his work. He has the heart, the compassion and the passion that will inspire and motivate others to do the right thing.

If I can provide additional information regarding Renwick "Uncle Joe" Tassill as a member of the Department of Home Lands Commission, please feel free to contact me at 586-6130.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Suzanne N.J. Chun Oakland
State Senator

SNJCO:amt



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 1, 2011

Dear Chair Galuteria and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

Without hesitation, I highly recommend RENWICK VALENTINE ILI'ILIPUNA TASSILL, or more endearingly known to us as 'Uncle Joe', for confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Uncle Joe's ancestral lineage, Hawaiian awareness and background, educational experience and community and political involvement have made him an invaluable member of the Hawaiian community and one of our state's hidden gems.

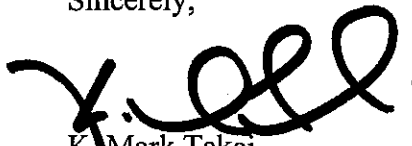
Uncle Joe takes his role as *kumu*, or teacher, very seriously. He served as a tour guide and historian for the Pacific Islands Institute and Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association as well as the Governor's Office. Born and raised on the Waimanalo Homestead, Uncle Joe was also an active member of the statewide organization, The Hawaiian Addressing the Hawaiian Homes Act of 1920.

On a personal level, I find Uncle Joe to be very intelligent, compassionate and humble. I have enjoyed working with him because of his sense of responsibility, dedication and commitment to his work.

I highly recommend Uncle Joe for reappointment and believe that he is deserving of your consideration. If his previous work experience and reputation in our community is any indication, our state will greatly benefit from his presence.

If there are any questions that you may have, or if there is another way in which I can be of assistance on behalf of Uncle Joe, please contact me.

Sincerely,

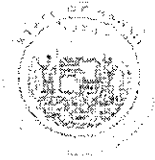


K. Mark Takai
State Representative
District 34

KMT:kd

2011040106

Representative K. Mark Takai
State Capitol, Room 305 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 586-8455 • Fax: (808) 586-8459 • Email: reptakai@capitol.hawaii.gov



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

TESTIMONY OF REPRESENTATIVE FAYE P. HANOHANO
GM 558, RENWICK VALENTINE ILI'ILIPUNA TASSILL
Gubernatorial Nominee to the Hawaiian Homes Commission

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Tuesday, April 19, 2011, 9:00am
Conference Room 312

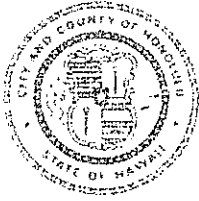
Aloha Chair Galuteria, Vice Chair Ryan, Senators English, Hee, Kahele, Kidani, Solomon, and Slom:

I am writing in strong support of GM 558, Renwick Valentine Ili'ilipuna Tassill's appointment to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Mr. Tassill, fondly known as Uncle Joe, is a respected kupuna in the Hawaiian community. He grew up in the Waimanalo Hawaiian Homestead and is currently residing in Kūpuna Hale in Waimanalo. Uncle Joe has a rich and varied experience as an advocate for the Hawaiian people

These qualifications and his passion, knowledge and experience qualify him to serve as a Hawaiian Homes Commissioner.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Faye P. Hanohano".



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

ANN H. KOBAYASHI
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 5
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON PLANNING
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5005
FAX: (808) 768-1227
EMAIL: akobayashi@honolulu.gov

January 11, 2011

Governor's Office
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Attn: Tony Benabese
Boards and Commissions Manager

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written to humbly recommend Renwick Valentine Ili'ilipuna Tassill (Joe Tassill) for appointment to the Abercrombie Administration within the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

I have known Mr. Tassill personally and am familiar with his passion, not only for native Hawaiian advancement, but service to the community as a whole. He has been an active member of the statewide organization, the Hawaiians Addressing the Hawaiian Homes Act of 1920, and is currently a resident of the first Kupuna Hale of Waimanalo. Being a resident allows him to give back to the same program that gave him a positive start. Mr. Tassill wishes to bring attention to, and address the need for more Kupuna Hale on Hawaiian Home Land.

If given the opportunity, Mr. Tassill will be able to bring together outside agencies and organizations to work cooperatively with the department. He is very familiar with many issues that face native Hawaiians today. For these reasons, I believe Mr. Tassill will be a great asset to the State Administration.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Tassill. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 768-5005.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann".

Ann H. Kobayashi
Councilmember, District V

January 13, 2011

GOVERNORS OFFICE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL
ATTN. TONY BENABESE,
MANAGER OF BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Mr. Renwick Tassill, Commission Applicant
HAWAIIANS HOME COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Benabese,

I am writing in regards to Mr. Renwick "Uncle Joe" Tassill whom is applying to be appointed as a Commissioner on the Hawaiians Home Commission.

I had the pleasure to working with Mr. Tassill at a Hawaiian Alternative School in South Kona (Hale O Ho'oponopono) during the period of 1977 – 1980. This school was a joint partnership between the State of Hawaii, Department of Education, and the Bishop Estate, Kamehameha Schools. The school was novel way to address the educational needs of "challenged" youth. I was a teacher employed by Konawaena High School assigned to teach there.

Over the past 30 plus years, Mr. Tassill and I have continued to be friends and share interests of making our community and our State of Hawaii a better place to live and work, with the desire to preserve many of its treasures for future generations.

Over the years "Uncle Joe" has been keenly involved and has continued to expand his knowledgeable about all things that affect our state, with particular interests in the Hawaiian heritage and its virtues.

He is courteous, knowledgeable and patient in addressing issues and will be a dedicated commissioner for the benefit of all peoples of Hawaii.

Your favorable consideration of his application would be appreciated. Please feel free to call me should you need further information.

With my aloha,

WARREN P. CHONG
73-1390 Kaiminani Dr.
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
Ph. (808) 325-1060



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma

Papa Ola Lokahi
894 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: 808.597.6550 ~ Facsimile: 808.597.6551

Papa Ola Lokahi

is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization founded in 1988 for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians and other native peoples of the Pacific and continental United States.

Board of Directors

Member Organizations

Hoola Lahui Hawaii

Hui No Ke Ola Pono

Hui Malama Ola Na O'wi

ALU'UKE

Ke Ola Mamo

E Ola Mau

University of Hawaii

Hawaii State Department of Health

Na Piiwai

Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Ex-Officio Members

Hawaii Primary Care Association

Ke Alaula

Executive Director

Hardy Spoehr

20 December 2010

Mr. Tony Benabese, manager
Boards and commissions
Governor's Office
State of Hawai'i
State Capital
Honolulu, HI

Dear Mr. Benabese,

Papa Ola Lokahi (POL), the Native Hawaiian Health Board, strongly supports the appointment of Mr. Renwick 'Uncle Joe' Tassill to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Throughout his professional life, Mr. Tassill has dedicated his efforts to improve the wellbeing of Native Hawaiians in the truest sense of ho'opulapula.

He has worked in many Hawaiian communities within the Hawaiian Homelands and has always been cognizant of the need to educate and inform all of Hawai'i's people about the rich culture and history of Hawai'i. For many years he was the face of Hawai'i for many visitors to our islands.

We thank you for the opportunity to support Mr. Tassill's appointment as a Commissioner of the Hawaiian Homelands trust.

Sincerely,

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director

December 22, 2010

Mr. Tony Benabese
Board and Commissions
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Benabese,

I have learned that Mr. Renwick Tassil, of Waimanalo, Hawaii, has applied for appointment as Commissioner to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

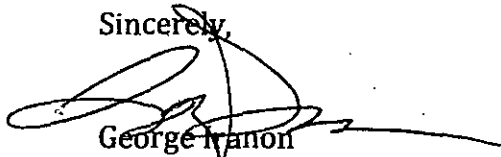
Mr. Tassil has been an avid supporter of issues relating to the betterment of Hawaiian Homes Land and its people. I have known him since 1960. In Kona, he fostered and created an innovative program to help Hawaiian youngsters considered "at risk", used his expertise in counseling, supervising and creating innovated activities such as conflict resolution, stressing work ethic and improving student education. Part of his program, was to have youngsters in his charge, to work and care for the land of his ancestors stressing the importance of "family".

He was very concerned for improving societal standards for native Hawaiians as he continued his work in communities on the Big Island and Oahu. "Joe Boy" as he was fondly called and known by during his tenure as guide and lecturer at the state capital and legislature, demonstrated a love for Hawaii and its people.

In my opinion, "Joe Boy", is profoundly qualified to sit as a productive member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, and I fully support his appointment.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and consideration for "Joe Boy", a true Hawaiian in heart, love, and understanding of our beloved state.

Sincerely,



George Hanon
Retired Director
Hawaii Department of Public Safety

6965 Niunalu Lp.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

H-808-450-2456

Mr. Tony Benebese
Manager of Boards and Commissions
Office of the Governor
Executive Chambers, State Capital
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF RENWICK
"JOE" TASSILL AS COMMISSIONER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
HAWAIIAN HOMES**

Dear Mr. Benebese:

I respectfully recommend the appointment of Mr. Renwick "Joe" Tassill as commissioner for the Department of Hawaiian Homes. I have known Mr. Tassill for 38 years, first when he served on the policy making board of Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council (HCEOC), a private non-profit corporation serving the Big Island with its mission of preventing, alleviating, and eliminating poverty conditions for the island of Hawaii especially for the Hawaiians who comprise the majority of the poverty population.

As a board member, Mr. Tassill demonstrated to an unusual degree his passion and enthusiasm to help underprivileged low-income families become self-sufficient. To cite an example, Mr. Tassill advocated for the development of an infrastructure for the people of the Hawaiian fishing village of Milolii. Although it took several years of planning and mobilizing resources, new homes were constructed with access to non portable water and electrical lines. Mr. Tassill's advocacy role for the betterment of the village was instrumental in HCEOC's involvement with housing, water, and power development for the village.

Mr. Tassill's demeanor at board meetings was outstanding and his conduct in accordance to Robert's Rule of Order. He was always respectful, courteous, but unyielding in his advocacy for the disadvantaged and his passion permeated through the board and organization.

In recent past, my encounters with Mr. Tassill switches from idle talk to serious conversations on how to improve the lives of people and the community.

For the reasons mentioned, I strongly recommend Mr. Renwick "Joe" Tassill as commissioner of the Department of Hawaiian Homes.

Respectfully,

George Yokoyama

December 24, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

I feel Rendrick Tassill (Uncle Joe) is a qualify person for a position to the Hawaiian Home Land Commission.

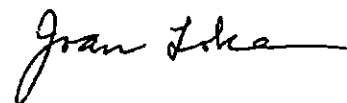
My name is Joan Loke. I am retired at this time. I used to work for Kaiser Permanente as a respiratory therapist. I also lobbied for ten years in Washington D.C. for respiratory issues though the PACT (Political Action Contact Team) under AARC (American Association for Respiratory Care). Representative Abercrombie was always supportive of my agenda in Washington D.C. I am happy and delighted that Governor Abercrombie got elected as Governor. He will lead Hawaii well with his great ideals.

I also lobbied for two years in the State of Hawaii for licensure for respiratory therapist. Uncle Joe helped me on this issue. We got licensure in Hawaii this year successfully. Uncle Joe worked hard to make our issue known in the House and Senate. Our bill is call Uncle Joe's Bill. Without his guidance we would not have achieve licensure in such a short time.

I am privileged to know Governor Abercrombie and Uncle Joe. Both helped the people of Hawaii and the nation achieve better protection and better medical care.

I hope Uncle Joe get appointed as a member of the Commission. He is a hard worker and a loyal friend. He will deliver what he promised.

Sincerely yours,



Joan Loke

(Retired Respiratory therapist)

Home 523-3913

Cell. 226-1904

e-mail catnap@hawaii.rr.com

Tom Coffman
44-114 Bayview Haven Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

December 27, 2010

Tony Benabese
Manager, Boards and Commissions
Office of the Governor
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Benabese:


I am writing to support the nomination of Mr. Joe Tassil to membership on the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

I was intrigued when I first encountered Joe talking to a large group of school students in the State House chamber of the Capitol. I sat and listened for a long while and studied his interaction with the students. Through a combination of questions, stories and informed discourse, he was educating the touring class to the functioning of State government and the meaning of the State capitol. He was bringing to life an idea I and probably many others have had but never did anything with.

He was like a great political leader on a campaign: The imperative is to give the stump speech for the hundredth time as if it were the first time. He approached this educational proposition every day, year in and out, with the same passion for the students' learning. He addressed visitors with equal verve.

Along the way Joe spearheaded the development of an audiovisual program on the Capitol district and enmeshed me in its production. From first idea to completion, this necessarily took several years, so I then saw Joe as a long-distance worker on a new level.

I also know him to be a knowledgeable and deeply committed Hawaiian, as well as an enthusiastic and progressive Democrat. I hope the new Administration will run with Joe's interest in serving on this important commission.

Sincerely,

Tom Coffman

From: andrew.levin
Date: 03/13/11 16:30:39
To: renwick808@aol.com
Subject: Fw: GM 558: Renwick "Joe" Tassill

Congrats, again.

andy

From: Andy Levin [<mailto:aclevin@hawaii.edu>]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 4:23 PM
To: 'sengaluteria@capitol.hawaii.gov'
Subject: GM 558: Renwick "Joe" Tassill

Senator,

I hope you are doing well.

Your committee website will not allow me to testify on this matter until it is scheduled for hearing, so I thought I would write to you personally.

I have known Renwick "Joe" Tassill for over 40 years. Long before he was a fixture at the Capitol doing tours for visitors, he was living in Kona, helping disadvantaged Hawaiian youth. He has always had amazing energy and dedication, and now he is being offered a position where he can use some of his great ideas to help the entire State. It is an opportunity for all of us, but particularly kupuna, to benefit from his years of knowledge in government, community, and Hawaiian affairs.

I hope you will quickly confirm this worthy individual so that he can begin his service on the Commission.

Please feel free to use this email as testimony when the hearing is

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to recommend Renwick "Joe" Tassil for appointment to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

I have known Joe for many years starting with shared responsibilities on the HCEOC Headstart Board in Hilo. Over the years, Joe has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the citizens of Hawaii, especially our native Hawaiians.

He made countless friends for Hawaii through his dedicated work as director of the State Capitol tours and became known as the "ambassador of aloha" making friends with all he touched and keeping current on the many issues Hawaii faced so he could speak knowledgeably about them.

Joe will bring a balanced and thoughtful mind to the Hawaiian Homes Commission with a strong desire to do what is best for the organization.

I endorse Renwick "Joe" Tassil to become a member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Sincerely,

Mary Y. Matayoshi

Cell: 808-282-8460ad

Phone: 808-732-2358

mary.matayoshi@gmail.com

galuteria1 - Ikaika

From: Hardy Spoehr [HSpoehr@papaolalokahi.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 6:55 AM
To: HWN Testimony
Subject: Testimony: GM 558

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony: GM 558, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, RENWICK VALENTINE ILI'ILIPUNA TASSILL, for a term to expire 6-30-2015

Wednesday, April 13, 2011
2:45pm
Conference Room 224
State Capitol

Papa Ola Lokahi strongly supports the appointment of Mr. Tassill as a Commission member to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. He brings to the Commission a strong family legacy of serving his community and the Commission. "Uncle Joe" will bring the knowledge and wisdom of kupuna to bear on his fellow Commissioners who will find his guidance an important anchor in their critical decision making. Thank you for the opportunity to support Mr. Tassill's appointment.

Hardy Spoehr, Executive Director
Papa Ola Lokahi (Native Hawaiian Health Board)
894 Queen Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
808-597-6550

galuteria1 - Ikaika

From: Hanalei Y. Aipoalani [haipoalani@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:11 AM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: Sen. Pohai Ryan; Sen. Brickwood Galuteria
Subject: GM558--Support Confirmation of Renwick Valentine Ili'ilipuna Tassill to serve as Hawaiian Homes Commissioner

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

RE: GM558--Support Confirmation of Renwick Valentine Ili'ilipuna Tassill to serve as Hawaiian Homes Commissioner

Dear Honorable Committee Chair Galuteria, Vice Chair Ryan and committee members:

Aloha mai kakou!

I write to express my support of Renwick Valentine Ili'ilipuna Tassill's gubernatorial appointment to serve as Hawaiian Homes Commissioner.

Uncle Joe, a treasured kama'aina with much aloha for Hawai'i and our native people, is a dear friend of my mother Merrie K. Aipoalani.

As a young child, I have been privileged to learn about Hawaii; namely the rich history behind the Hawai'i State Capitol through Uncle Joe's well-researched orations of Hawaii as tour coordinator for the State Capitol. Uncle Joe's passion and commitment for our host culture continues to be exhibited in his day-to-day interactions with kama'aina and malihini alike.

I am confident that his presence on the Hawaiian Homes Commission will bring a refreshing perspective of aloha, malama, and laulima. Moreover, it is my humble opinion that Uncle Joe, a homesteader, will bring value-add to the deliberations and decisions relating to our kupuna.

To this end; I humbly ask for your favorable support and vote of confidence in Renwick Valentine Ili'ilipuna Tassill's appointment to serve as Hawaiian Homes Commissioner.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Hanalei

Hanalei Y. Aipoalani
Resident, Member and Board Director of Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead Community Association
89-308 Mokiawe Street
Wai'anae, Hawaii 96792

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

PAUL T. OSHIRO
822 Bishop Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 13, 2011

Chair Galuteria and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian
Affairs:

SUBJECT: GM 558, Renwick Tassill, Gubernatorial Nominee
Hawaiian Homes Commission

The purpose of this written testimony is to support the confirmation of the Gubernatorial Nomination of Renwick Tassill as a member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

I have been acquainted with Mr. Tassill for a number of years, first meeting him during his employment with the Sergeant At Arms Office in the State House of Representatives. As a State Capitol Tour Coordinator, Mr. Tassill developed and implemented a program that was well received by the general public and which greatly enhanced the public's knowledge and understanding of the State Capitol and the operations of government.

Mr. Tassill is very approachable, pleasant, and a tireless worker. His dedication and commitment are positive attributes that will be of great benefit to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

It is based on these observations that I support Mr. Tassill's confirmation as a member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Testimony
In Support of Governor's Message 558
Nomination of Renwick Valentine Ili'ilipuna Tassil
Hawaiian Homes Commission
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Chair
Senator Pohai Ryan, Vice Chair
April 19, 2011, 2:45 p.m.
Senate Conference Room 312

This is to register my support for Renwick Valentine Ili'ilipuna "Joe" Tassil for Commissioner with the Hawaiian Homes Commission. I got to know Mr. Tassil when I served as the Director of Public Safety under Governor Cayetano. At that time, Mr. Tassil worked in the Governor's Office. From time to time, our Department would send inmates under supervision to help with various projects that required heavy labor. Mr. Tassil would always take time to offer them words of kindness and appropriate advice. He displayed a tremendous amount of empathy and compassion for them, as they paid their penalties for the crimes they had committed. His only purpose was to do what he could to help these offenders put their lives together again.

As you may know, a substantial portion of the inmate population are of Hawaiian ancestry. Mr. Tassil's gestures to the inmates were heartfelt. I believe that it was driven by a deep commitment to people, especially Hawaiian people. In the ensuing years, I have continued to have contact with Mr. Tassil. Invariably, our conversation turns to his deep care and concern for and the dreams he has for native Hawaiians. Mr. Tassil, or Uncle Joe, as we affectionately call him, is for real. He not only cares, he is willing to do something about it. He will work one-on-one with a criminal offender, and he will fight for large programs that will help many. This will make Mr. Tassil a passionate and effective member of the Commission. I strongly support his confirmation.

galuteria1 - Ikaika

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, April 16, 2011 10:06 AM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for GM558 on 4/19/2011 2:45:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for HWN 4/19/2011 2:45:00 PM GM558

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Amy K. Brinker
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: amybrinker@mac.com
Submitted on: 4/16/2011

Comments:

Many people know Joe as "Uncle Joe." I call him "General Joe" because he is a strong leader with a vision for Hawai'i's future.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT his nomination.

galuteria1 - Ikaika

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, April 16, 2011 10:43 AM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: konanuij001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for GM558 on 4/19/2011 2:45:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for HWN 4/19/2011 2:45:00 PM GM558

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jerry Konanui
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: konanuij001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/16/2011

Comments:

galuteria1 - Ikaika

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 17, 2011 6:25 AM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: aipohaku@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM558 on 4/19/2011 2:45:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for HWN 4/19/2011 2:45:00 PM GM558

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Vince Kana`i Dodge
Organization: `Ai Pohaku
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: aipohaku@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/17/2011

Comments:

April 18, 2011

To: The Honorable Brickwood Galuteria, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian

Date: April 19, 2011 2:45 PM

Place: State Capitol, Conference Room 312

RE: GM 558 – Renwick V. Ili'ilipuna Tassill
Hawaiian Homes Commission

Chairperson Galuteria and Committee Members:

It is humility and deep honor that I submit my support for Renwick V. Ili'ilipuna Tassill as he is nominated for the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

I have known Uncle Joe for only 20 years but he has spiritually enriched me many lifetimes already.

When my coworkers and myself needed a spiritual boost as we searched how we could immediately reach out to help over a thousand of laid-off Aloha Air workers a few days after losing their jobs, Uncle Joe came to 'olelo (converse) with my office to help us search within our souls for encouragement. Uncle Joe has been keeping check on my son's college and career achievements, both having met in 1992 when my son was in the fourth grade. A few years ago I introduced my hanai daughter to Uncle Joe so that she would understand more about the richest heritage she shares. His wisdom has made a lasting impression on a young woman starting out on her own life voyage.

He listens well, does his research with a unique logic that is historical rather than being a "reaction of the moment," and he lets the richness of his heart speak gently. He is a humble human being who understands that sometimes an organization has to walk in the shoes of the people it serves.

I know Renwick V. Ili'ilipuna Tassill will do his best to add to the richness of the Commissioners for he, too, is of the same heritage and the same heart. Let us continue our steadfast support the progress and efforts of the Hawaiian Homes Commission as it faces the many challenges serving the Hawaiian community and homesteaders.

Respectfully submitted

James T. Dote
46-260 Kalali Street
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

galuteria1 - Ikaika

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 1:20 AM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: shaglund@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM558 on 4/19/2011 2:45:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for HWN 4/19/2011 2:45:00 PM GM558

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Sue Haglund
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: shaglund@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 4/18/2011

Comments:

I am writing this letter in support of Renwick Valentine Ili'ilipuna Tassill's appointment to the Hawaiians Home Commission. Mr. Tassill has served as a liaison between the State of Hawaii's government and local communities through his activism as a community organizer in various Hawaiian Civic Clubs and Hawaii State Capitol Tour Coordinator at the Hawaii State Legislature, just to name a few. He is an invaluable researcher, leader and community organizer in the Native Hawaiian community and State of Hawaii. I have no doubt that Mr. Tassill will make meaningful contributions to the Hawaiians Home Commission as a board member.

I have known Mr. Tassill, "Uncle Joe", since 2002 during my first year working at the Hawaii State Legislature's Public Access Room. From the beginning of our meeting, Mr. Tassill displayed an aptitude and in-depth knowledge of Native Hawaiian history and politics, as well as, the State of Hawaii's politics and government. He became a mentor, a friend and family to me. He shared with me his wisdom and knowledge on politics, history, culture and life. His past experiences as a Capitol Tour Coordinator with the offices of Governors Cayetano and Waihee in the Office of Information at the Hawaii State Capitol, and as a Tour Guide and Historian with Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association and Pacific Islands Institute, has enabled him to research and digest a wide variety of materials associated with legislative documents, Native Hawaiian history and history of State of Hawaii through annexation, statehood and present-day political, economic and social movements. These materials include primary sources through genealogy, the oli, mo'olelo, scholarly works of Mary Kawena Pukui, Dr. Jon Osorio and Lilikala K. Kamelelehiwa, current and prior legislative bills, resolutions and testimonies.

Mr. Tassill has also shown his ability to familiarize himself with complex issues very quickly. With various legislation passing through the House and Senate affecting issues as varied as land use, education, Native Hawaiian rights, health, kupuna care, and elections, he has been invaluable in his ability to identify key aspects of issues affecting Native Hawaiians and the State of Hawaii's political, economic and social communities. Undoubtedly, it is Uncle Joe's ability to conduct efficient research in the library and through the Internet, oral storytelling through genealogy, the oli and mo'olelo that contributes to his ability to quickly comprehend pressing contemporary issues.

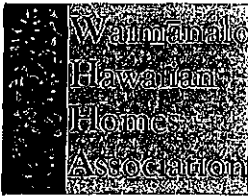
When I taught Honors 301, an honors course on research and public policy, at University of Hawaii-Manoa, Mr. Tassill gave my class a personal guided tour of the State Capitol's history with his unique and personal style of storytelling reflecting the oral tradition of his genealogy-mo'olelo. Also as a guest speaker in the honors class, Uncle Joe shared his experiences with the class on native Hawaiian issues and political experiences. He taught my class the importance of civic participation and in order to change the world around them, it starts with an idea and it starts with them to put that idea in action.

Mr. Tassill is conscientious worker, community organizer and leader in Native Hawaiian and State of Hawaii's local communities. His work is excellent, timely, and thorough. He has also established himself not only as an active member in our communities, but also an interpersonal community organizer, assisting other members of our communities when needed.

I highly recommend Renwick Valentine Ili'ilipuna Tassill for a position with Hawaiians Home Commission.

Sincerely,

Sue Haglund
Political Science Doctoral Candidate
University of Hawaii-Manoa
Email: shaglund@hotmail.com



P.O. Box 353, Waimānalo, Hawaii 96795-0353

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Chair

Senator Pohai Ryan, Vice Chair

TESTIMONY

DATE: Tuesday, April 19, 2011

TIME: 2:45 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 312
Hawaii State Capitol

Honorable Chairman Sen. Galuteria and Vice Chair Sen. Ryan and members of the Hawaii Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Aloha!

Honorable Senators, my name is Paul P. Richards, mahalo for the opportunity to allow our organization to submit this testimony.

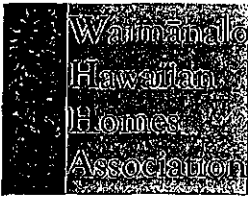
On behalf of the elected Executives, Board of Directors and the General Membership of the Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association, please accept this testimony for the following gubernatorial nominees as Commissioners for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Commission.

Each of the following nominees have proven their commitment, dedication and support of the Hawaiian homestead residents and its purpose defined in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 including self-determination, self-governance and advocating the beliefs, traditional practices and values of Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole and its very first department chairperson, Princess Elizabeth Kahanu Kaaui Kalanianaʻole.

GM 553	Imaikalani Patrick Aiu	STRONGLY SUPPORT
GM 554	Perry O. Artates	STRONGLY SUPPORT
GM 555	Jeremy Kamakanealoha Hopkins	STRONGLY SUPPORT
GM 557	Ian Lee Loy	STRONGLY SUPPORT
GM 558	Renwick V. I. Tassill	STRONGLY SUPPORT

Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association (WHHA) remains an advocate, supporter and promoter of individual(s) who have proven themselves by their actions and beliefs in traditional or cultural Native Hawaiian practices.

Paul P. Richards, President • N. Kilauea Wilson, Vice President • Moana Akana, Recording and Corresponding Secretary • Roxanne Hanawahine, Treasurer • Mary Ann Crowell, Historian • Heidi "Ilma" Ho-Lastimosa, Director • Apela Peahi, Director • M. Ku'ulei Laughlin, Director



P.O. Box 353, Waimānalo, Hawaii 96795-0353

April 19, 2011

Page 2

All of the Hawaiian homestead community organizations were founded by worthy homesteaders committed to "rehabilitate, nurture and revitalize" the Native Hawaiian race and their fellow community residents. Like our ali'i trusts, they have maintained a high level of integrity, responsibility, citizenship, caring and fairness as major values and used these as their pillars of character.

When actions and experiences transform to historical fact, it resonant a lingering uneasiness or a need to "remember" that which was important should never be forgotten. For this purpose, the Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association has taken the following position:

GM 556

Michael Puamamo Kahikina

STRONGLY OPPOSES

We apologize for not being able to voice our testimony in person today due to our attendance at the DHHL Commission hearing at Kalamaula, Moloka'i; however, we hope this written document be accepted as representing the 644 households of the Waimānalo Hawaiian Homesteaders.

Please do call upon us should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

O wau me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul P. Richards".

Paul P. Richards, President
Waimanalo Hawaiian Homes Association

cc: WHHA Executive and Board of Directors

Paul P. Richards, President • N. Kilauea Wilson, Vice President • Moana Akana, Recording and Corresponding Secretary • Roxanne Hanawahine, Treasurer • Mary Ann Crowell, Historian
• Heidi "Ilima" Ho-Lastimoso, Director • Apela Peahi, Director • M. Ku'u lei Laughlin, Director

April 18, 2011

**To: Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Chair
Senator Pohai Ryan, Vice Chair**

**Subject: Hawaiian Homes Commission Nominee – GM558 Testimony
For: Renwick “Uncle Joe” Tassill
April 19, 2011; 2:45 PM
State Capitol Room 312**

My family and I strongly support the nomination of Renwick Tassill for a position on the Hawaiian Home Commission.

“Uncle Joe” Tassill is an active, tireless member, and advocate of the Waimanalo Hawaiian Homestead Association (WHHA). He is truly cognizant of the pressing Hawaiian day-to-day issues in need of improvements and the importance of delivering clear and concise understanding of results from debating issues.

“Uncle Joe’s” life is historic with a Hawaiian perspective that has endowed him with the wisdom of a “Kupuna”, which we believe he can put to very good use. Indeed!

- **He has developed an astute working knowledge of the political process and has a good, but humble, relationship with its governing people.**
- **As an active WHHA member, his record demonstrates that he is a strong supporter of all Hawaiian Communities within the State.**
- **On one-to-one or many-to-one personal conversations, “Uncle Joe” listens with his mind, is guided by his heart and is motivated by a youthful spirit to help.**

Again, my family and I support Renwick “Uncle Joe” Tassill’s nomination for a position on the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Respectfully Submitted:



**Samuel A. Makua
Waimanalo Homesteader**

galuteria1 - Ikaika

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 1:49 PM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: lokalia1939@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for GM558 on 4/19/2011 2:45:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for HWN 4/19/2011 2:45:00 PM GM558

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rosalie Amanda Hermanson
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: lokalialia1939@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/18/2011

Comments:

Mr. Tassill has been an active and effective representative at our Neighborhood Board Meetings and has taken lead roles for corrective action on many issues facing Waimanalo Homestead beneficiaries. He is dependable, hard working and honest.



LANAKILA PACIFIC

Building Independence for Challenged Lives

PRESIDENT & CEO

Marian E. Tsuji

Lanakila Pacific

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Audrey E.J. Ng, Esq.

Les Murashige

Samuel Tanimoto

Masaichi Tasaka

Bob Toyofuku

Henry L. Wong, Ph.D.

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Mark Platte

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Sherri Yim

JoAnn Yosemite

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www.lanakilapacific.org



State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee for Hawaiian Affairs
April 19, 2011, 2:45 PM
Room 312

GM 558

It is my honor to submit this recommendation for Renwick "Uncle Joe" Tassil to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. I first met Uncle Joe over 15 years ago when he was responsible for the Capitol tours. He visited then Lieutenant Governor Hirono's Office frequently, where I worked as her Chief of Staff.

It was during this time that I was first exposed to Uncle Joe's passion for Hawaii and Hawaiian culture, and his enthusiasm to share it with others. He could infect the most disinterested child with wide eyed interest in a matter of minutes. I suspect his presentations were why many of the teachers returned with their classes year after year.

Since then, I have had the opportunity to work with Uncle Joe on several political campaigns. He is one of those people everyone enjoys working with: collaborative, thoughtful, respectful and focused on the task at hand.

Most recently Uncle Joe contacted me when the congregate dining site for seniors was discontinued by Alu Like. He expressed the need for continued services and his concern for the seniors. Lanakila Pacific agreed to continue with the provision of meals, after Uncle Joe and a core leadership group of seniors agreed to "run" the center as volunteers for Lanakila Pacific.

I hope these examples give you some insight into how Uncle Joe will serve as a Commissioner for Hawaiian Homelands. I believe he will be a collaborative leader while continuing to listen carefully to his constituency, and representing them with passion.

Thank you for considering Renwick "Uncle Joe" Tassil.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian E. Tsuji
President & CEO

galuteria1 - Ikaika

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 2:55 PM
To: HWN Testimony
Cc: ou812@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for GM558 on 4/19/2011 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HWN 4/19/2011 2:45:00 PM GM558

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Garrett and Holly Toguchi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ou812@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/18/2011

Comments:

Honorable Chair Galuteria and VC Ryan, we wholeheartedly support the confirmation of Mr. Renwick "uncle Joe" Tassill to the Hawaiian Homes Commission (GM 558). We know uncle Joe in both professional and personal ways. Under previous administrations he was THE man when it came to educating Hawaii's children about government in Hawaii and the history of our unique state. Over the last 7 years uncle Joe has shared his aloha with many senior citizens from across the country as a group leader via an Eldershostel international education program. Through Elderhostel uncle Joe has taken groups to the various regions of the pacific and educated them about the unique cultures and people of the various island nations. We have had many opportunities to sit with uncle Joe to talk story and can attest to his desire and ability to fight for the little guy and do what is right for Hawaiians. He would not have sought this position if he was neither interested nor ready for this challenge. We believe he will do what is best for Hawaiians and in so doing, will do what is best for the state. Please support the confirmation of Renwick "uncle Joe" Tassill to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Garrett and Holly Toguchi