



LATE

GM865

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE JONATHAN CHING, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2020**  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

April 18, 2016

2:45 p.m.

Room 224

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend to the Board of Trustees a position of **SUPPORT** for GM865, which would confirm Dr. Jonathan Ching as a member of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC), for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

As OHA’s Land & Property Manager, Dr. Ching oversees the majority of OHA’s land holdings, which comprise approximately 27,000 acres of legacy and programmatic lands, including heiau, sacred sites, forest reserves, agricultural lands, and corporate office space. In this position, Dr. Ching has gained valuable experience in natural resource management, traditional Hawaiian land management and stewardship, property management, land use laws and processes, and the integration of cultural values and practices in a Western property framework. Such experience will allow Dr. Ching to contribute significantly to KIRC’s mission of restoring, protecting, and administering the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve.

In addition, Dr. Ching has represented OHA in the *Kanaloa 2026 Working Group*, to develop I OLA KANALOA (Life to Kanaloa), a partnership between KIRC, OHA, and the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO). I OLA KANALOA seeks to create and implement a collaborative plan for the preservation, restoration, and protection of Kaho‘olawe through 2026. As a member of the working group, Mr. Ching assisted with two phases of public meetings, conducted between June 2013 and October 2014, to gather public input on a shared vision for the future of Kaho‘olawe and the implementation of I OLA KANALOA.

As a member of the PKO since 1994, Dr. Ching has also traveled to Kaho‘olawe over a hundred times, having been consistently and heavily involved in many of the rehabilitation projects occurring on the island. PKO projects that Dr. Ching has participated in include the restoration of the Ala Loa trail, the rebuilding of the Hale Hālāwai (Nāmakapili), the designing of the Hale Hāweo at Hakioawa, numerous shoreline cleanups, and the inspection of erosion control landscaping features. Dr. Ching further serves as a mo‘olono (ceremonial leader) for the annual makahiki ceremonies on Kaho‘olawe.

Dr. Ching’s demonstrated knowledge and commitment to Kaho‘olawe will likely be of great value to the KIRC, should his nomination be confirmed. Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM865. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.