

GM574

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELE CHOUTEAU MCLEAN, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Mayor

WILLIAM R. SPENCE
Director

MICHELE CHOUTEAU McLEAN
Deputy Director



COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

March 28, 2011

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Committee on Water, Land and Housing
State Capitol, Room 202
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Senator Dela Cruz:

**SUBJECT: NOMINATION TO THE KAHO`OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE
COMMISSION**

Thank you for your March 22, 2011 letter regarding my nomination to be the County of Maui's representative on the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). Please accept the following responses to your questions:

- (1) I would like to serve on the KIRC to continue the commitment that I made to Kaho`olawe nearly six years ago, when I was first hired by the KIRC. The island, and the people who work toward its restoration, are truly inspiring. When I was asked to join the new administration of Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa, I struggled with the decision to leave the KIRC, so I requested the Mayor's consideration to serve as the County's representative on the KIRC to continue to be involved with such an important and unique mission.
- (2) The easy answer is that the commissioners' duties and responsibilities are established by Chapter 6K, HRS. Beyond these broad statutory duties, though, I perceive the role of commissioners to also be: continuing and expanding the safe and meaningful access to Kaho`olawe for all of Hawai'i's people; providing clear policy direction to the KIRC staff; continuing and improving relationships with stewardship organizations, most notably the Protect Kaho`olawe `Ohana, and their cultural use of the Reserve; ensuring the KIRC's financial viability; overseeing the appropriate and consistent administration and application of applicable statutes and rules; and, given the remoteness and inherent dangers of Kaho`olawe, protecting the interests of the State of Hawai'i and County of Maui.
- (3) Having worked for the KIRC for more than five years, first as a Policy Advisor and then as Deputy Director, I am thoroughly familiar with KIRC's day-to-day operations on Kaho`olawe and in the Maui office, from administrative, policy, program and field perspectives. I am also thoroughly familiar with the "big picture" issues that the KIRC faces, including the future transition to a Native Hawaiian sovereign entity. With a degree in Political Science and many years of government experience as an analyst and administrator, along with work as a

wildlife rehabilitator and several years learning hula and Hawaiian culture, I believe that I have a broad background in understanding the large spectrum issues that the KIRC has to manage.

- (4) If my nomination is confirmed by the Senate, during my service on the KIRC, I would like to see the KIRC secure a permanent source of revenue from the county, state and/or federal governments (e.g., a share of state conveyance tax revenue as proposed by SB816 and HB1224 this legislative session).
- (5) I believe that I am analytical, fair and a good communicator. These qualities would benefit the KIRC by helping to find the best answers to problems and the best courses of action to take; by considering all perspectives before making decisions; and by facilitating discussion and debate among commissioners and providing direction to staff.
- (6) As previously noted, I worked for the KIRC for more than five years and am intimately familiar with the organization, facilities and assets, staff, programs, projects, budget, governing statutes and administrative rules. This experience would benefit the KIRC because I can "hit the ground running" and bring a practical perspective to the table.
- (7) At this time, I can foresee no potential conflicts of interest with my serving on the KIRC. Should such a potential situation arise, I would disclose the matter to the KIRC and seek the advice of the Department of the Attorney General as well as the County of Maui Department of the Corporation Counsel.

Again, thank you for your correspondence and for your diligence in the Senate confirmation process. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 270-7735 (office), (808) 446-5257 (cell) or michele.mclean@co.maui.hi.us

Sincerely,



MICHELE MCLEAN
Deputy Planning Director

Rowena Anelaaulii Somerville, Esq.
1302 Aloha Oe Drive
Kailua, Hawaii 96734
(808) 263-3251
hirowena@yahoo.com

April 12, 2011

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

RE: GM574 – Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission
Gubernatorial Nominee Michele Chouteau McLean

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and Vice-Chairman Solomon,

I am writing in **strong support** of Michele Chouteau McLean's nomination to fill the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission vacancy. She is an excellent candidate for the position.

I worked very closely with Ms. McLean when she was the Deputy Director of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission and I was the Commission's assigned Deputy Attorney General. While I worked with Ms. McLean, I quickly learned that she grasped legal, personnel, legislative, operational, administrative, and cultural concepts extremely quickly. I worked with her on procurement, ethics, sunshine law, personnel, and liability issues. When she left Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission to become Deputy Director of the Maui Planning Commission, her knowledge and work ethic was sorely missed.

Ms. McLean carries out her job with extreme professionalism and exhibits patience and respect towards others. She is always prepared and very organized. She has vast experience – having both experience in public and private sector - and is very comfortable in making sound policy decisions. Ms. McLean performed her duties as Deputy Director with fairness, integrity, and compassion.

Ms. McLean has shown, repeatedly, her dedication to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. She has worked tirelessly and selflessly for the public, and she truly believes in the future of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. For these reasons, I ask for your favorable consideration of the appointment of Ms. Michele Chouteau McLean to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. I thank you for the opportunity to provide these written comments. Should you have any questions, I can be contacted at the above numbers.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Rowena A. Somerville

TESTIMONY OF
MICHAEL NĀHO`OPTI,

On **GM 574**, For Consideration and Confirmation of Michele Chouteau McLean as
Gubernatorial Nominee to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission

Before the
SENATE WATER, LAND and HOUSING COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 14, 2011, 1:20pm. Room 225

Aloha Chairperson Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairperson Solomon, and members of the Committee. Governor's Message No. 574 nominates Michele Chouteau McLean to serve on the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in the seat reserved for a representative of the Maui Mayor. I wish to express my personal support for Michele and recommend her confirmation to a term with the KIRC that will expire in June 2015.

Michele has a very good technical understanding of the complex issues faced by the KIRC. Her areas of expertise has been in the regulatory and administrative issues regarding Kaho`olawe and her experience will bring great support to the KIRC's Commissioners as they are facing difficult management decision in the near future. She is very detailed oriented and very well versed in the intricacies of State Procurement and Fiscal procedure which would support the KIRC in their oversight management of any future state funding. Her role as the representative of Maui County will also allow the KIRC and the Maui Mayor's office to work closer together in the future to mutually support the natural and cultural resources placed in the KIRC care and for the KIRC to support the County with the its technical expertise in restoring devastated and damaged ecosystems.

As the KIRC's former Deputy Director and previous Acting Executive Director, Michele has worked very closely with the staff of the KIRC and with the KIRC's stewardship partners. She had demonstrated a very professional attitude and a willingness to get things done. She has always worked well with those that have been involved in the Kaho`olawe's past and is a willing to develop new relationships for its future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony in **strong support** of Michele Chouteau McLean as a commissioner for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission.