

GM732

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the
Koke'e State Park Advisory Council, Gubernatorial
Nominee, VAL TSUCHIYA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.



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



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

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

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS
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 732
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
KŌKE'E STATE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE
VAL TSUCHIYA FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2013**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) fully supports Governor's Message 732 on the nomination of Val Tsuchiya to the Kōke'e State Park Advisory Council.

Mr. Tsuchiya was born and raised in the town of Waimea and spent much of the time playing in Waimea Valley, Waimea Canyon and the Nāpali Coast. In Kōke'e, he hunts for pigs, deer, and goats and fishes and free dives along the Nāpali Coast. He has been on nearly every trail in Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon, and frequently blazes his own trails.

A graduate of Colorado State College where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science, he subsequently joined the United States Army. Making use of the GI bill, he worked towards a Master of Arts Degree and an Ed.S in Special Education from the University of Northern Colorado.

Mr. Tsuchiya began his career as an educator teaching social studies and science to 7th and 8th graders at Kekaha Elementary School in 1968. From 1972 through 1979, he instructed secondary students with learning, emotional, and other identified disabilities, including mental retardation, health, and hearing impairments. For the next ten years, he worked with elementary aged students needing special education at Kalaheo Elementary School. From 1989 to 1997, he became a resource teacher, providing technical support to schools, Special Education teachers, counselors, and administrators and from 1997

to 2002, he was District Administrator for Special Education and Special Services for 16 schools and 10,000 students.

In 2003, he entered into a one-year contract to work at the Pacific Missile Range Facility facilitating science and technology workplace readiness programs for students on Kaua'i.

Mr. Tsuchiya considers Kōke'e and Waimea Canyon State Parks to be the most beautiful place in the world which has always had special meaning for he and his family. His son David, has been employed by the Division of State Parks for more than ten (10) years and is West Kaua'i Park Maintenance Supervisor. Mr. Tsuchiya will bring a local perspective to the Advisory Council, focusing on the best interests of the people of Kaua'i, the State and the recreational users.

The Department is confident that Mr. Tsuchiya will make significant contributions to the Kōke'e State Park Advisory Council and wholeheartedly supports his nomination.