

# GM 794

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, JUDITH LEMUS, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Report Title: Kaneohe Bay Regional Council

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: WTL

Introducer(s):

<u>Sort by</u> <u>Date</u>		<b>Status Text</b>
4/2/2013	S	Received.
4/2/2013	S	Referred to WTL.
4/4/2013	S	The committee(s) on WTL has scheduled a public hearing on 04-16-13 1:15PM in conference room 225.

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council?

As a member of the faculty at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, I have been asked to serve on the KBRC to represent the perspective of the scientists and educators at the primary academic research facility in Kaneohe Bay. Because I feel it is important for current scientific understanding to be considered in the implementation of the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan, I am happy to serve in this role on behalf of HIMB.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the KBRC?

It is my understanding that Council members are to accurately represent the interests and perspectives of their "constituents" in considering proposals and plans that are related to the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan and the needs and uses of Kaneohe Bay. In this case, my constituents would include the faculty and staff at HIMB, the University of Hawaii, the partners with whom we work in Kaneohe Bay, including other research and education institutions and community organizations, as well as the community at large that relies on Kaneohe Bay for ecosystem services. Therefore, Council members should be familiar with the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan. Council members also serve to educate the public about issues related to Kaneohe Bay and make recommendations to the State and County of Honolulu on matters relating uses of the Bay or possible studies that will provide additional information about Kaneohe Bay.

3. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the KBRC, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the KBRC.

I am a faculty member at HIMB with a background in marine biology and specializing in education with direct access to all of the researchers, students and staff that contribute important scientific information about the Kaneohe Bay ecosystem. Through my interaction and collaboration with colleagues, I will be able to offer perspectives on biological, chemical and physical processes and interactions that contribute to the healthy functioning of the ecosystem. Within my own work, for the past five years I have been collaborating with community organizations in Kaneohe Bay to help extend science research information to Kaneohe Bay residents. I have been participating in meetings regarding the selection of a NOAA NERRS site in Hawaii (at the request of HIMB Director Dr. Jo-Ann Leong) and the development of a NOAA sentinel site in Kaneohe Bay. I have attended meetings related to the redesign of Castle School Complex and worked collaboratively with Youth Service Hawaii and KEY Project (Kahalu'u) on a proposal to initiate marine science based service learning for middle school students in Kaneohe Bay. I also host visiting college student and teacher groups on Coconut Island to learn about the coral reefs of Kaneohe Bay. I am currently a member of the Board of Directors for Paepae o He'eia and hold the Education Alternate seat on the Sanctuary Advisory Council of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. In a broader context, I have served on the Board of Directors of the National Marine Educators Association and the planning committee of the International Pacific Marine Educators Network.

4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope to respectfully and accurately offer advisement on issues coming before the Council that reflect current scientific and educational understanding and practices as they relate to the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan and the needs of Kaneohe Bay.

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out? How would these qualities benefit the KBRC?

- 1) I am comfortable conversing with both scientists and community members; I have a science background and a community perspective.
  - This will allow me to both confer with and relate to a wide variety of perspectives.
- 2) I am thorough in my approach.
  - This means that I will take my responsibilities seriously and always study all aspects of a given issue.
- 3) I am able to view and consider issues from a logical and objective perspective.
  - This means that my perspective and opinions will be based on the best available information and data, rather than emotion.

6. Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the KBRC?

Within six months of arriving at HIMB, I consulted with community organizations and began working to develop a place- and culture-based paid community research internship in Kaneohe Bay. Collaborating with Paepae o He'eia, I secured funding from the National Science Foundation for such a program based at He'eia fishpond. This program offers students and community members of all ages the opportunity to work with UH graduate students conducting scientific research in He'eia fishpond to understand some of the biological, geological, and chemical processes that may be important in restoring the fishpond. Called "Laulima A 'Ike Pono", participants learn scientific methods for collecting data, as well as cultural history and practices from multiple science and cultural mentors during their six-month paid internship. Interns then present what they have learned back to Paepae o He'eia staff at a culmination event with local food. Over three years, this program has supported approximately 40 community interns.

I believe this project exemplifies my interests and ability to bring science and community together and respect multiple knowledge systems toward better understanding and sustaining Kaneohe Bay.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the KBRC? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I do not currently see any conflicts of interest. However, should one arise, while on the KBRC, my responsibility will be to uphold and act according to the parameters defined within the KBRC charter and the Kaneohe Bay Master Plan.



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

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

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

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

**Tuesday, April 16, 2013  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 794  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE KANEOHE  
BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JUDITH LEMUS, FOR  
A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015.**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the Governor's nomination of Dr. Judith Lemus to the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2015 (Governor's Message 794).**

The Department welcomes the wealth of knowledge and wisdom that Dr. Lemus will bring to the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council. Dr. Lemus works closely with the Paepae o He'eia where she supports public information and education initiatives and currently serves as its Secretary. She is a marine science and education specialist at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii. For over 20 years, Dr. Lemus worked to develop collaborative partnerships that promote community-science interactions, integrate science and culture, and provide professional development opportunities for both young and established scientists. She served on the boards of both regional and national science education organizations. She is currently the lead PI and director of the National Science Foundation "Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence" in Hawaii (COSEE Island Earth). She will be a valuable asset to the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council.

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA**

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

April 11, 2013

To: Senator Malama Solomon, Ph. D.  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senate District 4  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210

Senator Maile Shimabukuro  
Vice Chair, Senate  
Senate District 21  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222

From: Jo-Ann C. Leong, Ph. D.  
Professor & Director  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
SOEST, UH Manoa  
PO Box 1346, Kaneohe, HI



RE: Nomination of Dr. Judy Lemus to the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council

Support

Honorable Malama Solomon and Honorable Maile Shimabukuro:

Dr. Judy Lemus is a faculty member at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) and she is nominated to be the representative for the HIMB seat on the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council. Dr. Lemus is a tenured Associate Research specialist whose expertise in Marine Biology and Education has been invaluable to HIMB because she connects the research efforts of HIMB scientists to the community. She has a strong commitment to the bringing research experiences to the Kaneohe Bay community.

She has obtained NSF grant funding for community research internships in partnership with *Paepae o He'eia* to give students and community members the experience of working with UH graduate students on scientific research at *He'eia* fishpond. Designed to introduce the community members to the biological, geological and chemical processes that may be important in restoring the fishpond, the effort "Laulima A 'Ike Pono" has helped the surrounding neighborhood embrace the concept of fishpond restoration.

Dr. Lemus is the Director of COSEE Island Earth, a Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence, and NSF program which is centered on Hawaiian Islands Science. Her efforts in this field are nationally recognized. She has helped designed the internship programs for providing internships for our local students in the NOAA offices in Honolulu. Those experiences have resulted in actual job offers for the interns. Unfortunately, the funding for the program was reduced and subsequently eliminated because of federal funding budget reductions.

Moku O Lo'e (Coconut Island), P.O. Box 1346, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744-1346  
Telephone: (808) 236-7401, Facsimile: (808) 236-7443

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**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA**

Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Lemus for more than 5 years and I have found that her "common sense" approach to finding solutions to difficult problems recommend her for the position on the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council. She truly cares about Kane'ohe Bay and the people who live, gather their food from, and enjoy the waters of this marine resource. She would represent HIMB and the people of the Windward Community well.

Moku O Lo'e (Coconut Island), P.O. Box 1346, Kane'ohe, Hawaii 96744-1346  
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## KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

April 4, 2013

To: Senator Malama Solomon, Chair  
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair / And Members  
Committee on Water and Land

From: Alice P. Hewett, President  
Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club  
*Alice P Hewett*

Subject: Testimony - GM794: JUDITH LEMUS, Kaneohe Bay Regional Council

Aloha, Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, we offer our strong support for the confirmation of Dr. Judith Lemus to serve on the Kane'ohe Bay Regional Council.

As you may know, the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic has a membership that comes from the nine ahupua'a around Kane'ohe Bay. We are one of the largest Hawaiian Civic Clubs in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. We are also deeply interested in and concerned about the health and welfare of marine resources in Kane'ohe Bay.

Members of our club were involved, years ago, in the work that led to establishment of this Regional Council. We remain committed to advocating for best practices and management of the bay, incorporating Hawaiian cultural approaches wherever possible to malama i ke kai.

Dr. Lemus has an impressive background in research and science, with an expertise in marine resources. She has done a great deal of work building partnerships with communities, both here in the islands and in other places where she has lived. She has a positive, "can-do" attitude, one that will serve her well as she begins her service on the Kane'ohe Bay Regional Council.

We have confidence that she will prove to be an asset to this council and to the State of Hawai'i, and ask your kokua to approve her confirmation.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer our mana'o.



# Paepae o He'eia

*He'eia Fishpond, He'eia O'ahu*

*P.O. Box 6355, Kane'ohe, HI 96744 • ph: (808) 236-6178 • admin@paepaeoheeia.org*

April 11, 2013

Senator Malama Solomon  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senatorial District 4  
Hawaii State Capital, Room 210  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Kāne'ohe Bay Regional Council Gubernatorial Nominee Judith Lemus

Aloha Chair Malama Solomon:

As former Chair and Recreational Fishing Representative on the Kāne'ohe Bay Regional Council, I'm writing in **strong support** of Dr. Judith Lemus' nomination to serve as the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology Representative Kāne'ohe Bay Regional Council. I am the Executive Director of a small non-profit organization, Paepae o He'eia, that cares for, maintains and runs educational programs at the 88 acre He'eia Fishpond located in Kāne'ohe Bay. I've know Dr. Lemus now for about four years in her current profession as Associate Specialist with the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology.

Dr. Lemus currently serves as Secretary on Paepae o He'eia's Board of Directors and collaborates with us to provide research opportunities to the community through the Laulima a 'Ike Pono Internship. Dr. Lemus is sincerely passionate about the articulation and transparency of scientific research to the community. She works tirelessly to improve and maintain community and research initiatives and relationships in our geographic area of He'eia and the larger moku of Ko'olaupoko.

I look forward to a reinstated and effective Kāne'ohe Bay Regional Council with a strong focus on marrying traditional Hawaiian techniques and western scientific methodologies to improve the health and well-being of our Bay. Dr. Judith Lemus is the perfect nominee to be able to take the lead in this effort as a member of the Kāne'ohe Bay Regional Council.

Me ka Mahalo,

Hi'ilei Kawelo

Executive Director, Paepae o He'eia