

GM 854

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
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 854
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, NEIL HANNAHS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2020**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports the Governor's appointment of Mr. Neil Hannahs to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission).

The Commission is required under Section 174C-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to select commissioners through an open, competitive process. An independent nominating committee composed of two (2) members selected by the Governor, one (1) by the Senate President and one (1) by the House Speaker solicits candidates typically by placing an ad in the papers across the State, in the monthly bulletin of the Commission, and on the Commission's website. The Nominating Committee reviews the applications, conducts interviews if desired and sends to the Governor the names of at least three individuals for consideration.

The nominees, by law, must have "substantial experience in the area of water resource management." In addition, one member must "have substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage such as those preserved by section 174C-101."

In accordance with this nominating process, the Governor selected Mr. Neil Hannahs.

Prior to founding Ho'okele Strategies LLC (a consulting enterprise to connect inspiring social entrepreneurs with exceptional mentors and aligned impact investment capital) in 2016, Mr. Hannahs worked for over 40 years for Kamehameha Schools, an institution committed to perpetuating Hawaiian values and traditions. He held numerous positions of increasing complexity and responsibility during his long tenure, culminating in Strategic Integration Director for Kamehameha School's Land Assets Division from 2000 to 2015. In this capacity, Mr. Hannahs was responsible for managing extensive tracts of conservation land as well as approximately 170,000 acres of agricultural land in a culturally appropriate manner. One of the goals of the Land Assets Division's Strategic Agricultural Plan is to "restore and revitalize traditional systems: lo'i kalo, loko i'a, and dryland field systems".

Mr. Hannahs has substantial board chair, trustee and director level experience and has honed an understanding of the fundamental duties of care, loyalty, and stewardship, and of the distinction between management responsibilities of governance boards and operational executives. He is presently director of the Kohala Center, the Aloha Kuamoo Aina, and Hawaii BioRefineryCo and is on the boards of the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, the Waianae Coast Redevelopment Corp (Ma'o Farms), and the Polynesian Voyaging Society.

In addition, Mr. Hannahs has cultivated skills in strategic alignment, goal setting, performance management and accountability reporting through three decades of executive level experience in directing operations, building mission-driven teams and managing in a hierarchy of delegated authority. He has developed a high level of proficiency in consultative strategic planning, as well as developing policies and tactics that offer meaningful guidance for operations. Finally, Mr. Hannahs possesses two decades of service in a variety of advisory or director positions to perpetuate Hawaiian values and practices and to integrate Hawaiian culture into academic, legal, and land use decision-making.

Mr. Hannahs would bring to the Commission knowledge of traditional Hawaiian water resource management as well as seasoned executive and leadership skills and experience in organizational governance, land and resource management, educational administration, communications, cultural programs, community-building, and strategic planning. The Department strongly supports the nomination and appointment of Mr. Neil Hannahs to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



GM854

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NEIL HANNAHS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2020.

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

April 18, 2016

2:45 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM854, which would confirm Neil Hannahs as a Commissioner on the Commission on Water Resource Management, who possesses the requisite “substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage.”

OHA strongly recommends Neil Hannahs for the next available seat on CWRM. Mr. Hannahs has an arguably unparalleled background in land and water resource management in Hawai‘i, which would ensure his ability to facilitate highly-informed discussions and decisionmaking with his CWRM colleagues. Of his forty years of employment at the largest private landowner in the state, Kamehameha Schools, Mr. Hannahs served for over 15 years as the Director of Strategic Integration in Land Assets, where he was responsible for managing 358,000 acres of agricultural and conservation lands; his career also included nearly five years as the Kamehameha Schools’ Region II Director, where he managed 50,000 acres of land in Windward O‘ahu, Kaua‘i, Maui, and Moloka‘i. During his tenure at Kamehameha Schools, Mr. Hannahs was also singularly instrumental in the integration of cultural practices and considerations into his employer’s land management models, such as through the development of unprecedented Natural and Cultural Resource Management Plans, the brokering of culturally-appropriate watershed management partnerships, and the establishment of stewardship programs that balanced and optimized the economic, cultural, environmental, educational, and community benefits of the lands he managed. OHA is confident that such experiences will provide Mr. Hannahs with ample practical knowledge and invaluable cultural insight, directly relevant to CWRM’s mission of overseeing the management of our public trust water resources.

In addition, Mr. Hannahs’ extensive community involvement and extracurricular service further indicate the depth of his passion for and commitment to ensuring culturally appropriate and responsible land and resource management in Hawai‘i. Notably, his numerous community activities – including his years of service on the boards of the Kohala Center, the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, Bishop Museum, the Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, and the ‘Āina Ulu program, which he also

founded – closely reflect his professional endeavors, to integrate cultural knowledge, practices, and values into a Western property framework.

Finally, Mr. Hannahs' wealth of experiences in both the business and eleemosynary communities, including his building of connections between them, evidences his collaborative mindset and ability to bring together various points of view, to inform innovative, multi-faceted approaches for the betterment of all stakeholders. The creativity and thoughtfulness required to successfully navigate and find common ground between such diverse perspectives will likely enable Mr. Hannahs to greatly enrich CWRM discussions, and facilitate decisionmaking that is both fair and consistent with CWRM's fiduciary responsibilities.

For these reasons, OHA is confident that Mr. Hannahs will be an invaluable asset to CWRM as it carries out its increasingly important kuleana as "Ke Kahuwai Pono."

Accordingly, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** GM854. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**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
Water, Land and Agriculture

Monday, April 18, 2016
2:45 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**In Consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 854
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE COMMISSION ON
WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NEIL HANNAHS,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2020.**

Gubernatorial Nominee, Neil Hannahs, is submitted as a Gubernatorial Nominee for consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management for a term to expire on June 30, 2020.

A keiki o ka aina, Mr. Hannahs is a native Hawaiian who has spent a lifetime of service to the native Hawaiian people in many different leadership positions that perpetuate Hawaiian values and practices. He understands that the Hawaiian people are symbiotically connected to Hawaii's natural and cultural resources. Understanding that water is life, and life is precious, Mr. Hannahs is intimately aware of the impact that responsible use, protection, and sustainability of water resources has on the native Hawaiian culture, and on the public trust.

Neil Hannahs is a strong Hawaiian of integrity capable of seeing into the heart of water issues and concerns. He has substantial experience in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques including traditional Hawaiian riparian usage; and, he understands the Hawaii State Water Plan.

As a kanaka maoli, Neil Hannahs connects to the needs of his people and their need for water, subsistence and sustainability. Yet, his stellar qualifications in the western culture as a leader in governance, strategy, policy and land and resource management is as important as his constant life work with the indigenous people of Hawaii. Neil Hannahs walks comfortably in two cultures, Hawaiian and western, with one goal – the protection and sustainability of water, of life, for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony and we ask that this committee accept and confirm Neil Hannahs to the Hawaii State Commission on Resource Management. Mahalo nui loa!



The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Program
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817

Tel (808) 537-4508
Fax (808) 545-2019
nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting GM 854 Gubernatorial Nominee Neil Hannahs
for Confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Monday, April 18, 2016, 2:45 p.m., Room 224

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports the confirmation of Neil Hannahs to the Commission on Water Resources Management.

We have enjoyed and appreciated working with Neil on a broad range of conservation projects and environmental policies through his work as Director of the Land Assets Division of Kamehameha Schools and as Board Chair of the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust. Neil is a strong partner and a leader who is committed to the care and perpetuation of Hawaii's cultural, natural, and water resources. Specifically, he has brought a unique perspective to the watershed partnerships and his leadership has been critical for the success of those alliances. He understands the complexity of the relationship between Hawaiian culture and the importance of our natural resources, and is able to apply that understanding to meet both the needs of the resources and the needs of people. We know he will be a thoughtful and hard-working member of the Commission on Water Resources Management.

Thank you for this opportunity to support Neil Hannahs' confirmation.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Chamber of Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, & Agriculture
Monday, April 18, 2016 at 2:45 P.M.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol**

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 854 CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE HAWAII COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NEIL HANNAHS**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") is in **support** of Mr. Neil Hannah's confirmation and appointment to the Commission on Water Resource Management.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Mr. Neil Hannah's is currently the founder of Hookele Strategies LLC. Previously, as the Director of Land Assets Division of Kamehameha Schools, Mr. Hannahs was responsible for 358,000 acres of agricultural and conservation land throughout Hawaii. He also serves on the governance boards of Queen's Health System, Queen's Medical Center, Bishop Museum, Polynesian Voyaging Society, Hawaii BioEnergy, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, and many more.

Mr. Hannah's record shows great expertise and passion and he will serve the Commission on Water Resource Management well. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for this nomination of Mr. Neil Hannahs.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM854 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 9:34:07 AM

GM854

Submitted on: 4/11/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: brutusluv@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM854 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 12:27:48 PM

GM854

Submitted on: 4/11/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blake J LaBenz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: bjtcjtsoup@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM854 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 2:41:58 PM

GM854

Submitted on: 4/13/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bobby-John Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Neil Hannahs' will bring a wealth of much needed natural and cultural resource management knowledge to the Water Commission. I strongly SUPPORT his nomination.

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April 12, 2016
Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Monday, April 18, 2016, 2:45 p.m.

RE: Support for GM854 and the Gubernatorial Nomination

Dear WLA Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue. My name is Chantrelle Wai‘alae, I am a 3rd year law student at William S. Richardson School of Law and I strongly support GM854 and the Gubernatorial Nomination of Neil Hannahs for the upcoming vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM).

I support Neil Hannahs because he is a strong candidate for this position. This position requires substantial experience or expertise in water resource management. Neil Hannahs has experience in land and water resource management. He has managed over 350,000 acres of agricultural and conservation lands for Kamehameha Schools.

In addition to his resource management expertise, Mr. Hannahs has knowledge and experience that is specific to resource management in Hawai‘i, using traditional Hawaiian resource management practices. As such his skills and experiences are an invaluable asset to the Commission. During his time at Kamehameha, Mr. Hannahs was instrumental in the integration of cultural practices and considerations into the organization’s land management models. He also helped establish stewardship programs that balanced and optimized economic, cultural, environmental, and educational benefits.

Mr. Hannahs has dedicated years of service to our communities through serving on numerous boards and founding numerous programs that benefit Hawai‘i and its people. He observes practices that promote a sustainable future for Hawai‘i. He will also help to ensure culturally appropriate and responsible land and resource management for Hawai‘i.

The knowledge, skills, and aloha that Mr. Hannahs has for resource management in Hawai‘i is unparalleled. For these reasons, **I strongly support GM584.**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Chantrelle Wai‘alae

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: daprice80@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM854 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 8:45:04 PM

GM854

Submitted on: 4/12/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Davis Price	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Gary W. Maunakea-Forth

89-134 Haleakala Avenue • Wai`anae, Hawai'i 96792
Phone: 808-668-8019 • E-Mail: gary@maoorganicfarms.org

April 15, 2016

Hawaii Legislature, Senate
Committee on Water, Land & Agriculture
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination of Neil Hannahs - Letter of Support, GM854

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Senate Committee members,

I am writing to you and the committee to pledge my support for the nomination of Mr. Neil Hannahs to the Commission on Water Resources Management.

I have known Neil for 10-years primarily in his role as Director of Land Assets Division of the Kamehameha Schools. More recently, I have spent a great deal of time with Neil in his role as a founder of Hawaii Investment Ready, and as a Director of the Wai`anae Community Re-development Corporation (WCRC) a non-profit 501(c)3 social enterprise. I am employed by WCRC as Managing Director of MA`O Organic Farms, a community development project that simultaneously grows certified organic fruits and vegetables, and young people empowered to work for a sustainable Hawai`i.

I feel honored to be able to provide a letter of support for Neil, as I count him as a primary mentor in my life. Over the past decade I have witnessed his tireless dedication and commitment to Hawai`i's people and places.

Our work as a social enterprise comes with a massive tension between making money, educating young people, and protecting Hawai`i's natural resources. Neil not only understands the importance of recognizing this balance, but in my opinion he embodies the respect and best management practices to ensure we *malama* and *aloha* our natural resources, and use them wisely to create jobs and wealth in local communities. In terms of water resources he is one of our communities visionary leaders; he has a decades long track record of understanding, managing, and teaching the critical relationship between water, ahupua`a and a thriving, local, food-growing agriculture.

As a *keiki o ka `aina*, we need stewards who understand the unique natural environment and who will work together with experts and specialists to manage our water resources with the utmost care, due diligence and fairness. I believe that Mr. Hannahs has the knowledge and expertise to assist the Commission leadership to achieve its goals and objectives.

Sincerely,

Gary Maunakea-Forth

Gary Maunakea-Forth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: ginik@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM854 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Friday, April 08, 2016 4:45:57 PM

GM854

Submitted on: 4/8/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gini Kapali	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: jacobbryan.aki@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM854 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 10:28:21 PM

GM854

Submitted on: 4/12/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacob Bryan Ka'omakaokala Aki	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support Neil Hannahs to serve on the Commission on Water Resource Management for his decades of experience in water resource management, his collaborative approach to decision-making, his invaluable cultural insight, and his ability to balance economic, cultural, and community returns in land management. Kako'o wau ia ia!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: kamakane73@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM854 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Saturday, April 09, 2016 12:19:59 AM

GM854

Submitted on: 4/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: kanowey@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM854 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 8:27:57 AM

GM854

Submitted on: 4/12/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanoe Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: keoni@oiwi.tv
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM854 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 8:14:45 PM

GM854

Submitted on: 4/12/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keoni Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha mai, I would like to submit my strong support for Neil Hannahs to the Commission on Water Resource Management. Neil's extensive experience as the head of Kamehameha Schools Land Assets Division and the leadership he demonstrated over his tenure there have set a foundation and helped to chart a new course for Hawai'i's largest private land owner and how it values and manages its conservation and agricultural land holdings. CWRM holds a trust responsibility to the 'aina and the people of Hawai'i to ensure that our water resources are responsibly managed and protected and Neil has the track record and core values to fulfill the kuleana as a Commissioner and as the mandated Native Hawaiian seat. As a recent retiree of only a few months, Neil could have taken a well-deserved break but instead has chosen to once again serve the 'aina and the people of Hawai'i. Hawai'i needs more leaders like Neil Hannahs and we should be thankful that he has stepped up to serve in this capacity. Me ka ha'aha'a, Keoni Lee

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: changkwaix@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM854 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, April 09, 2016 2:22:48 PM

GM854

Submitted on: 4/9/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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 strong support of my friend Mr. Neil Hannahs' nomination to the Commission on Water Resource Management (GM 854. Mr. Hannahs is a friend, colleague, mentor and wise elder for myself and many young people in our community. Mr. Hannahs at one time in my life, knowing little about me, extended a kind invitation as a guest to join a learning journey of young island people to Aotearoa. It remains an experience that has laid some foundation for my work on natural resource management and has shaped my outlook to this day. More importantly for the responsibilities entrusted to this commission Mr. Hannahs has lived a life and gained an experience necessary for the changing and complex times we are in especially when it comes to natural resources. Recent retirement has opened up his time up- an opportunity for our state- to contribute even more greatly than he once did as an influential leader and employee at Kamehameha Schools Land Assets (KS). He is now even more empowered to apply his acumen and beliefs as a citizen. At KS he embodied his middle name Ho'okele, and helped KS sail in new directions and perspectives in beneficiary impact, resource management and value creation. He has been a catalyst for current efforts and changes in how we view ourselves and determine our destiny as an island community. These are the kinds of attributes we need to have at the table as our state continues to explore and grow in the fulfillment of its public trusts responsibilities. And as I have testified on other before him: 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. I appreciate this opportunity to express my support for Mr. Hannahs. Aloha nui. Kevin Chang

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Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture
April 18, 2016 at 2:45PM in Conference Room 224

April 13, 2016

Re: Testimony in support of GM 854 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Commission On Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, NEIL HANNAHS, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide my strong support for the Gubernatorial Nomination of Neil Hannahs for the upcoming vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM). Neil Hannahs is extraordinarily qualified to join the CWRM as he has decades of experience in water resource management, understands both the economic goals of landowners and the cultural and community importance of water in Hawaii, and has been able to find common ground between competing interests in both his professional world and as a leader or advisor to many community groups on all the islands.

Water in Hawaii is a public trust resource that the State, via the CWRM, has a duty to manage for the benefit of Native Hawaiians and Hawaii's people at large. Again, Neil Hannahs is remarkably qualified to fill the vacancy that requires substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management. Mr. Hannahs' leadership at Kamehameha Schools lead to greater incorporation of traditional land and water resource management which both brought Kamehameha Schools closer to its mission, and continues to have a positive impact on the vast lands and water sources that Kamehameha Schools owns and stewards.

While at Kamehameha, Mr. Hannahs saw the value of working with many community nonprofits grounded in traditional land and water stewardship practices on Kamehameha Schools' lands. These nonprofits are now Hawaii's land stewardship leaders and examples for countless other land managers. He creatively and fairly found ways to balance economic, community, environmental and cultural needs of landowners and people living on or near those lands.

Mr. Hannahs believes that everybody in Hawaii is shaped by place, with Native Hawaiians having a long history of both being shaped by Hawaii and shaping Hawaii to sustain themselves. He deeply understands and upholds the values of aloha aina, malama aina, malama i ka wai, and malama i ke kai. He gives due respect to, and gracefully manages to put into practice, the ancient Hawaiian worldview in today's modern society. He is a wealth of knowledge and we would all be lucky to have him contribute to Hawaii through service on the Commission on Water Resource Management. Please support GM 854.

Mahalo nui,

Laura H.E. Kaakua

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: ldnhall@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM854 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 9:35:26 PM

GM854

Submitted on: 4/12/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leahi Hall	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Mr. Hannahs has a wealth of experience and knowledge regarding resource management and its interplay and integral role in Native Hawaiian culture and livelihood - especially as it pertains to water. He is an exceptional candidate for this position and I sincerely hope that he will be appointed to this role so that the voice of Native Hawaiians may be heard and properly advocated for.

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LeeAnn E.P. Crabbe
1100 Alakea Street
Suite 1100
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
(808) 225-7696

April 12, 2016

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members of the Senate
Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: Testimony in **Support of GM854** – Consideration and Confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Neil Hannahs**

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

It is an honor to submit this testimony in strong support of GM854, consideration and confirmation to the Commission on Water Resource Management, Gubernatorial Nominee, Neil Hannahs.

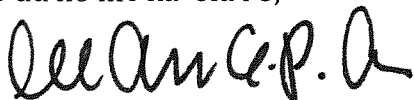
I have known Neil for almost 30 years and have had the privilege of working with him in various personal and professional capacities. I believe he has the experience, integrity, talent and ability to make a tremendous contribution in serving our State on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Neil is smart, principled, and has the heart of a true servant leader. He never hesitates to engage on tough issues, yet has a masterful way of doing so, always with compassion, insight, understanding and humor. He is an effective and dedicated public servant, and contributes his time and talents to our community through a wide range of activities and services.

Neil Hannahs would make a great contribution to the Commission on Water Resource Management. I respectfully urge your committee to confirm his nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration.

'O au nō me ka 'oia'i'o,



LeeAnn E.P. Crabbe

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Attn: Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara

Testimony of Maenette K.P. Ah Nee-Benham, Dean
Hawaiʻinuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge
University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa

In SUPPORT of **GM 854**
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee **Neil J. Kahoʻokele Hannahs** to the
Commission on Water Resource Management

Monday, April 18, 2016, 2:45PM
Conference Room 224

Aloha Chairperson Mike Gabbard, Vice-chairperson Clarence Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land.

My name is Maenette K.P. Ah Nee-Benham, Dean, Hawaiʻinuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa, and I am submitting testimony in support of **GM 854** to confirm the appointment by Governor Ige of **Neil J. Kahoʻokele Hannahs** to the Commission on Water Resource Management

Neil Hannahs, recently retired from a brilliant 41-year career of service to our people and our ʻāina, at Kamehameha Schools, brings a broad background and strong skill set that meets, perhaps exceeds, the criteria for Water Commissioners. That is, a person with "substantial experience in the area of water resource management; provided that at least one member shall have substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage." Indeed, the result of his KS portfolio alone, which included 358,000 acres of agriculture and conservation lands in Hawaiʻi, brilliantly promoted stewardship and sustainability, and engaged Hawaiian enterprise especially in developing rural economies.

Neil clearly meets and exceeds the commissioner criteria given his land and natural resource career, which speaks to good works of cultural stewardship and mālama ʻāina. More so, I would argue that he has also shown a deep commitment to public service! As a trustee of the Queen's Hospital System he committed to promoting programs to ensure the health and well being of Native Hawaiians and all people of Hawaiʻi. His passion for the preparation of future leaders of Hawaiʻi is conveyed in everything he does, for example, board membership on the Polynesian Voyaging Society, Waiʻanae Community Waiʻanae Community Re-Development Corporation (aka MAʻO Farms), Aloha Kuamoʻo ʻĀina, Kohala Center, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, Hawaiʻi BioEnergy BiorefineryCo and Hawaiʻi BioEnergy AlgaeCo

We are well served by this son of Hawaiʻi.

Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie, Esq.
579 Kāneʻapu Place ♦ Kailua, Hawaiʻi 96734

Testimony in Support of GM 854
Nomination of Neil Hannahs to the Commission on Water Resource Management
Senate Committee on Water, Land & Agriculture
Hearing on Monday, April 18, at 2:45 p.m.

Aloha, I write to express my strong **support** for the nomination of Neil Hannahs for the State Commission on Water Resource Management. I am a professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law and Director of Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, but I submit these comments in my personal capacity.

I have known Neil for many years and have admired his passion for and commitment to ensuring responsible and culturally-based land and resource management, including water, in Hawaiʻi. As the former manager of 358,000 acres of Kamehameha Schools' agricultural and conservation lands, Neil possesses decades of experience in both Western and traditional water resource management, and his collaborative approach will be invaluable to the Water Commission's consideration and decision-making on Hawaiʻi's most precious resource.

During his forty years at Kamehameha Schools, Neil served for over 15 years as the Director of Strategic Integration in Land Assets, where he was responsible for managing the Schools' agricultural and conservation lands. His career also included nearly five years as the Schools' Region II Director, where he managed 50,000 acres of land on Kauaʻi, Maui, Molokaʻi and in Windward Oʻahu. During his tenure at Kamehameha Schools, Neil was also instrumental in the integration of cultural practices and considerations into the Schools' land management models, including the development of Natural and Cultural Resource Management Plans, the establishment of culturally-appropriate watershed management partnerships, and the creation of stewardship programs that balanced and optimized the economic, cultural, environmental, educational, and community benefits of the lands he managed. These experiences provide Neil with practical knowledge and invaluable cultural insight, directly relevant to the Water Commission's mission of overseeing the management of our public trust water resources.

Additionally, Neil has dedicated years to assisting the community through serving on numerous boards and founding programs with a Native Hawaiian and ʻāina focus. His community activities – including his years of service on the boards of the Kohala Center, the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, Bishop Museum, and the ʻĀina Ulu program, which he also founded – reflect his commitment to integrate cultural knowledge and values into a private property framework.

Neil has an unparalleled background in land and water resource management in Hawaiʻi, which strengthens his ability to knowledgeably participate in discussions and decision-making with colleagues on the Water Commission. Finally, and most importantly, as demonstrated above, Neil's extensive background meets the State Water Code's requirement of "substantial experience and expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage."

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony in strong support of the nomination of Neil Hannahs to the Water Commission.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: shan.toriki@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM854 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 7:48:00 PM

GM854

Submitted on: 4/12/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Toriki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Neil Hannahs represents the best of our lahui!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: wctanaka@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM854 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 4:53:00 PM

GM854

Submitted on: 4/13/2016

Testimony for WLA on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wayne Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: With diminishing rainfall patterns, an ever-growing population, and increasing oil prices that counsel much greater local agricultural production to meet our nutritional needs, the appropriate management and allocation of our water resources are more critical now than ever before. Mr. Hannahs' decades of experience, expertise, and creative problem solving will be invaluable to the Water Commission in its fulfillment of this important responsibility. Mahalo nui for your consideration and SUPPORT of this nomination!

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***Neil J. Kaho'okele Hannahs
4545-A Sierra Drive
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816***

April 12, 2016

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, chair, & members of the Senate
Committee on Water, Land & Agriculture

Subject: Responses to Questions of the Nominee to the
Commission on Water Resource Management

(1) [Why do you wish to be a member of the Commission on Water Resource Management?](#)

I hope to:

- honor ancestral wisdom recognizing that water is the basis of life and the foundation of wealth in a sustainable society...he wai e mana, he wai e ola, e ola nō, 'eā;
- make a meaningful contribution to policies and decisions that align with the public trust principles of Hawai'i's Constitution and Water Code; and
- judiciously balance the myriad considerations surrounding the management of water resources to meet the needs of our community today and assure a thriving society for endless generations to come.

(2) [How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Commission on Water Resource Management?](#)

From a statutory standpoint, the Commission has jurisdiction and final authority over matters relating to the State Water Code. But it is also an opportunity to model servant leadership and to conduct oneself in a manner that promotes equity, civility and wellbeing within our community. For me personally, as a Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian),

it is a humbling call that I feel duty bound to answer to ‘auamo kuleana to mālama our fresh water resources for present and future generations.

- (3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of Commission on Water Resource Management, 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 Commission on Water Resource Management.

It has been my privilege and honor to serve the Kamehameha Schools as Director of the Land Assets Division. The portfolio of this division encompassed some 350,000 acres of land designated for agricultural and conservation uses. Our mandate set forth in the Strategic Plan of 2000 – 2015 was to manage these assets to achieve an optimal balance of cultural, economic, educational, environmental and community returns or benefits.

This work provided repeated experiences to: make investments and decisions that are consistent with strategy and policy; balance and integrate uses; communicate rationale and goals in a transparent manner; and be accountable for the mandates and assets under our management.

Our team possessed an understanding of the issues and opportunities related to the stewardship and use of water resources and ecosystems, as well as cultural landscapes and practices. We also faced the unprecedented challenge of redeploying large tracts of former sugar lands to strategically build a 21st century agricultural industry for Hawai‘i which gives priority to creating a more secure and sustainable food system. These management functions presented abundant opportunities to incorporate educational programs (such as place-based learning, internships, leadership development and entrepreneurship) with asset management strategies.

In this capacity, I have performed an oversight role for a range of water resource management issues on five of the major islands in our archipelago. In the course of this business, I have engaged with:

- Hawaiian beneficiaries desiring cultural connection and educational opportunity;
- commercial lessees ranging from small kalo farmers to large-scale agribusiness operations;
- community groups seeking to mālama streams and fishponds to health and production; and
- social enterprises who have generated scalable business models with the promise of financial returns from activities that concurrently foster environmental health and social justice.

I have administered the repair and operation of wells, stream diversions and major ditch systems, as well as the restoration of riparian zones, traditional māno and ‘auwai. These opportunities provided experience in integrating strategies reflecting Kānaka Maoli worldview with Hawai‘i’s regulatory framework and contemporary resource requirements.

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

Bring my open-mindedness, understanding, skills, insights, leadership and best efforts to the business that comes before the Commission.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Commission on Water Resource Management?

I believe most who know me would consider me a generalist, consensus builder and effective communicator. These qualities might support my function as a commissioner by facilitating a grasp of issues and bridging of the differences between diverse constituencies.

- (6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Commission on Water Resource Management?

Management of Kamehameha Schools' Land Assets demanded an ability to balance interests. I believe that background will be of value to the Commission.

- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Commission on Water Resource Management? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

A career of over four decades has allowed me to create many relationships across the community. Few, outside of my immediate family, intertwine economic interests. Nonetheless, I understand that it is the responsibility of commissioners to act with an abundance of prudence and transparency by disclosing potential conflicts to the appropriate authorities in order to obtain guidance on the need for recusal on certain matters.