

GM919

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER BAKER, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

April 9, 2012

To: Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

**Testimony of Noelani Goodyear-Kaopua
in SUPPORT of GM919
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Christopher Kaliko Baker to the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is Noelani Goodyear-Kaopua and I am submitting testimony in support of GM 919 to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Christopher Kaliko Baker to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I have known Mr. Baker since 1993. In fact, we both went on our very first access trips to Kaho'olawe that fall. While I have only been to the island a few times since then, Kaliko has remained steadfast in his commitment to returning to the island to help heal it. I also know Kaliko because both of our children went through Hawaiian language immersion school together at Pūnana Leo. Through this, I came to know him as an active and loving father and a leader. He and his wife, Hailiopua, served as head of the parents' organization and generously shared their expertise in the language with all families.

In recent years, I have come to know Kaliko as a teacher and scholar. He and I are both faculty members at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Recently, he came and gave an excellent presentation to my graduate students who were preparing to visit Kaho'olawe. He shared about the different kuleana to which he attends as both a Mo'olono and an interim KIRC commissioner. His presentation confirmed all that I have previously come to know about him, particularly in expressing his deep and grounded commitment to fulfill the mission of the KIRC. Mr. Baker's background and his demonstrated leadership in the stewardship of Kaho'olawe make him an exceptional candidate for the KIRC. I sincerely hope you will confirm his nomination.

Na'u me ka 'o ia 'i'o,
Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua
Assistant Professor, Political Science
(808) 221-4220
Email: goodyear@hawaii.edu



GM919

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Commissioner on the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER
M. KALIKO BAKER, for a term to expire June 30, 2013.
Senate Committee on Water, Land, & Housing**

April 17, 2012

2:00 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM 919, which would confirm Christopher M. Kaliko Baker as Commissioner on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC), for a term to expire June 30, 2013.

Since June 2011, Mr. Baker has served as an interim member of KIRC and brings to the commission expertise in Hawaiian language and cultural traditions. Mr. Baker currently teaches Hawaiian language and is a PhD candidate at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. As a Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana member since 1993 and the lead cultural practitioner for the makahiki ceremony on Kaho'olawe, Mr. Baker has demonstrated his dedication to preserving Kaho'olawe as a refuge for the perpetuation of native Hawaiian language, culture, and identity.

Mr. Baker exemplifies the cultural understanding and commitment necessary in a strong KIRC Commissioner candidate.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to PASS GM 919. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

PROTECT KAHO‘OLAWE ‘OHANA
P.O. Box 39
Kaunakakai, Hawai'i 96748



April 11, 2012

**Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Testimony of Joshua Kaakua on behalf of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana
in SUPPORT of GM919
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Mr. Christopher Kaliko Baker to the
Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha e Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing. On behalf of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (‘Ohana), I am submitting official ‘Ohana testimony in **support** of GM919 Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER KALIKO BAKER, to serve on the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

Pursuant to HRS 6K-5(a)(2) that states, “Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a list provided by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana,” the ‘Ohana completed a process to develop a list of qualified individuals, from which Governor Abercrombie appointed Mr. Christopher Kaliko Baker. Mr. Baker has been serving on the KIRC since June 2011.

Mr. Baker will be a strong asset to the KIRC especially with regards to managing the reserve through a Native Hawaiian cultural lens. Throughout these past 19 years, he has demonstrated a sincere dedication to heal and restore the resources of Kaho‘olawe. Mr. Baker is a Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana kua (group leader) and mo‘olono, a trained group of men who have kuleana to conduct sacred Lono ceremonies and rituals in annual Makahiki cultural practices on Kaho‘olawe. Mr. Baker has been a kumu of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa Kawaihuelani since 2002 and, along with his wife, are leaders in the movement to revive our ‘ōlelo makuahine through education at the University and also in their capacity as talented Native Hawaiian medium playwrights. Mr. Baker is a scholarly expert in Linguistics and will defend his Ph.D. dissertation in May 2012. In addition, he is a loving father of two children both enrolled in Native Hawaiian language immersion education. He is very active in the Hawaiian language community and will bring valuable skills and perspective to the KIRC. I will add that he has a great sense of humor and is committed to working in partnership with the other commissioners to continue its good work.

Mahalo for your attention to the ‘Ohana testimony in support of Mr. Baker’s nomination.

Aloha ‘Āina

Joshua Kaakua
Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana

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JOSHUA KAAKUA
Date: 2012.04.11
13:42:40 -10'00'

April 10, 2012

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Testimony of Tamra A. Probst in SUPPORT of GM918 & GM919
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Noa Emmett Aluli and Christopher Kaliko
Baker to the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is Tamra Ashlee Probst and I am submitting testimony in support of GM 918 & GM 919 to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli(GM 918) and Christopher Kaliko Baker(GM 919) to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve.

I believe that the significant combination of an instructor of Hawaiian Language from the University of Hawai'i and a physician within the generational context of kupuna allow for an ideal transition of important leadership for Kanaloa Kaho'olawe allowing for capable decision making and setting the bar for our future generations.

Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D. is a physician with the Moloka'i Family Health Center, Medical Director with the Moloka'i General Hospital, as well as the Director with the Tides Center, a national non-profit charitable foundation. Aluli is committed to managing Kanaloa Kaho'olawe as a sacred cultural reserve for the Hawaiian Nation as he is a founding member of the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana.

Christopher Kaliko Baker is an instructor of Hawaiian language at the Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge and is a practicing advocate in projecting Hawaiian identity as the key to survival of Hawaiians in modernity.

Baker and Aluli are all affiliated with Native Hawaiian organizations in the broader community which allows necessary dialog between our communities and Kanaloa Kaho'olawe. Furthermore both appointees are spiritually grounded in our Native Hawaiian traditional cultural practices. These characteristics are vital in implementing Kanaloa Kaho'olawes' cultural plan designed by the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation.

Focusing on an objective to restore the islands natural and cultural resources must come from experiences and expertise concerning Native Hawaiian peoples and land. I feel confident that together these individuals' expertise provides a well-rounded collection of both scientific and cultural knowledge and will have a positive contribute to decision-making concerning Kanaloa Kaho'olawe.

Special mention to Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli is appropriate in conclusion to this testimony as he has dedicated his life to the protection and healing of Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe. Dr. Aluli has been involved with Kaho‘olawe from the beginning stages to our current focuses in its entirety; from stopping the bombing, to the ending of military use, to our present efforts of restoring natural resources and continued perpetuation of Hawaiian culture upon this wahi pana. Noa Emmett Aluli understands the importance of persevering through difficult challenges as he is a recognized leader of the Hawaiian Sovereignty and Aloha ‘Āina Movements. He is a needed leader that will bring people together as we move to reestablish a sovereign governing entity.

I would like to mahalo this committee for the opportunity to speak on behalf of these appointees.

Tamra A. Probst

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

**Testimony of Katrina-Ann Kapā Oliveira
in SUPPORT of GM919**

**Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Christopher Kaliko Baker to the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is Katrina-Ann Kapā Oliveira and I am submitting testimony in **full support of GM 919** to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Christopher Kaliko Baker to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I have known Christopher Kaliko Baker for more than a decade in our capacities as educators at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Mr. Baker is currently an Instructor of Hawaiian language at the Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge.

In the time that I have known Mr. Baker, he has been an excellent role model for the Native Hawaiian community. Besides educating hundreds of college students at the University of Hawai'i and volunteering as a coach for Hawaiian immersion students for several years, Mr. Baker has served as an interim member of the KIRC since June 2011 and member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana since 1993 where he leads the makahiki practices on Kaho'olawe.

Members of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, praise Mr. Baker's work as one of the "outstanding and distinguished leaders of the next generation of mākua leaders of the 'Ohana." Mr. Baker is committed to fulfilling the mission of the KIRC to manage the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve as a cultural reserve for the practice of customary cultural, spiritual and subsistence practices; thus, I am happy and honored to provide my full support of GM 919 to confirm Mr. Baker's appointment to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

~~Demo Witness~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2012 7:17 AM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org
Subject: Testimony for GM919 on 4/17/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 4/17/2012 2:00:00 PM GM919

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hardy Spoehr
Organization: Papa Ola Lokahi
E-mail: hspoehr@papaolalokahi.org
Submitted on: 4/13/2012

Comments:

Aloha. Papa Ola Lokahi supports the appointment of Christopher Kaliko Baker to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. His dedication to Kaho`olawe and his knowledge of the Hawaiian language will give the Commission a great resource. Thank you.

April 8, 2012

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT FOR GOVERNOR ABERCROMBIE'S APPOINTEES TO THE
KAHO'OLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION - AMBER NAMAKA WHITEHEAD
CHRISTOPHER KALIKO BAKER AND DR. NOA EMMETT ALULI

Aloha mai e Senators Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing and Senator Galuteria and members of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee

My name is Maile Meyer and I am submitting testimony in support of Governor Neil Abercrombie's appointees to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Amber Namaka Whitehead, Christopher Kaliko Baker and Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli.

I have had the great honor of going "on Island" several times. It is difficult to adequately describe what spending time on Kaho'olawe does for the soul of a Hawaiian. It is a transformational experience. There are people who have made sure that the rebuilding of a Hawaiian lāhui comes from a healing place, so that, in the end, the role Hawaiians play in the world is grounded in cultural tenants that have served our people for generations.

Namaka, Kaliko and Emmett are three individuals that make sure the work of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission continues to be grounded in what is pono. I am so touched that the mentoring that is at the root of how we learn as a people is being re-enforced by the presence of young and old in these appointments. Emmett as a mentor to Namaka and Kaliko is the best combination.

Each candidate stands strong, Namaka as a western/hawaiian steward of native land and cultural practices, Kaliko as a Hawaiian language kumu and orator, and Emmett as a health professional and healer as well as a leader in the aloha 'āina and Hawaiian sovereignty movements.

On the KIRC, we need committed leadership. These three appointees are committed to managing the island as a Native Hawaiian cultural reserve and implementing the culture plan for Kanaloa Kaho'olawe designed by the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation. In addition, these three appointees are spiritually grounded in our traditional cultural practices of Lonoikamakahiki and committed to the revival and flourishing of diverse Native Hawaiian cultural and spiritual practices on Kaho'olawe. To have this caliber of appointees willing to serve, and with the depth of knowledge and experience as well as the passion, is profound. I feel so grateful that they have stepped up and I know that they will served the needs of Hawaiians, and therefore, all people.

On a personal note, Dr. Aluli is family to me. As my first cousin, I have known him throughout my life as a man of great courage and conviction. He has dedicated his life to the protection and healing of Kaho'olawe. When I was a young child, I remember conversations around kitchen tables filled with young, passionate Hawaiians selfless in their determination to regain our ways and our places. Emmett was always at that center, I can say for my family, the Meyer 'ohana and our extended family, the Aluli 'ohana that through every stage of the rebirth of Kaho'olawe, Emmett has been a steady, presence. Our gratitude to Governor Abecrombie and to each of you for confirming his nomination as well as that of Namaka and Kaliko.

With gratitude,

Maile Meyer
Native Books/Nā Mea Hawai'i

‘Apelila 5, 2012

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

**Testimony of Leimomi Wheeler
in SUPPORT of GM919**

**Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Mr. Christopher Kaliko Baker to the
Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is Leimomi Wheeler and I am submitting testimony in **support of GM 919** to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Christopher Kaliko Baker to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

• Please share how you know Kaliko and the qualities and experience that he has which would make him a good commissioner

Background Info:

Christopher Kaliko Baker has served as an interim member of the KIRC since June 2011. He is an Instructor of Hawaiian language at the Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa Hawai‘inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge since 1996. Kaliko is a PhD candidate in Linguistics at UH Mānoa (ABD) who will defend his dissertation in May 2012. He holds a strong position that projecting Hawaiian identity is key to the survival of Hawaiians in modernity. A Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO) member since 1993, Kaliko currently leads the Makahiki practices on Kaho‘olawe.

- Mr. Baker is an active leader of the movement to revive our ‘ōlelo makuahine, Native Hawaiian language, as a UH Hawaiian Language instructor; as a parent of children who are enrolled in a Hawaiian Immersion Charter School; as a playwright of Hawaiian language medium plays.
- Mr. Baker has been a member of the PKO since 1993 and is one of the outstanding and distinguished leaders of the next generation of mākuā leaders of the PKO.
- Mr. Baker is committed to work in partnership with the other commissioners to identify and secure sustainable resources to continue the work of the KIRC through the transition to the sovereign Hawaiian governing entity.
- Mr. Baker is committed to fulfilling the mission of the KIRC to manage the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve as a cultural reserve for the practice of customary cultural, spiritual and subsistence practices.

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Testimony of Stephen K. Morse

in SUPPORT of GM919

**Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Christopher Kaliko Baker to the
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Chairperson Dela Cruz, Vice-chairperson Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is Stephen K. Morse, and I am submitting testimony in **support of GM 919** to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of Christopher Kaliko Baker to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Although I do not know Kaliko Baker personally, I know of his efforts to revive the Native Hawaiian language as an instructor at the University of Hawaii and the leadership he has shown as a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana since 1993 and his role in leading the makahiki practices on Kaho'olawe.

I also know that if the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission is going to accomplish its mission of creating and managing Kaho'olawe as a cultural reserve for the practice of customary cultural, spiritual, and subsistence practices, it will need emerging makua leaders like Kaliko Baker who are committed to work in partnership with the other commissioners to identify and secure sustainable resources to continue the work of the KIRC through the transition to the sovereign Hawaiian governing entity.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to support the nomination of Kaliko Baker. Aloha.

April 10, 2012

Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Testimony of **Christopher McLeod**
in **SUPPORT of GM919**

Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Christopher Kaliko Baker to the
Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission

Aloha Chairperson Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice-Chairperson Malama Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing.

My name is Christopher McLeod and I am submitting testimony in **support of GM919** to confirm the appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie of **Christopher Kaliko Baker** to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I have known Christopher Kaliko Baker for five years, since I proposed collaborating with the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana to produce a documentary film segment on Kaho‘olawe as one of eight stories in a PBS series on indigenous cultures around the world defending and protecting sacred places. The PKO assigned Kaliko Baker to be liaison to the film project. Since that time we have filmed on the island together three times and met numerous times to discuss the history, story focus and successful completion of the project. Kaliko is the loving father of two remarkable children — and his intellect, humor, and interpersonal talents will make him an excellent commissioner.

During the last five years, I have become aware of Kaliko’s wonderful playwriting skills, and his serious commitment to completion of his PhD thesis on Hawaiian language. I have come to understand how deeply Kaliko believes that projecting Hawaiian identity is a key to the survival of Hawaiians in modernity. He will be an asset on any team, particularly one focused on protection of land and culture as one.

A committed Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana member, Kaliko is one of the outstanding and distinguished leaders of the next generation of mākua leaders of the ‘Ohana. Kaliko currently leads the makahiki practices on Kaho‘olawe, and I had the honor of participating in makahiki last year. Over those four memorable days, I was able to experience first hand Kaliko’s deep knowledge about the island and his commitment to its restoration and care, both physically and spiritually.

Kaliko Baker is committed to work in partnership with the other commissioners to identify and secure sustainable resources to continue the work of the KIRC through the transition to the sovereign Hawaiian governing entity. He is committed to fulfilling the mission of the KIRC to manage the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve as a cultural reserve for the practice of customary cultural, spiritual and subsistence practices.

Mahalo for your attention to my testimony in support of Mr. Baker’s nomination.

~~Dans Wicks~~

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 5:35 PM
To: WLH Testimony
Cc: hcasurf33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM919 on 4/17/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for WLH 4/17/2012 2:00:00 PM GM919

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hilary C Arakaki
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hcasurf33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/16/2012

Comments:

It is without hesitation that I support Mr. Christopher 'Kaliko' Baker's appointment. He is forthright in keeping what is best for Kohemalamalama O Kanaloa as his guide.