

GM 693

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, AMBER WHITEHEAD, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Report Title: Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: WTL

Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
3/1/2013	S	Received.
3/1/2013	S	Referred to WTL.
3/20/2013	S	The committee(s) on WTL has scheduled a public hearing on 03-28-13 1:15PM in conference room 225.

TESTIMONY OF
AMBER NĀMAKA WHITEHEAD
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND LAND
ON
MARCH 28, 2013

G.M. 693

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, AMBER NĀMAKA WHITEHEAD, for a term to expire June 30, 2016.

Aloha Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee. Mahalo for the opportunity to appear before you today.

Mahalo to Governor Neil Abercrombie and the members of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana for nominating me to serve a second term on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. Mahalo, as well, to everyone who submitted supporting testimony on my behalf and to those in attendance today. I truly consider it an honor and a privilege to be able to serve the island of Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe in this manner.

I have always had a strong passion and love for land, water, native species, and native ecosystems. I was born and raised in Pāpā, South Kona to a family with a long history of living close to the land. We subsist till today on rainwater caught from the sky, raise much of our own food, and value our intimate relationship with and knowledge of the biological resources, landforms, and weather patterns of our home.

I feel strongly that 'āina is the source of ancestral identity and cultural well-being, and have dedicated my education and career to the stewardship and restoration of healthy functioning native ecosystems. I hold bachelor degrees in Hawaiian Studies and Botany, and am currently a PhD candidate in Botany at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. My dissertation research focuses on the integration of Hawaiian cultural knowledge and values into resource stewardship practices, with a focus on the wild-gathering, regeneration, and dispersal of maile. In addition, I have been employed since 2004 as Ecologist for the Land Assets Division of the

Kamehameha Schools. In this position, I am responsible for native ecosystems restoration and protection initiatives across Kamehameha Schools landholdings.

My relationship with the island of Kaho'olawe began in 1994, while I was a freshman at the Kamehameha Schools. Our visit to Kaho'olawe with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana opened my eyes to a new depth of cultural practice and worldview. Since then, as I have grown and matured, so too has my relationship with the island of Kaho'olawe matured. I have seen the end of the bombing, the partial clean-up of unexploded ordinance, and the transfer of title to the State of Hawai'i. I have planted native seedlings, scattered seeds, and controlled invasive weeds. I have been certified as a UXO-trained safety access guide and have facilitated safe and meaningful use by thousands of cultural practitioners, students, and other volunteers. I have participated in and led ceremony, entreated Kāne and Lono for rain, and channeled the cleansing and productive energies of Papa and Haumea for environmental growth.

In 2008, I was honored to be nominated and confirmed to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. Among the Commission's many accomplishments of the past five years, are the following:

1. Increased the acreage of land covered in native vegetation.
2. Cut annual budget 54%, from \$6.08M in FY08 to \$2.79M in FY13, while maintaining critical reserve operations
3. Adopted *Kūkulu Ke Ea a Kanaloa- The Culture Plan for Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe*, a visionary work by the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation, intended to elevate cultural knowledge, practice, and stewardship
4. Initiated an island-circling coastal trail, to allow for increased safe and meaningful access for the purposes of Hawaiian cultural practice, resource protection, environmental restoration, and education
5. Increased the number of UXO-safety trained Access Guides among Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission staff and stewardship organization leaders by 480% from 8 in FY08 to 39 in FY13
6. Initiated an inclusive stakeholder-based strategic planning process to guide the united and collective stewardship of Kaho'olawe Island into the future

It is my strong belief that with our collaborative history of quality ecological research, novel environmental restoration strategies, and groundbreaking cultural inquiry and practice, along with our intended transfer to the Hawaiian sovereign governing entity, the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve is uniquely positioned to become a model for exemplary indigenous resources management in Hawai'i. During my five year tenure on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, I have encouraged the integration of Hawaiian values and knowledge into all aspects of management of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve, and will continue to contribute this perspective, should I be confirmed for a second term of service

Mahalo again for your consideration of my nomination. Please know, in closing, that I am deeply committed to the continued healing of Kanaloa- Kaho'olawe, its management as a Hawaiian cultural reserve for eventual transfer to the Hawaiian sovereign governing entity, and the fulfillment of the mission of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, "to implement the vision for Kaho'olawe in which the kino of Kanaloa is restored and na po'e Hawai'i care for the land."

Aloha 'Āina.

Amber Nāmaka Whitehead

Pāpā, South Kona, Hawai'i Island

"I CAN'T IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE THAT DOESN'T
EXIST... THERE HAS TO BE A PLACE WHERE
A HAWAIIAN CAN STAND IN THE FOREST AND
HEAR THE NATIVE BIRDS AND SMELL THE
COOL MOUNTAIN AIR"

[THE SCIENTIST]

NĀMAKA
WHITEHEAD

ECOLOGIST

Age: 33

CURRENTLY: Ecologist,
Land Assets Division,
Kamehameha Schools

EDUCATION: B.A. Hawaiian
Studies and Botany
(UH Mānoa); Ph.D.
Botany (UH Mānoa)

HIGHLIGHTS: Protect
Kaho'olawe 'Ohana
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve
Commissioner; access
guide for PKO, with
training in identification of
unexploded ordinance as
well as safety and health
procedures; responsible
for Kamehameha Schools'
stewardship management
of natural resources across
360,000 acres of land on
5 islands.

"We fought for so much...
With Kaho'olawe, they
fought to stop the
bombing and now it's our
generation's responsibility
to mālama, to take care
of that island." Nāmaka
Whitehead was 14 years
old when she first stepped
foot on Kaho'olawe soil,
and caring for that land
has been a big part of her
life. But before and since
then, she has cared not
just for Kaho'olawe, but
also for native Hawaiian
ecosystems.

Whitehead applied eight
years ago for what she
described as her dream
job with Kamehameha
Schools. She has been
working there ever since.
Her work with Kame-
hameha Schools is an
expression of her love
for the land. This love
is deeply rooted in her
family and her experiences
outside the classroom.
She has been active with
the Protect Kaho'olawe
'Ohana since her first visit
and currently serves as a
KIRC Commissioner.

Whitehead effort-
lessly weaves Hawaiian
knowledge together with
her science education
to express the love for
the 'āina that drives her
devotion to stewardship
of both the land and its in-
habitants. "I can't imagine
a world where that doesn't
exist... There has to be a
place where a Hawaiian
can stand in the forest and
hear the native birds and
smell the cool mountain
air, you know, feel the
wetness and the life. It has
to exist."



PHOTO: OHANA PHOTOGRAPHY

DID WE MISS SOMEONE?

Visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/manamagazine) to discuss who you would put on a list of young, influential Hawaiians.



KŪKULUKE EĀ A KĀNALOA

KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793
Telephone (808) 243-5020 Fax (808) 243-5885
Website: <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov>

COMMISSION MEMBERS

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N. EMMETT ALULI, M.D.
C. KALIKO BAKER, PhD.
COLETTE Y. MACHADO

Michael K. Nāho'opi'i
Executive Director

TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL NAHO'OPI'I, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

On GM 693, For Consideration and Confirmation of AMBER NAMAKA WHITEHEAD as
Gubernatorial Nominee to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

Before the
SENATE WATER AND LAND COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 28, 2013, 1:15pm. Room 225

Aloha Chairperson Solomon, Vice-Chairperson Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee. Governor's Message No. 693 nominates Amber Namaka Whitehead to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in the seat reserved for a representative of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO). On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express our **strong support for Commissioner Whitehead and recommend his confirmation to a term with the KIRC** that will expire in June 2016.

A graduate of Kamehameha Schools in 1997, Namaka went on to earn a B.A. in Hawaiian Studies and Botany from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in 2002. She currently is enrolled in the Department of Botany in a PhD program specializing in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology. Since 2004, Namaka has been employed by the Kamehameha Schools as an Ecologist for lands on Hawai'i, O'ahu, Kaua'i, and Maui. Namaka manages the natural resources, stewardship activities and partnerships for over 360,000 acres of land and she oversees and is responsible for a budget of 2 million dollars.

With the activities and achievements noted above, Namaka has been actively involved with the PKO for over 14 years. With each experience Namaka has grown and dedicated much of her time and her young life to caring for Kaho'olawe. With each year of growth, she has also acquired more and more responsibility and has become an Access Guide for the PKO which requires attention and responsibility to participants in visits to Kaho'olawe, to the operations undertaken by the PKO and to general caring for Kaho'olawe itself. Namaka has been trained in health and safety measures, in ordnance identification, in cultural customs and practices.

Commissioner Whitehead has been serving as a member of the KIRC since her initial appointment in 2008. Since that time, Commissioner Whitehead has taken a guiding role the restoration and deeper understanding of the Reserve.

Commissioner Whitehead's life experiences and foresight speak volumes to the type of dedicated person she is to her environment, to the Hawaiian culture and to Kaho'olawe. She will be and already is an asset to the resource issues and policy issues facing the KIRC. As a commissioner her leadership and expertise will take the KIRC and Kaho'olawe into a new era.



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

Senate Committee on Water and Land

March 28, 2013 at 1:15 pm
Conference Room 225

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 693
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, AMBER N. WHITEHEAD,
to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

Aloha e Chair Solomon, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land. My name is Joshua Kaakua of Waimanalo, Oahu and I am presenting official testimony of behalf of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana ('Ohana) in SUPPORT of GM 693 Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, AMBER NAMAKA WHITEHEAD, 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 its process to develop a list of qualified individuals, from which Governor Lingle appointed Ms. Amber Namaka Whitehead. Ms. Whitehead has been serving on the KIRC since July 2008 and is currently serving as Vice-Chair of the commission.

This nominee will support the KIRC's important mission "*to implement the vision for Kaho'olawe, in which the kino of Kanaloa is restored, and na po'e Hawai'i care for the land.*" An ecologist by training, Ms. Whitehead manages 360,000 acres of precious lands across the state for the Kamehameha Schools Land Assets Division. She earned her Bachelor's degrees in Botany and Hawaiian Studies from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Botany (ABD). Ms. Whitehead is committed to the stewardship and restoration of healthy functioning native ecosystems and holds a strong position that 'aina is the source of ancestral identity and cultural well-being.

Namaka has a deep love and understanding of Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe. She has been a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana since 1994 and exhibits all of the qualities we seek in our *Kua*, *na'auao*, *mālama*, *kuleana*, and *aloha*. She knows what Kaho'olawe feels like at different times of the day, where the Sun rises at different times of the year, and what the wind sounds like at different parts of the island. I believe she also has a sound understanding of what Kaho'olawe means to different people: the first-time visitor/volunteer from Oahu, the "early warrior," the cultural practitioner from Hawaii Island, the kupuna who watch from Maui and Lanai, and the future generations. In 2004, Ms. Whitehead underwent training and certification in the identification of unexploded ordinance and the safety measures and procedures related to Kaho'olawe UXO. She has also been trained in and is knowledgeable about the various cultural customs and practices that have been a part of the restoration of the cultural resources of Kaho'olawe. As a Commissioner, her understanding of the island will inform broader policy, better practice, and decision-making.

This is an important time for the KIRC, State, and Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe and Ms. Whitehead's passion, experience, and willingness to be renewed for second 4-year term supports the Commission in its valuable work. Mahalo for your attention to the 'Ohana testimony in support of AMBER NAMAKA WHITEHEAD's consideration and confirmation.

Aloha 'Āina



Joshua Kaakua
Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana

Digitally signed by JOSHUA KAAKUA
Date: 2013.03.23 23:40:28 -10'00'

Piikea Tomczyk

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 2:04 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: seanomurf@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM693 on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM*

GM693

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for WTL on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: 2kahaualea@gmail.com
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GM693

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for WTL on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kylee Mar	Individual	Support	No

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To: WTLTestimony
Cc: nauilei@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM693 on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM*

GM693

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nau'ilei'ilima Murphy	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted on: 3/27/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kawaiolimaikamapuna Hoe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: kawehim@hawaii.edu
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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kawehi Murphy	Individual	Support	No

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Murphy	Individual	Support	No

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Piikea Tomczyk

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To: WTLTestimony
Cc: atsushi4@hawaii.edu
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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
atsushi sawada	Individual	Support	No

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To: WTLTestimony
Cc: john.boyden@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM693 on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM*

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Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for WTL on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Boyden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: WTLTestimony
Cc: kaianahaili@hawaii.rr.com
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GM693

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for WTL on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaiana Haili	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: kapoliahiika@gmail.com
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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Shim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Piikea Tomczyk

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Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 10:44 AM
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Cc: daviddebos@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM693 on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM*

GM693

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for WTL on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
david debos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Piikea Tomczyk

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To: WTLTestimony
Cc: mariebro@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM693 on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM

GM693

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for WTL on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marie Alohani Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support Amber Nāmaka Whitehead for this position.

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Cc: oopu_5@yahoo.com
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GM693

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for WTL on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Wheeler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Piikea Tomczyk

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Cc: brutusluv@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM693 on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM

GM693

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for WTL on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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Blake Brutus La Benz	Individual	Support	No
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Comments: I am in full support of Ms. Whitehead serving on the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission. Mahalo.

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TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER
AND LAND

By
Ka'iulani Murphy

IN SUPPORT OF GM 693 CONFIRMATION OF AMBER NĀMAKA WHITEHEAD
TO THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION (KIRC)

Aloha Chairperson Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

My name is Ka'iulani Murphy and I am submitting testimony in strong support of GM 693 Confirmation of Amber Nāmaka Whitehead to the KIRC.

Nāmaka and I have known each other for twenty years, we lived in the same dormitory while attending Kamehameha Schools. We have remained close friends since that time, and I have proudly witnessed her growth as a young leader amongst our 'ōiwi community. During her freshman year in high school Nāmaka first visited Kanaloa Kaho'olawe and her passion to care for the island has grown from that time. In 2004 she began working as the only Ecologist with Kamehameha Schools Land Assets Division, having the great kuleana to manage natural resources initiatives on Kamehameha's lands across our pae 'āina. Concurrently she has been working towards her PhD in Botany at UH Mānoa.

Having served a short two-year term as a Commissioner for the KIRC myself (representing Native Hawaiian organizations), I had the privilege to serve alongside Nāmaka who had already been on the Commission for two years before my appointment. She represents the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana with pride and humility, professionalism and expertise, and brings extensive knowledge with years of experience to fulfill the mission of the KIRC and further the healing of the island of Kaho'olawe. Nāmaka's deep sense of kuleana to her lāhui, her passion and commitment to Kanaloa Kaho'olawe and her solid foundation in cultural knowledge, practices and stewardship make her well qualified to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share my strong support of Amber Nāmaka Whitehead's reappointment to the KIRC.

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

BY
KASHA HO'OKILI HO

IN SUPPORT OF GM 693 CONFIRMATION OF AMBER NAMAKA WHITEHEAD TO THE
KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION (KIRC)

Aloha Chairperson Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

My name is Kasha Ho'okili Ho, and I am submitting testimony in support of GM 693 Confirmation of Amber Namaka Whitehead to the KIRC. I have been a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO) for the past 11 years, and wholeheartedly support Namaka Whitehead's nomination to serve on the KIRC. Namaka Whitehead's strength in leadership and grounded spiritual practice have been a personal for me, and I know for others witnessing her tireless work for Kaho'olawe, both within the PKO and as a KIRC Commissioner.

Namaka Whitehead is an ecologist for the Kamehameha Schools Land Assets Division since 2004, responsible for management of natural resources initiatives on Kamehameha lands islandwide. As such, she is affiliated with the broader Hawaiian community through her work with the Kamehameha Schools. Namaka is committed to the stewardship and restoration of healthy functioning native ecosystems on Kanaloa Kaho'olawe and throughout our islands. She holds a strong position that the 'āina is the source of ancestral identity and cultural well-being.

Whitehead is spiritually grounded in our traditional cultural practices of Lonoikamakahiki and Kāne and committed to the revival and flourishing of diverse Native Hawaiian cultural and spiritual practices on Kaho'olawe. As a botanist, Whitehead has a special expertise that is valuable for the restoration of the Kanaloa Kaho'olawe's natural resources.

The appointment of a young makua generation Hawaiian botanist will provide for a transition of leadership to the next generation of leaders for Kaho'olawe and our Lāhui. I humbly request your support to confirm Namaka Whitehead to serve a second term on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

BY
Kevin K.J Chang

IN SUPPORT OF GM 693 CONFIRMATION OF AMBER NAMAKA WHITEHEAD TO THE
KAHO'OLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION (KIRC)

Aloha Chairperson Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

My name is Kevin K.J. Chang and I am submitting testimony in support GM 693:Confirmation of Amber Namaka Whitehead to the KIRC.

Namaka Whitehead, is a friend of mine from a time past when I was blessed with the opportunity to witness her grow as young upcoming scholar and practitioner of mālama 'āina. I have also had the privilege to work with and learn from her as an ecologist for the Kamehameha Schools Land Assets Division in my former capacity as a Land Manager for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Her thoughtful, cultural and humble approach to her work often leaves people inspired and touched, moved and amazed. Namaka embodies the values we most often reminisce about our community and I believe she will carry these forward through her service on the KIRC commission.

I also believe Namaka is committed to the stewardship and restoration of healthy functioning native ecosystems on Kanaloa Kaho'olawe and throughout our islands. I have seen this not just in what she says but in her praxis. As a part of new generation she is enlivening the ideas of the past with contemporary actions in the present, an informed perspective that the KIRC needs.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of Namaka she is becoming the hero for our community that I knew she would always be.

Pūpūkahi i holomua e ho'okanaka.

Kevin

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
BY
ANELA M.K. EVANS
IN SUPPORT OF GM 693 CONFIRMATION OF AMBER NĀMAKA WHITEHEAD TO THE
KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

Aloha Chairperson Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

My name is Anela Evans and I am submitting testimony in support of GM 693 Confirmation of Ms. Amber Nāmaka Whitehead to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I have known Ms. Whitehead since 2005 when I had the opportunity to meet and learn from her during a huaka'i (trip) to the island of Kaho'olawe.

Ms. Whitehead has been a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana since 1994. She holds a strong position that the 'āina is the source of ancestral identity and cultural well-being and has worked tirelessly to help to restore Kaho'olawe and inspire others to do the same. She is committed to the stewardship and restoration of healthy, functioning ecosystems on Kaho'olawe and throughout our islands.

As a botanist, Ms. Whitehead has a special expertise that is valuable for the restoration of Kaho'olawe's natural resources. She is spiritually grounded in our traditional cultural practices of Lonoikamakahiki and Kāne and dedicated to managing the island as a Native Hawaiian cultural reserve for eventual transfer to the Native Hawaiian sovereign governing entity.

Ms. Whitehead holds a professional career as a botanist for the Kamehameha Schools Land Assets Division, allowing her to be affiliated with the broader Hawaiian community.

I humbly ask you to confirm Governor Abercrombie's appointment of Ms. Amber Nāmaka Whitehead's appointment to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. I believe that Ms. Whitehead's appointment will aid in providing for a transition of leadership to the next generation of leaders for Kaho'olawe and our Lāhui.

Mahalo for your consideration. Aloha 'Āina.

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND LAND

BY
Kelvin Ho

IN SUPPORT OF GM 693 CONFIRMATION OF AMBER NAMAKA
WHITEHEAD TO THE KAHO'OLAWA ISLAND RESERVE
COMMISSION (KIRC)

Aloha Chairperson Solomon and members of the Senate Committee on
Water and Land.

My name is Kelvin Ho and I am submitting testimony in support of GM 693 Confirmation of Amber Namaka Whitehead to the KIRC. I have known Namaka from when she first came to Kaho`olawe and have witnessed her growth into a truly amazing leader in the native community. I am certain you know of the all the qualifications she has that enable her to serve the community so well and be so respected at a young age. She relates to the world with the perspective of a botanist and sees the relationship of man and nature clearly. On a cultural level she leads the rain and planting ceremonies on island that focus the commitment for the healing and revegetation of the Kaho`olawe. Her leadership skills are evident in her position of kuleana for such a large and diverse area of land with KS. I believe her love of the land and resulting commitment for stewardship come from her family rooted upbringing in south Kona and awakened into maturity on Kaho`olawe. We are certain she is of the highest caliber of skill and mindset, and that her na`au is deeply connected through her love for this sacred land. Please received our full support for her re appointment from Kaua`i

Mahalo,
Kelvin Ho

Piikea Tomczyk

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 3:10 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: tcolleencole@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM693 on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM

GM693

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for WTL on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colleen Cole	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support the nomination of Amber Whitehead to serve on the KIRC.

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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Piikea Tomczyk

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 4:15 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: canoetree@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM693 on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM*

GM693

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for WTL on Mar 28, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tagi qolouvaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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