

GM 865



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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COMMISSION MEMBERS

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JOSHUA KAAKUA, Ed.D
CARMEN HULU LINDSEY

Michael K. Nāho‘opi‘i
Executive Director

Testimony of
MICHAEL K. NAHO‘OPTI
Executive Director

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 865 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION OF
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JONATHAN CHING

Governor's Message No. 865 nominates Dr. Jonathan Ching to serve on the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in the seat reserved for a representative of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO). On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express my strong support and recommend his confirmation.

Dr. Ching has been a member of the PKO for 21 years and has served in many leadership positions within the organization. He has been trained and certified as a KIRC Assess Guide and has participated and lead many volunteer trips to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve safely. His most currently involvement with Kaho‘olawe has been as a cultural practitioner responsible for perpetuating the annual *makahiki* ceremony on Kaho‘olawe and as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs representatives on the joint KIRC/PKO/OHA working group that created the current long-term, community planning document for Kaho‘olawe entitled: *I OLA KANALOA!*

Dr. Ching is a graduate of the University of Hawai‘i with a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts in Sculpture and Graphic Design and a Doctorate of Architecture. Currently, Dr. Ching is the Land and Property Manager in the Land Assets Division of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. In this position, Dr. Ching oversees the management of the majority of the lands held by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, almost 30,000 acres, and a ten-person staff. He engages in inter-governmental and community relations; natural resource management; strategic planning; risk management and traditional Hawaiian land management approaches.

Dr. Ching’s training as an architect and experience working with native Hawaiian land management issues is a critical need for this commission as the KIRC embarks on a series of

Capital Improvement Projects including the installation of alternative energy systems on Kaho`olawe, the development and construction of the KIRC Operational and Educational Center at Kihei, and the continuing restoration of Kaho`olawe's natural and cultural resources.

Again, the KIRC strongly supports the confirmation of Dr. Jonathan Ching to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. His commitment to native Hawaiians and to Kaho`olawe makes him uniquely qualified for the position.

**PROTECT KAHO‘OLAWE ‘OHANA
P.O. Box 39
Kaunakakai, Hawai'i 96748**



April 15, 2016

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM865 CONFIRMING JONATHAN CHING TO THE
KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION THROUGH 6-30-2020**

Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair Clarence Nishihara and members of the Senate Water, Land and Agriculture. Aloha! My name is Noa Emmett Aluli and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana in support of the appointment Jonathan Ching to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

HRS Chapter 6K Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Section 5. Commission provides that "(2) Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a list provided by the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana." When the term of Dr. Amber Namaka Whitehead expires on June 30, 2016, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana ('Ohana) would like to have Dr. Jonathan Ching (D.Arch) serve on the KIRC beginning July 1, 2016.

To summarize his qualifications to serve on the KIRC, Dr. Ching has been an active member of the 'Ohana since 1995 (21 years). He is trained as both a Kua to provide safe and meaningful journeys to the island and as a KIRC Access Guide - able to identify, mark and avoid unexploded ordnance. Dr. Ching is also a Mo'olono, a group of men in the 'Ohana responsible to conduct the annual religious ceremonies to Lono, during his season of Makahiki.

Throughout the past three (3) years, I have worked with Dr. Ching on the Kanaloa 2026 Working Group. We met with communities on all the islands to develop the innovative I OLA KANALOA! LIFE TO KANALOA! strategic plan. Through expanded networks of partners, the plan seeks to generate support for the sustainable stewardship of the island of Kaho'olawe as a sacred and cultural Hawaiian learning center for Hawai'i's people.

Dr. Ching earned a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Sculpture and Graphic Design and a Doctorate of Architecture degree and from UHM. He also took courses in urban and regional planning.

Since receiving his Phd in Architecture, Jon has worked at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in a progression of positions relating to stewardship of Hawaiian lands and natural resources. Jon was first the project planner and then the project coordinator for the Halawa-Lulukū Interpretive Development Project. In this role he developed a genealogy of the Lulukū lands and worked with the community, state and federal government to rehabilitate the cultural and natural resources impacted by the H-3 Highway.

Jon is currently the Land and Property Manager in the Land Assets Division of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. In this position, Dr. Ching oversees the management of the majority of the lands held by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, almost 30,000 acres, and a ten-person staff. He engages in inter-governmental and community relations; natural resource management; strategic planning; risk management and traditional Hawaiian land management approaches.

Jon is culturally grounded in Native Hawaiian customs and practices. He is a responsible, careful, insightful, caring and conscientious young man. He has a vision of island-based, culturally appropriate planning and management of Hawaiian ancestral and national lands. Jon is among the next generation of leaders in Hawai'i who provide a vision and a plan for stewardship of Hawai'i's lands and natural resource throughout the 21st century.

I and the 'Ohana wholeheartedly support the confirmation of Dr. Jonathan Ching to serve on the KIRC. Mahalo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: brutusluv@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM865 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 12:26:21 PM

GM865

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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Davianna Pōmaika‘i McGregor
1942 Naio St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

April 16, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM865 CONFIRMING JONATHAN CHING TO THE
KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION THROUGH 6-30-2020

Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair Clarence Nishihara and members of the Senate Water, Land and Agriculture. Aloha! My name is Davianna Pōmaika‘i McGregor and I am a Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa and a member of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana. I am submitting testimony in support of the appointment Dr. Jonathan Ching (D.Arch) to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

Dr. Ching is an outstanding young leader among the upcoming generation of Native Hawaiians. I have worked with Jon over the past twenty (20) years - first as a student and lab leader with me in the University of Hawai‘i - Mānoa Department of Ethnic Studies and then in our joint work as members of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana.

At the University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa, Jon first earned a B.A. in Fine Arts in Sculpture and Graphic Design and then a Doctorate of Architecture. His dissertation was most impressive and can serve as a guide in planning for the stewardship of rural Hawaiian communities. It was entitled, "Hawaiian Ahupua‘a Planning Approach (H.A.P.A) for Rural Communities in Hawai‘i: Modern Culturally-Based Sustainable Living Through Planning for Architecture." Having served on his dissertation committee and several other committees in architecture and planning, I can say that his dissertation is one of the two best that I have read in these fields. It now serves as a model and reference for students in both architecture and planning.

Within the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, over the past twenty-one (21) years, Jon has assumed progressively more responsible roles. He has been trained and serves as a Kua ("backbone" ‘ohana leader) to provide safe and culturally meaningful journeys to the island for participants. He is also trained in the responsibilities of a Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission access guide - able to identify, mark and avoid unexploded ordnance. Spiritually, Jon has engaged in the annual Makahiki ceremony on the island of Kanaloa and fulfills the role of mo‘olono, responsible for the preparation and conduct of the ceremony and protocols. For the past three years, Jon has also been a member of the Kanaloa 2026 Working Group to develop a sustainable strategic plan for the island of Kaho'olawe.

Jon can be trusted to always do what is best for the island of Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe. His insights, experience and aloha for Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe will be invaluable in the deliberations about policies, operations, infrastructure and future planning for the island of Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation of Dr. Jonathan Ching to serve on the KIRC.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: kahale16@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM865 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 9:55:32 AM

GM865

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
Faith Kahale Saito	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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 865 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, JONATHAN CHING, 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 Jonathan Ching for the upcoming vacant seat on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

Jonathan Ching is extraordinarily qualified to join the KIRC as he has been an active volunteer and leader for years with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, has experience in land and water resource management, understands both the economic needs of KIRC and the cultural significance of Kaho'olawe, and is commonly called upon to find common ground between competing interests in both his professional life and as a leader or member of various community groups and efforts.

I have personally had the opportunity to work with Jonathan in his current role as Pou Kāko'o Mahele Mālama 'Āina (Land & Property Manager) for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Jonathan has a tremendous work ethic, and is passionate about the culturally appropriate stewardship of land and water resources. Jonathan has dealt with challenging projects and manages to stay both positive and steadfast, always delivering a high quality work product and measurable progress toward his goal. These qualities would be especially helpful to KIRC as it cares for the island in trust and as it strives to find a more self-sufficient financial model.

Jonathan lives Hawaiian cultural values in his daily life and in all of his personal and professional dealings, in particular, aloha 'āina, mālama 'āina, lōkahi (unity) and ha'aha'a (humility). Jonathan has a deep aloha for Kaho'olawe, is incredibly grounded in Hawaiian practices, and respects ancient Hawaiian wisdom and land management strategies. With his doctorate in architecture, he is also always looking to structure creative solutions. Kaho'olawe and Hawai'i's people would benefit greatly from his service on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. Please support GM 865.

Mahalo nui,

Laura H.E. Kaakua

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: lgrand@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM865 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, April 11, 2016 6:17:20 PM

GM865

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
Lisa Grandinetti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: bphanson@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM865 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Friday, April 08, 2016 4:32:04 PM

GM865

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
pookela hanson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I ask you support Jon Ching as the next KIRC commissioner. His extensive work and experience on Kaho'olawe will help strengthen and support the mission of KIRC, PKO, and the future of the island.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: skenomoto@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM865 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016 10:19:33 AM

GM865

Submitted on: 4/16/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stanton Enomoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and members of the Water, Land and Agriculture committee. I am writing in strong support of Jonathan Ching and respectfully request your confirmation of his nomination to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). I met Jonathan over 15 years ago when I was an employee of the KIRC and since then have regarded him as a knowledgeable cultural practitioner, tireless steward, humble advocate and next-generation leader for Kanaloa Kaho'olawe. The KIRC will be well served by Jonathan's presence and contributions. I firmly believe he possesses the knowledge, skills, passion and energy to help not only the Commission and its staff, but more importantly, the island and its waters as it enters a new chapter in its history. I OLA KANALOA! Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: thomas.brennon@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM865 on Apr 18, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 9:21:43 AM

GM865

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
Thomas Brennon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support Jon Ching as KIRC commissioner.

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April 11, 2016

Senator Mike Gabbard
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 201
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Gubernatorial nomination of Jonathan Ching for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

Aloha Senator Gabbard,

The following shall serve as my letter of interest to serve as a State of Hawai'i Commissioner on the Kah'oolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). Please find the following responses to the questions provided to assist with the confirmation process.

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission?

Being raised for a good portion of my life on the Island of Maui, and hearing stories of how Kaho'olawe had significant subsistence marine resources, I have always been attracted to Kaho'olawe. Over the past 21 years, I have been a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and I have also volunteered at various levels with the KIRC. I have deep aloha for the island and I am committed to contributing to its present and future wellbeing. I am honored to be nominated to serve in the capacity of Commissioner for the Island.

(2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission?

The roles and responsibilities of the Commissioners are to carry out the responsibilities of the commission to manage the island and its surrounding waters as a Native Hawaiian cultural reserve, including, but not limited to establishing criteria, policies and controls for the permitted uses within the reserve in accordance with HRS 6K.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve 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 Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I believe that I am qualified to serve as a Commissioner based on over 21 years of on and off-island, Kaho'olawe -centered experience. My skills, expertise and knowledge is rooted in my training as a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner on the island, as a kua or leader of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and as a KIRC access guide. I provide

participants who travel to Kaho'olawe safe and meaningful journeys and training in cultural stewardship of our Hawaiian lands and ocean. My formal training in planning and architecture provides me expertise in strategic planning; design of infrastructure and facilities; and natural resource management.

I am also have land management experience as the Land and Property Manager at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, have planning and natural resource management, and budgetary experience and am familiar with the issues surrounding land management by the State of Hawai'i. My day-to-day work involves planning for lands in alignment with strategic priorities and I am passionate about management solutions and processes that balance culture, the environment, and revenue generation for sustainable and regenerative outcomes.

I also have the support of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO) whose collective experiences with the island over the years is a key resource for the KIRC. The cultural acumen, spiritual connection, on-the-ground work and experiences of the PKO provide institutional knowledge that are grounded in deep Hawaiian values and continue to evolve with the needs of the Island.

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

Three things I hope to accomplish during my term are as follows:

- a. Provide the Commission insight and support relative to the implementation of the "I OLA KANALOA ! LIFE TO KANALOA ! 2026" Strategic Plan for the island, which focuses on accomplishing what is in the best interest of the island.
- b. Provide advice relative to the planning and construction of the Kihei site on the Island of Maui.
- c. Foster the relationship between the KIRC and the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana to better enable collective impact for the benefit of the Island.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission?

Three qualities that best describe me are:

- a. I collaborate well with others, and am good at finding resolution when there is misunderstanding, remaining respectful and communicating the necessary messages with aloha. I believe this to be an essential quality for any group work.
- b. As a cultural practitioner, I am able to understand/take the concerns of other practitioners into consideration, and integrate them into the work that the Commission may need to engage.
- c. I am logical and analytical; and able to incorporate all of my collective skillsets, experience, and exposure to related issues to benefit the Island as I serve in this capacity.

- (6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission?

I have worked with the strategic planning effort for the island over the past 21 years. Most recently I have served for the past 3 years on the working group that developed the "I Ola Kanaloa" strategic plan, as a representative of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. This experience has allowed me to better understand the collective impact approach, garner the input of the community across the island chain, and incorporate the mindset as the Land and Property Manager for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. This has allowed me to simultaneously consider issues from the perspective of a community member, cultural practitioner, and a steward, all while wearing the "hat" of a State agency. I believe this ability is of extreme benefit to the KIRC, particularly in a time when funding is tight, and collective impact and leveraging seem to be essential to the continued maintenance and management of the Island.

- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

- a. The only conflict may occur if there is any issue that arises as it relates to my responsibilities at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Should a conflict arise, I would recuse myself from any decision making or taking any related actions in association with the conflict.

Thank you for your consideration for me to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. I will plan on attending the Water, Land, and Agricultural Committee hearing on April 18, 2016 at 2:45 p.m. in room 224 of the State Capitol. Please contact me at jonathanc@oha.org or (808) 358-0478 should you have any questions or need to provide me with any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Ching', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Jonathan Ching, D. Arch