



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Leimana DaMate
Executive Director

Before the Senate Committee on
Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Thursday, March 24, 2016
9:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**In Consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 675
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HEALTH
PLANNING COUNCIL, TRI-ISLE SUBAREA, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KAREN HOLT,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2018**

Gubernatorial Nominee, Karen Holt, is submitted for consideration and confirmation to the Health Planning Council, Tri-Isle Subarea for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

The purpose of the Tri-Isle Subarea Council, attached to the State Health Planning & Development Agency is to promote accessibility for all the people of the State to quality health care services at reasonable cost.

The Tri-Isle Subarea Council is responsible for the islands of Moku O Piilani (Maui), Molokai Pule O'o (Moloka'i) and Nana'I Kaula (Lana'i). One of the duties of this Council is to make recommendations related to health planning for the geographical subarea they serve. In this case, one of the most pressing issues impacting the native Hawaiian culture is the need for health planning. The rural areas of Maui and the entire islands of Moloka'i and Lana'i are populated with native Hawaiians who often do not look for, nor understand the need for modern medicine and health care. They traditionally use la'au lapa'au, Hawaiian medicinal health care. And, while this has been adequate in the past, today the medicinal plants they need are quickly disappearing due to the constant intrusion of western development.

Karen Holt is a native Hawaiian who is able to walk comfortably in the two cultures with one goal – the well-being of the residents of Maui, Moloka'i and Lana'i. On the Hawaiian side, her genealogy as direct descendants of many branches of Ali'i, including Kiha Pi'ilani of Maui and her constant life work with the indigenous people of Hawaii is as important as her stellar qualifications in the western culture as an excellent attorney and caring community advocate.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony and we ask that this committee accept and confirm Karen Holt to the Health Planning Council, the Tri-Isle Subarea. Mahalo nui loa!