

GM728

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOSE BULATAO, JR., for a term to expire 6-30-2014.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND HOUSING

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair

April 5, 2012

Testimony in SUPPORT of Gubernatorial Nominees:

Jose Bulatao, Jr.-GM 728

Mary Buza-Sims-GM 729

Canen Hookano- GM 730

Val Tsuchiya-GM 732

Koke'e State Park Advisory Council

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Solomon and members of the Committee on Water, Land, and Housing:

It is with great pride that I submit my support for confirmation of all of the Kaua'i nominees to serve as members of the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council.

As a former member of the Kauai County Council, I have had the privilege of working with these individuals who possess vast knowledge of our treasured Koke'e and their deep passion to preserve the legacy of our native rain forest. Each individual offers unique contributions to the mix of the advisory council that their synergy will have a lasting impact for generations to experience the wonders of Koke'e.

My family and I are so grateful and appreciative of the many, many individuals that keep Koke'e in its pristine state for all to enjoy. These gubernatorial nominees are the backbone of this network who serves in many capacities usually not in the public view. It is time to recognize their work as they continue to contribute their talents and skills for our mountain forest.

I ask for your favorable consideration for confirmation of these individuals to serve on the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council.

Sincerely yours,

Derek S. K. Kawakami
State Representative

District 14, East and North Kauai
Vice Chair, Energy & Environmental Protection Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 314, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND and HOUSING**

**Thursday, April 5, 2012
1:25 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 728
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE KOKE'E STATE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE JOSE BULATAO, JR. FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2014**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) fully supports Governor's Message 728 on the nomination of Jose Bulatao, Jr. to the Kōke'e State Park Advisory Council.

Mr. Bulatao, Jr. is a life-long resident of Kaua'i who was raised in the town of Kekaha. A graduate of Waimea High School, he went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education and a Professional Certificate with a double major in English and Speech & Drama from the University of Hawai'i, Manoa Campus.

From 1959 to 1970, Mr. Bulatao, Jr. taught a range of classes at Waimea High School and Kaua'i High School, including English, Speech, Newswriting, Social Studies, Drama and Chorus. He also coordinated extracurricular activities that included the Menehune Festival, pep rallies, Homecoming, Junior and Senior Proms, speech tournaments and high school productions of Broadway musicals such as "The Music Man", "The King and I", and "Flower Drum Song". At Kaua'i Community College from 1970 to 1990, he taught classes in Speech Fundamentals, Interpretive Reading, Intercultural Communications, Journalism, and Debate as well as English writing and literature courses. During this period, Mr. Bulatao, Jr. also served as Director of Student Activities. In the 1990s, Mr. Bulatao, Jr. worked with elementary school children in Wilcox School's A+ Program and at Kekaha School in a special creative drama program for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. At the adult education level for the District of Kaua'i, he taught citizen preparation and English and worked with senior citizens coordinating a creative drama program and Filipino folk dance classes at community neighborhood centers from Kekaha to

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Kilauea. For a number of years, he produced and directed the island-wide Senior Extravaganza Program.

Founder, director and choreographer for Bailes de Jose Dance Company, Mr. Bulatao, Jr. produced several concerts and performances on Kaua'i and was selected to participate in the Artists in the Schools series. He was also founder/director of the West Kaua'i Community Choir which performed several of his original compositions that received awards over the years at the Kaua'i Mokihana Composers Concert.

In recognition of his numerous skills and talents, and extensive services to the communities of Kaua'i, Mr. Bulatao, Jr. received the E Ola Mau Na Leo O Kekaha Recognition Award for Outstanding Educator in 2010, the Humanitarianism Award for Community Service from the United Filipino Community Council of Hawai'i in 2006, the Kaua'i Living Treasure Award in 2005 from the Kaua'i Museum, and the Waimea High School Alumni Spirit Award in 2000. Together with his siblings, Millie Wellington, Jean Odo, and Bobbie Bulatao-Franklin, they received the Family in Education Award from the Kaua'i Retired Teachers Association in 2000.

If you were to ask Mr. Bulatao, Jr. about his interests in Kōke'e, he will say that the Kōke'e region is the crown jewel of the Island of Kaua'i, where the finite natural resources need to be protected and preserved and people are concerned about how invasive species are addressed. It is one of a few places in the world where the mokihana berry can be found, along with the maile lau li'i li'i.

In his own words, Mr. Bulatao, Jr. says, "While I still can, I am willing to share my mana'o and life's experiences in dealing with the challenges and issues which need to be weighed and considered to maximize positive end results about what is foremost: to take care of Kaua'i with integrity by remembering and upholding the traditions and values of the kanaka maoli which reminds us: 'The land is chief; we are but stewards of the land.' "

It is with great pleasure that I recommend that the Senate confirm Mr. Bulatao Jr.'s nomination to the Kōke'e State Park Advisory Council. The Department is confident he will make significant contributions towards the improved operations and management of Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks and ensure that the public resources are sustained for future generations.