

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

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FIRST DEPUTY

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ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the Senate Committees on  
TOURISM AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
and  
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, February 06, 2013  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 665 –  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE AHA MOKU  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KAREN POEPOE, FOR A  
TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2016**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 665, nominating Karen Poepoe to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2016.

Pursuant to Act 288, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, the Aha Moku Advisory Committee was established to serve in an advisory capacity to the Chairperson of the Department on issues related to land and natural resources management through the Aha Moku System, a system of best practices that is based upon the indigenous resource management practices of moku (regional) boundaries, which acknowledges the natural contours of land, the specific resources located within those areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain resources and the community.

The Department welcomes the wealth of knowledge and wisdom Karen Poepoe and fellow nominees will bring to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. The Department looks forward to working collaboratively with the Advisory Committee to instill best resource management practices toward our lands and natural resources. As such, the Department supports Governor's Message 665 on the appointment of Karen Poepoe to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting G.M. 665 Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Aha Moku  
Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, Karen Poepoe  
Senate Committee on Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Wednesday, February 6, 2013, 3:00PM, Room 224

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life in these islands depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 10 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.*

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The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports the appointment of Karen Poepoe to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee to the Chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

In the course of our natural resource work on the island of Moloka'i, we have benefitted from the knowledgeable and balanced advice and counsel of the 'Aha Kiole o Moloka'i. Karen Poepoe has played a significant role in the formation and organization of the 'Aha Kiole o Moloka'i, as well as in the community's acceptance of its important function and role. The 'Aha Kiole o Moloka'i is the primary, native grass roots council from which we seek cultural protocol guidance for our conservation programs. We greatly appreciate their assistance, understanding and support for our forest conservation and invasive species management programs on Moloka'i.

We believe Karen Poepoe to be an excellent choice for membership on the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony in support of her appointment.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Bill D. Mills (1991-1995), Jeffrey N. Watanabe (1995-2004), David C. Cole (2004-2008), Duncan MacNaughton (2008-2011)



February 6, 2013, 3 p.m., Conference Room 224, Hawaii State Capitol

To: Senate Committee on Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs (thatestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senator Malama Solomon, Chair  
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

From: Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club  
Kitty Muller Simonds, Pelekikena (President)

Re: GM 659 Submitting for consideration and nomination to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, FRANCES KALUHIWA, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

GM 660 Submitting for consideration and nomination to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, PIILANI KAAWALOA, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

GM 661 Submitting for consideration and nomination to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH ROBINSON, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

GM 662 Submitting for consideration and nomination to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, KYLE NAKANELUA, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

GM 663 Submitting for consideration and nomination to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, WINIFRED BASQUES, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

GM 664 Submitting for consideration and nomination to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, LESLIE KULOLOIO, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

GM 665 Submitting for consideration and nomination to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, KAREN POEPOE, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

GM 666 Submitting for consideration and nomination to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, THOMAS HASHIMOTO, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

## In Support

### Chairs and Committee Members:

Each of the eight persons before you today who have been nominated by Governor Neil Abercrombie for consideration as a member of the inaugural Aha Moku Advisory Committee, if confirmed, will be tasked with an enormous responsibility. Each will agree to represent the fishermen, the farmers, the educators, and the native and non-native communities of his or her moku-puni.

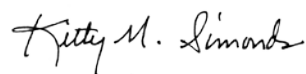
To represent the people, the Aha Moku adviser must organize his or her life to meet with the people, to hear and consider their concerns, and to bring forward to the chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and to the Hawaii State Legislature the will of the people, even if it might differ from the adviser's own personal will.

Each of the eight persons before you today is bearing the weight of those who have worked since 2005 to revive the Aha Moku system in Hawai'i. Several of the kupuna who supported this movement are now gone. We honor them by continuing to reach out to all of the people of Hawai'i to realize their vision.

The Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club is one of the organizations that have actively supported Aha Moku movement over the years. We brought the Aha Moku initiative to the Association of Hawaii Civic Clubs, which in 2011 adopted the Resolution we co-sponsored with the Kuini Pi'olani Hawaiian Civic Club "urging the State of Hawai'i to formally recognize and make efforts to support the development of the Aha Moku system of natural resource management and to establish the Aha Ki'ole Advisory Commission within the Department of Land and Natural Resources to provide guidance in the management of natural resources in Hawai'i." The Association's Resolution was forwarded to the Hawai'i State Legislature and is part of the history of development of the legislation that created the Aha Moku Advisory Committee.

As an entity that has a stake in the Aha Moku system, the Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club is strongly concerned that the members of this inaugural Aha Moku Advisory Committee take their responsibilities to heart so that the Aha Moku system succeeds for the benefit of Hawai'i and all of the people who live and visit here.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.





## **Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs**

P. O. Box 1135  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

JOINT SENATE COMMITTEES ON

TOURISM AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
AND  
WATER AND LAND

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGES 659 – 666**  
RELATING TO THE AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, February 6, 2013; 3:00pm; Room 224

Aloha Chairman Galuteria and Madam Chair Solomon of the joint committees to hear Governor's Messages 659 – 666. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs supports the confirmation of the following well qualified persons as members of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee: Frances Leialoha Kaluhiwa, Piilani Kaawaloa, Keith Robinson, Kyle Nakanelua, Winifred Basques, Leslie Kuloloio, Karen Poepoe and Thomas Hashimoto.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs supported the Aha Moku concept when it began in 2007, encouraged its members through the growing pains and years that followed, grieved at the loss of treasured comrades and finally, we offer our congratulations as you are officially recognized!

You have our trust as you move forward to preserve, perpetuate and share your special knowledge of Hawaiian culture and traditions. The Civic Clubs look forward to working with you as you build and solidify your organization. Congratulations once again, this has been a long time coming.

Contact: [jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net)



# **Indigenous Consultants, LL**

**Mililani B. Trask, Principal**

P.O.Box 6377 ❖ Hilo, HI 96720

[Mililani.trask@gmail.com](mailto:Mililani.trask@gmail.com)



**Bill #: GM 659,660,661,662,663,664,665, & 666**

**Hearing Date: Wednesday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Room: 224**

**Committee: THA/WTL**

## **Testimony of Mililani B. Trask in Strong Support**

**Aloha Legislators,**

**I am happy to submit this testimony in support of the members of the Aha Moku Council: Frances Kaluhiwa, Piilani Kaawaloa, Keith Robinson, Kyle Nakanelua, Winifred Basques, Les Kuloloio, Karen Poepoe and Thomas Hashimito. The nominees are good people, good Hawaiians and traditional knowledge holders who are known in our community because of their work regarding the management & care of our precious natural resources. These folks, collectively, are well equipped to advise the State on matters relating to the public trust resources. Between them, they share a vast wealth of knowledge about our marine & land based natural resources, knowledge that is vital if these resources are to be preserved for future generations.**

**For many years there has been an ongoing effort to bring the Hawaiian traditional knowledge holders into the resource management programs & projects of the DLNR on ceded lands & submerged lands. It is well accepted globally, that indigenous knowledge holders possess the understanding & cultural knowledge of generations relating to their traditional lands, territories and resources. Because of this, they can play a significant role in resource management, development & preservation. Initially, the legislation provided that the Aha Moku would be advisory to the Governor, however this has been changed, and the Aha is now advising the DLNR.**

**I want to recognize & acknowledge the efforts of LEIMANA DEMATE, who currently serves as a DHHL Commissioner for Hawaii Island. Because of Leimana's dedication & leadership, the legislation for the Aha Moku progressed. Leimana's vision & determination has been the foundation of this**

**effort from the outset. The history of this measure serves as a prototype model for all in the Hawaiian community, it demonstrates that by working collectively with others & having faith in the legislative process, Hawaiians can succeed in our efforts to incorporate into State policy our treasured cultural knowledge. Imua Aha Moku Council.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mililani B. Trask', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Mililani B. Trask  
Na Koa Ikaika KaLahui Hawaii  
Affiliate to the Indigenous World Association,  
ECO-SOC U.N. Credential**

# GM 665

**Measure Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAREN POEPOE, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

**Report Title:** Aha Moku Advisory Committee

**Description:**

**Companion:**

**Package:**

**Current Referral:** THA/WTL

**Introducer(s):**

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
1/29/2013	S	Received.
1/29/2013	S	Referred to THA/WTL.
1/31/2013	S	The committee(s) on THA/WTL has scheduled a public hearing on 02-06-13 3:00PM in conference room 224.



**GM665**

Submitted on: 2/5/2013

Testimony for THA/WTL on Feb 6, 2013 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Annie Au Hoon, President	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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