

GM729

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Koke'e State Park Advisory Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, MARY BUZA-SIMS, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.



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
Phone (808) 586-8435, Fax (808) 586-8437, Email: repkawakami@capitol.hawaii.gov

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 729
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
KŌKE'E STATE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
MARY BUZA-SIMS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) fully support of Governor's Message 729 on the nomination of Mary Buza-Sims to the Kōke'e State Park Advisory Council.

Ms. Buza-Sims was born and raised in Kekaha. As a child and an adult, she lived at the foothills of Kōke'e, where she and her family camped and enjoyed its beauty. In 1972, she got her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Seattle University and continued graduate work at the University of Washington wherein she received a Master's in Social Work.

Ms. Buza-Sims started her career as an educator in 1974 when she held the position of Teacher Trainer in Seattle, Washington. In the early 1980s, she taught at the elementary school level, moving up to become Principal of St. Paul Parish School from 1989 through 2000. From 2000 to 2006, she was Director of the Seattle Rotary Education Center, Metrocenter YMCA and in July 2006, became Principal of St. Theresa School on Kaua'i. St. Theresa School is her alma mater and she returned to be its Principal.

Active in community affairs, Ms. Buza-Sims has served as a member of the Filipino American Historical Society, Filipino American Educators of Washington and the Desegregation Committee for the Seattle School District. She has also served as a Board member for St. Joseph Elementary School in Seattle and was Board member and Chair of E Ola Mau Na Leo O Kekaha. Additionally, she was also a founding Board member of the Asian Counseling and Referral

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

Center in Seattle, and a member of the Commission on Asian American Affairs to the Governor for the State of Washington.

Her interest with Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks is to help maintain the indigenous plant life, preserve the wildlife, update the area's beauty and to provide ease of access to the parks. Recognizing the educational opportunities that exist in the parks, she supports the continuance and expansion of such opportunities.

Her commitment and dedication to the community and education will serve her well as she advises and assists the Department with the implementation of Act 223, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, the law that created the Kōke'e State Park Advisory Council. The Department fully supports her nomination to the Council.