

GM 668

Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, **BENJAMIN SHAFER**, for a term to expire 6-30-2015

Benjamin D. Shafer
52.210 Kamehameha Highway
Hauula, Hawaii 96717
808.222.3138
bdshafer@gmail.com

Hawaii State Capital
State Senator Malama Solomon, PH.D.
Senate Committee on Water and Land
415 Beretania Street, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 22, 2013

RE: Response to the Nomination to Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council questionnaire

Aloha mai Honorable Senator Malama Solomon and Senate Water and Land Committee Members,

1. I want to become part of the Kahana Planning Council (KPC) because it is my kuleana to be invested in the place where I, my mother, grandparents and great grandparents live or have lived.
2. KPC members represent different facets within and outside of the community and government entities. Committee member bring their experiences, talents and gifts into creating a Master Plan that has been lacking for over thirty-plus years.
3. My grandfather Daniel Beirne left many examples for the community and I learn and stay involved. He did things for the community such building a bridge for Kamakaniau Road(Trout Farm Rd), the first sheltered bus stop in Kahana for children waiting for the school bus, rebuilding the water line on Kahana Valley Road for homes, starting the Hui O' Ko'olauloa Canoe Club. As a teen, I learned the importance of doing more by his good example, especially since he made it a family event. I served in the Air Force (4 yrs.) and the Air Force Reserve (6 yrs.). I went on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in California. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. While at BYUH, I worked as a clerk for the Kahana Advisory Council (KAC#1) and was part of the 1986 Development Plan submitted to BLNR by the KAC. I later became the Co-Chair of the KAC until the committee ended. In 1997, the KAC#2 was re-started and I became Co-Chair with Aunty Pikake Pelekai at which time a mission statement, goals, and credit hour definitions were created with the kokua of many meeting with residents and DLNR representatives. This Council was closed as many in the community were working on projects; i.e. fishpond, loi's, awai's projects. Governor Linda Lingle appointed me 3 years ago to the KPC of which I was a holdover for two.
4. I hope to accomplish at the very least the structure of the Master Plan in Kahana
5. Qualities include patient, focused, fair. At times, I have been known to be impatient and rude.
6. It was at the earlier meetings of the KPC. My sibling's interest came up for a vote. I refused to vote as I felt it was a conflict of interest.
7. The Ethic Commission ruled on the above situation that I could have voted without conflict. I still feel compelled to present the facts, state the conflict of interest and recuse myself from voting.

If there are any other questions that I could be of with, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Mahalo nui loa kakou,

Benjamin D. Shafer

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

ESTHER KIA'AINA
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

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

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Thursday, March 7, 2013
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 668
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
KAHANA VALLEY LIVING PARK PLANNING COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, BENJAMIN SHAFER, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) is in support of Governor's Message 668, on the nomination of Benjamin Shafer to the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council (KPC), for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Mr. Shafer was appointed to the KPC from 2009 to June 30, 2011 when his first term expired. He has since been serving as a holdover member and was elected council Chair in July 2012. Together with his family, Ben has supported and been actively engaged in interpretive activities that seek to enhance the cultural enrichment of visitors to Ahupua'a 'O Kahana State Park, utilizing the talents and abilities of its residents.

His personal knowledge of the ahupua'a history combined with his dedication to the promotion of Hawaiian cultural values and practices has helped him to lead the efforts for the Huilua Fishpond restoration and the koa canoe.

The Department urges this Committee to recommend the confirmation of Mr. Shafer's appointment to the full Senate and appreciate having the chance to express my support.

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Malama Solomon, Chair

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and

Committee Members

RE: Testimony for the GM 668 Appointment of Benjamin Daniel Shafer for the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council to expire 06-30-2015

Aloha Chairman Malama Solomon and Vice-Chair Maile Shimabukuro and Committee Members,

I am Danielle Ululani Beirne, resident of the Ahupua'a O Kahana and a member of the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council to expire 06-30-2016. Having worked with Mr. Shafer in Kahana for the last twenty years, I submit my testimony in support of his appointment by Governor Neil Abercrombie.

Benjamin Shafer can always be counted on for support on all matters and issues related to Kahana and is 'ohana oriented, showing concern for all in his family and the community of Kahana. He has served as the President of Friends of Kahana for the last twenty years and we have not been able to find anyone as dedicated as Benjamin Shafer for the job as he is the one that keeps our project at the Huilua Fishpond a viable project for all willing to share in the experience.

Outside of the Ahupua'a O Kahana, he is employed by the movie industry with hopes of perpetuating the culture of Hawai'i for all to include our visitors. He is also involved in environmental issues as "Save the Northshore" from development that will affect our rural lifestyle rather than benefit the communities. He has attended every meeting for the last 20 years regarding Kahana since we finally were able to obtain leases in Kahana in 1993, after condemnation by eminent domain in 1965. He is a graduate of Castle High School in 1976, completed his military duty by serving in the Air Force for four years and the Reserves for another six years. Mr Shafer also served on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Fresno, California for two years and completed his Bachelors degree at Brigham Young University-Hawai'i campus in Political Science.

Benjamin Shafer served on the Kahana Advisory Committee with persons as Pikake Pelekai who offered Kahana the key objectives of Malama Kupuna, Malama 'Aina and all that keeps Kahana intact. He has also served on the Kahana Community Association and on many committees. Community issues may vary, but service is what community members give of themselves when they care about their communities. Although priorities change in our lives, one of them has never changed for Ben nor for the rest of us serving on the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council and that is to serve our people by moving towards providing the best

possible plans for our future. The plans are all there, they are on our website for the Ahupua'a O Kahana. It's a matter of pulling all those documents needed together for a Master Plan. I believe Mr. Shafer is capable of working together with the rest of us as a team to provide this document for the State of Hawai'i.

As a reminder, Mr. Shafer first appointment expired earlier and he was kept as a holdover in which case he continued to serve. By June 2013, two more appointees will be expiring. We need those positions filled to complete the task we are charged with completing. The position for the Public still needs to be filled.

Again, this is a letter of support for GM 668 for Benjamin Daniel Shafer. Any and all consideration is greatly appreciated.

Owau me ka ha' ha'a

Danielle Ululani Beirne

Cc: Lauren Tanaka, May Au, Ralph Makaiau, Lena Soliven, Erwin Kahala