

GM 607

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM607 on Mar 16, 2016 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 5:12:40 PM

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**GM607**

Submitted on: 3/7/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cappy Solatorio	Kewalo Hawaiian Homes Community Association	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM607 on Mar 14, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 02, 2016 9:03:49 PM

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**GM607**

Submitted on: 3/2/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 14, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Oppose	Yes

Comments: We STRONGLY OPPOSE the Governor's selection to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, in the name of Wren Wescoatt, III. There is NO research able information regarding Mr. Wescoatt, except for two vague references to a person named "Wren Wescoatt, III", who allegedly "Earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of. Pennsylvania. n Wren Wescoatt, III KSK'86.", & "Wren Wescoatt III '86 recently moved home to Hawai'i and has started a college consulting business ..." (Just type in "Wren Wescoatt, III" into your favorite search engine, & that's all you'll get!) This man is a ghost. What are his credentials? What has he done to deserve this recommendation to DHHL, by the Governor. We deserve answers before making decision on this very important position on the DHHL Commission. Until the BENEFICIARIES have a chance to learn more about Mr. Wescoatt, we humbly ask that the GM607 be denied.

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# Alapaki Nahale-a

PO Box 10, Pepeekeo, HI 96783 ~ anahalea@yahoo.com ~ 808-769-2102

March 6, 2016

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator Kalani English, Vice Chair  
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair English, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I have known Wren Wescoatt for over thirty year in both a personal and professional capacity. I can assure your Committee that he can and will be an excellent Hawaiian Homes Commissioner.

As a former East Hawaii Hawaiian Homes Commissioner and the former Chairman and Director of the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust, I am intimately familiar with the expectations and challenges that come with being a Hawaiian Homes Commissioner. It requires intelligence, fortitude, caring, and a wide range of experience to do well. Wren brings all of these capacities to the position.

Wren's professional and personal experiences provide him with a rare array of skills to deal with the multi-faceted needs of a commissioner. I won't recite his resume in this testimony, but will point out his extensive experience with community engagement and communications, the entitlement process, as well as education. The issues at hand could range from mortgages to land use issues, community partnerships to federal and state legislation, or educational opportunities to crime on the homesteads, and Wren will be able to digest the important facets of the issue and make sound recommendations and decisions.

Those who know Wren well understand that he has a unique ability to combine a keen intellect with the capacity to connect with people in a comfortable yet engaging way. He would easily go from helping someone restore their fishing boat in a garage on Molokai to debating strategy in the board room of a company on Bishop Street. As a Hawaiian Homes Commissioner, this ability is essential as there is a wide range of people and organizations that Hawaiian Home Lands must work with to be effective.

I hope my support for Wren Wescoatt is clear in this brief testimony. I would be happy to provide a more extensive recommendation if desired. If you or the committee members have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Mahalo,

Alapaki Nahale-a

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 16, 2016 1:15 PM Conference Room 016  
Re: GM 607, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, WREN WESCOATT, III, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Aloha Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kalani English, and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. My name is Charles Toguchi and I am providing written testimony today in strong support of Wren Wescoatt's gubernatorial nomination to serve on the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to be a friend of Wren Wescoatt. With his graduation with honors from Kamehameha Schools, his B.A. in Communication from Stanford University, and his M.A. in Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Wren Wescoatt comes to us with the necessary skills and foundation to provide the support and guidance needed on the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Mr. Wescoatt was raised on Molokai where many of his friends were Homesteaders and he saw first hand the important connection that farmers and residents had with the land. He saw both the opportunities and challenges that faced residents as they dealt with Hawaiian Homes land leases. These experiences give him a unique window to see and provide ways in which he can support and help DHHL achieve its mission.

While at Stanford, he helped to coordinate a student-led effort across the US to convince college admission offices to consider Native Hawaiians a unique minority. After graduate school, he co-founded a state-wide educational non-profit organization called College Connections Hawaii that prepared many of our local youth to attend and succeed in four-year colleges. Today, College Connections Hawaii is the largest non-school-affiliated educational nonprofit in Hawaii serving 2,000 students each year. I feel strongly that education is key to the future of our youth and Wren has successfully worked to provide that opportunity to Hawaii's youngsters.

Since 2007, Wren has developed numerous clean energy projects in Hawaii...including wind and solar developments. With this clean energy background, Wren is able to provide the leadership and guidance to seek ways to harness solar and wind resources on DHHL lands and provide either low-cost energy revenue from energy sales, or both.

In my interaction with Wren, he has always impressed me as a person of high integrity and dedication to his profession. He is recognized by many for his leadership...his energy...his willingness to listen to all sides...his forward thinking vision...strong work ethics...and positive actions. Wren Wescoatt brings to us the values and experiences needed to guide and support DHHL in achieving its mission.

Without any reservations, I strongly urge your favorable consideration and confirmation of Wren Wescoatt to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this written testimony.

Aloha,  
Charles T. Toguchi

The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Chair  
The Honorable J. Kalani English, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Testimony In Support Of Governor's Message 607 – the nomination of Wren Wescoatt, III, to the Hawaiian Homes Commission**

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair English and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **strong support** of GM 607, the nomination of Wren Wescoatt, III, to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

I've had the pleasure of working with Wren since 2013 in his capacity as Senior Director of Development in Hawai'i.

Wren's depth of knowledge and experience in developing renewable energy projects provide the Hawaiian Homes Commission with a valuable resource to advance creative and innovative solutions in carrying out the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act through sustainable policies. With the State of Hawai'i working toward achieving 100% clean energy by 2045, Wren's expertise will afford the Commission and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands the kind of in-house knowledge necessary to successfully maneuver through the ever-evolving renewable world. As a respected voice in the state's renewable energy industry, he can be the Commission's champion on energy issues. In other words, Wren personifies the 'ōlelo no'eau, "Ike 'ia no ka loa i ke kuahu" – an expert is recognized by the altar he builds or, in this case, by the solar and wind farms that he shapes.

Wren is also a proven leader and problem-solver who has the instinct and tenacity to bring together the right mix of people to overcome hurdles and challenges that sometimes seem insurmountable, characteristics that will serve him and his fellow commissioners well in dealing with the sometimes contentious issues that come before the Commission.

As a Native Hawaiian and a son of Moloka'i, Wren brings to the table a set of values and a deep and steadfast commitment to making Hawai'i a better place for future generations and I have no doubt that he will be a tireless servant for native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

I humbly ask for your favorable consideration of Wren Wescoatt's nomination to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Me ka ha'a ha'a,



Crystal Kua  
1099 Alakea Street | Suite 2440 | Honolulu, HI 96813

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**Date:** Saturday, March 12, 2016 1:04:26 AM

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**GM607**

Submitted on: 3/12/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	No

Comments: In full support of nominee for his commitment to helping Native Hawaiians and utilizing his educational background and policy experience, along with his Kamehameha Schools and Moloka'i roots, for the betterment of Native Hawaiians. Mahalo.

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**GM607**

Submitted on: 3/2/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 14, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2016 2:43:40 PM

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**GM607**

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathleen Pua Chin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LEA HONG'S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 607  
APPOINTMENT OF WREN WESCOATT, III TO  
THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Monday, March 14, 2016, 1:15 p.m., Rm. 016**

I am writing in my personal capacity in strong support of the appointment of Wren Wescoatt, III to the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC). Wren or "Tree," is uniquely qualified to serve on the HHC. He hails from Moloka'i and has personal understanding of HHC's challenges and opportunities. In his youth, he formed his own small business, a bike messenger service "Mokes on Spokes" that was well known for its hilarious pidgin newsletters, competing with the local comedy of Booga Booga and Lee Cataluna. He founded the non-profit organization, College Connections, to provide greater college opportunities to Native Hawaiians. And he has worked for the past nine-years at Sun Edison (formerly First Wind), and developed some of the largest wind/renewable energy projects in the State (Kahuku, Kawaihoa).

I have known Wren since 2006 when we both were privileged to join the class of 2006 Pacific Century Fellows. And, before I knew Wren personally, I was an unwitting fan of his Mokes on Spokes pidgin newsletter. Wren brings a balance of invaluable experience to the HHC – business acumen balanced by a strong community ethic and desire to improve the lives of Native Hawaiians and all who live in Hawai'i. Wren is dedicated, hard-working, empathetic, and good-humored. HHC would be lucky to secure Wren as a commissioner.

I give Wren my strongest recommendation and wholly support his nomination without reservation.

Mahalo -



Lea Hong

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**Date:** Wednesday, March 02, 2016 5:41:59 PM

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**GM607**

Submitted on: 3/2/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 14, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in STRONG SUPPORT of Wren Wescoatt, III for Hawaiian Homes Oahu Commissioner.

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**Date:** Monday, March 07, 2016 5:09:48 PM

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**GM607**

Submitted on: 3/7/2016

Testimony for HWN on Mar 16, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 016

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Puni Kekauoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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