

GM 746

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR 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

**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, April 18, 2016
2:50 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 746
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE KAHANA VALLEY
LIVING PARK PLANNING COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BENJAMIN SHAFER,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2019**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) expresses its strong support for Governor's Message 746 on the confirmation of Benjamin Shafer as a gubernatorial appointed member to the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council (Planning Council) for a term to expire on June 30, 2019.

The Planning Council, created by way of Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, consists of five voting members: a member of the general public, a representative of the Department, and three members representing the residents of Kahana ahupua'a.

Benjamin Shafer currently resides in Kahana Valley and is a graduate of Brigham Young University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science with an emphasis on Government History. He is a Technician with the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees Local 665.

Benjamin Schafer served on the Kahana Advisory Councils II and III. He is a member and Chair of the Kahana Planning Council. Mr. Shafer is also President of the Friends of Kahana (a 501c3 non-profit organization) and a member of the Kahana Community Association which participates in community activities.

Benjamin Shafer will assist with the Planning Council in future planning efforts establishing a successful model of how to manage Kahana Valley Living Park. The Department urges your support of Benjamin Shafer for confirmation to the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council.

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 201
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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April 11, 2016

RE: **GM 746** Response to Questionnaire to the Kahana Planning Council
Appointment.

Aloha Kakou Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair and Members of the Water,
Land and Agricultural Committee,

Below is my response to the questionnaire that you recently sent to me for the
Kahana Planning Council.

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning
Council?

Certainly, I would have preferred the Kahana Planning Council's (KPC) work
would be up and running by now. With no funding from the Legislature or DLNR
and several attempts for GIA being denied either by the Legislature or lack of
support on the part of State Parks for our grassroots 501(c)3 to receive funding
to get paid professional planners is critical for the success of the KPC.

Department of Land and Natural Resources is now funding the creation of the
Master Plan. Now we can collaborate with Planners in fulfilling our kuleana.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Kahana
Valley Living Park Planning Council?

The kuleana of the KPC is to create a comprehensive master plan utilizing the
gifts and talents of its residents with the knowledge from all the past plans of
Kahana. Realistic and common sense goals, seeking ownership and
responsibility from its residents and State Parks in the implementation of
the master-plan.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council, 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 Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council.

Being a member and Chair of the KPC for the last three years has had its challenges. Creating agenda's in compliance with OIP standards i.e. adequate and timely notices, all voting items being placed on the agenda and creating minutes where a narrative is formulated so that residents can follow what is happening at all times, always have an email and phone number and name on each document for easy communication access is a vital part of keeping our residents and interested parties abreast of where we are at.

Being a member and Co-Chair of two prior Kahana Advisory Councils II & III(KAC), a member and Vice President of the Kahana Ohana Unity Council (KOUC) which later became the Kahana Community Association (KCA) and President of Friends of Kahana (FOK), a 501(c) 3 Non-Profit Organization whose purpose are to seek funding for Hawaiian Culture projects within the Ahupua'a O' Kahana, I feel that I would have a positive and forward thinking ability to move this Master Plan towards completion and implementation.

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

I don't think I was naive the last time to think we could have and should have done more, but now there is funding for planners to assist us will be a monumental change as far a movement and accomplishments.

1. Create Master Plan
 - a. Exhibit C, Residents investment and buy-in into the Hawaiian Cultural Living Park Plan.
 - Credit Hour issues resolved.
 - b. Housing issues addressed and resolved
 - c. Community Center, Hula and Fishing Centers, 4 flagship Projects
2. Implement parts of Master Plan that can be implemented today.
3. Apply for HUD grants to implement most of these plans.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council?

1. Honest
2. Integrity
3. Outspoken

(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council?

Understanding the community you come from and ensuring all residents have the agenda, minutes and other important facts presented to them in a timely manner so that they can review it and have the opportunity to voice their concerns at the earliest and most accessible possible way and time.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Kahana Valley Living Park Planning Council? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

As most residents have long connected family ties to the valley, it is only prudent that we as individuals proclaim there might be a conflict and excuse ourselves from those measures requiring a vote.

I have excused myself from such voting after declaring a conflict, even after OIP expressed there was no conflict and I could vote on it. For me it is about the appearance of a conflict on interest.

If there are any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin D Shafer