

**GM 510**

**GM 510, GM511**

**Hi'ilei (Angela) Kawelo** Executive Director Paepae o He'eia, He'eia Fishpond [www.paepaeoheeia.org](http://www.paepaeoheeia.org)  
office: 236-6178 fax:234-1999)

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Natural Area Reserves System Commission?

I have grown up, been around, and exposed to Hawai'i's environment and the out of doors my entire life. As a native Hawaiian, I grew up and continue to spend much of my time accessing our forests, shorelines and ocean, interacting, gathering and harvesting as I was taught by my 'ohana. In my current profession, and one that I've spent the last 16 years of my life devoted to, as steward of He'eia Fishpond and Executive Director of the non-profit that cares for it, Paepae o He'eia, I believe I can offer a unique perspective to the way we view and care for our Natural Area Reserves, one that understands the importance and fragility of these systems but yet values the connections between people and place.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Natural Area Reserves System Commission?

Frankly, I have no idea what to expect! I've served on one other State Board/Commission and that was the Kane'ohe Bay Regional Council. I suspect my role and responsibilities are to be to be a good listener and make informed decisions that will best serve our Natural Area Reserves.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, 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 Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

I am a good listener and would bring an unbiased perspective to the Commission.

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

I have no agenda nor any ambitions other than to serve and offer my perspectives. As a commissioner, I would welcome the opportunity to learn more in depth about each and every NAR.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Natural Area Reserves System Commission?

I am passionate, culturally-grounded and live by this saying "huli ka lima i lalo, ma'ona ka 'opu." "Huli ka lima i lalo, ma'ona ka 'opu" speaks to my style of learning and teaching. I haven't much use for talk. Let's rather

walk the talk!!!! When our hands are turned to the soil, our stomachs are full. My actions speak for themselves. I am very serious about this place we call home, Hawai'i. Our people, our practices, our culture and their preservation and perpetuation are all dependent on the health and vitality of our native ecosystems.

- (6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Natural Area Reserves System Commission?

I remember, quite a while ago hiking Poamoho. At the time it was not a Natural Area Reserve. I remember once we reached the summit, we were on a mission to find Kahuli. Almost every plant whose leaves we checked and overturned, there would be a Kahuli. Ko'olau Kahuli are beautiful in their greens, whites and yellows. Now you can't see that anymore. Poamoho is now a NAR. In my lifetime I've seen this and I've seen this in many other areas and environs from mauka to makai; it's why I do what I do. I want Hawai'i, in all her glory to be here for generations to come.

- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

No

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

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

**Monday, February 29, 2016  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 510  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE NATURAL  
AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
ANGELA KAWELO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2016**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports  
Governor's Message 510, nominating Angela Kawelo to the Natural Area Reserves System  
Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2016.**

Pursuant to Section 195-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Natural Area Reserves System Commission shall: (1) Establish criteria to be used in determining whether an area is suitable for inclusion with the reserves system; (2) Conduct studies of areas for possible inclusion within the reserves system; (3) Recommend to the Governor and the Department areas suitable for inclusion within the reserves system; (4) Establish policies and criteria regarding the management, protection, and permitted uses of areas which are part of the reserves system; (5) Advise the Governor and the Department on any matter relating to the preservation of Hawaii's unique natural resources; (6) Develop ways and means of extending and strengthening presently established preserves, sanctuaries, and refuges within the State; (7) Advise the Department and other public agencies managing state-owned land or natural resources regarding areas under their respective jurisdictions which are or may be appropriate for designation as natural area reserves; and (8) In carrying out the above duties, consult the most comprehensive up-to-date compilation of scientific data on the communities of natural flora and fauna of Hawaii.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.**  
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

Ms. Angela “Hi‘ilei” Kawelo has extensive background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. She is the Executive Director of Paepae o He‘eia, a non-profit dedicated to caring for He‘eia fishpond, and has been with the organization for over fifteen years. She graduated from Punahou School and received a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology and a Marine Options Program Certificate from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. In addition to leading Paepae o He‘eia, she shares her knowledge as a lecturer of Hawaiian Studies 353 – Mālama Lokoi‘a at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Ms. Kawelo’s professional and educational background makes her a valued addition to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [hawaiifishingfanatic@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiifishingfanatic@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM510 on Feb 29, 2016 14:45PM  
**Date:** Sunday, February 28, 2016 6:51:19 PM

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**GM510**

Submitted on: 2/28/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 29, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: In full support of Angela Kawelo to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission and her background to uphold, sustain, perpetuate and protect Native Hawaiian interests. Mahalo piha.

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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**Cc:** [changkwaix@aol.com](mailto:changkwaix@aol.com)  
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**GM510**

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 29, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators Gabbard and Nishihara and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture, I submit this testimony in super strong if not overwhelming support of my friend Ms. Angela Hi'ilei Kawelo's nomination to the NARS Commission (both GM 510 and 511). Ms. Kawelo has been a good friend of mine and I will also disclose serves on the board of an organization I work for. She has been of good service to my work and has been a loyal and supportive friend for some time. Ms. Kawelo also comes from a strong line of dedicated malama 'aina people with roots in Kahalu'u, O'ahu with a shared vision for a view on conservation that includes people and actual ecosystems and landscapes (not just delineated jurisdictional zones) from roof of our heavens to the bottom of our very oceans. Ms. Kawelo is also in the word of my grandfather one smaht buggah with a big heart. She is conscientious of how special places like our NARS plays into a bigger picture and a broader time horizon behind and before us and will bring this vision in spades on her service to our state. And as I have testified on other before her: I think our state needs to start putting more smaht buggahs with big hearts on commissions that deal with aspects of our community that touch upon both. Aloha nui. Kevin Chang

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