

PŌ‘AI WAI OLA:
West Kaua‘i Watershed Alliance

LATE

Ke Kōmike no ka Wai a me ka ‘Āina
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Kenekoa/Senator Karl Rhoads, Luna Ho‘omalu/Chair
Kenekoa/Senator Mike Gabbard, Hope Luna Ho‘omalu/Vice Chair

April 16, 2017

TESTIMONY:
Governor’s Message No. 795: Relating to the Nomination
of Kamanamaikalani Beamer
to the Commission on Water Resource Management (“CWRM”)

Aloha Senators:

Po‘ai Wai Ola of west Kaua‘i strongly supports the Governor’s nomination of Kamanamaikalani Beamer to serve a second term as Commissioner with CWRM.

We are a community that is closely linked to the west Kaua‘i watersheds – including for the cultivation of our taro and food. The waters of the Waimea River are the focal point of the historic Waimea River valley that is home and sustenance to many generations of our Hawaiian families and specific species of fish and wildlife that depend on a healthy run-of-the-river. Kamanamaikalani Beamer has been open to hearing our concerns about local water issues, and understands the importance of restoring waters back to our rivers.

In his first term as CWRM Commissioner, Kamanamaikalani Beamer demonstrated his deep understanding of the water issues faced by our state, including the concerns of multigenerational Hawaiian communities that depend on responsible water flows. He is a Hawaiian cultural practitioner and his views are solidly based in academic expertise as a respected faculty member in the University of Hawai‘i Hawaiinuiakea School of Hawaiian Knowledge and Richardson School of Law, Hui ‘Āina Momona Program.

We urge you to approve a second term for Kamanamaikalani Beamer as a responsible and conscientious water steward for the residents of our state.

Mahalo for your attention.

Sincerely,

/s/

John A‘ana
on behalf of the PŌ‘AI WAI OLA community



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
MĀNOA

Hawaiʻinuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge
Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies

LATE

16 April 2017

Aloha kākou,

My name is Lilikalā Kameʻeleihiwa and I am the current director of the Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies at UH Mānoa where I am also a senior professor. Today I am writing in **strong support** for the nomination of Dr. Kamana Beamer for a second term on the State Water Resource Management Commission.

Professor Beamer is an expert on Hawaiian Ancestral Knowledge regarding Hawaiian water management practices. As you know our Hawaiian ancestors cultivated thousands of acres of Loʻi Kalo, or wet land taro terraces, because they discovered that an acre of wet land taro can feed 10-15 times more people than an acre of dry land taro. They were brilliant in their use of surface water management for this purpose.

Our Hawaiian ancestors were also excellent managers of underground water resources. On Oʻahu alone as late as the 1880ʻs there were 113 freshwater fishponds fed by underground springs comprising nearly 4,000 acres, raising 1 million pounds of fish per year for an ever increasing Hawaiian population.

Professor Beamer teaches classes at the Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies on traditional and modern methods of managing water and chairs graduate committees for advanced students engaged in research on Hawaiian water management. He is a foremost scholar in the field and I cannot imagine a better candidate for the State Water Resource Management Commission. I recommend him to you most highly and without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lilikalā Kameʻeleihiwa".

Lilikalā Kameʻeleihiwa, PhD

Director and Senior Professor, Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies



LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 9:23 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: keani_nwr@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM795 on Apr 17, 2017 14:45PM

GM795

Submitted on: 4/17/2017
Testimony for WTL on Apr 17, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keani Rawlins-Fernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha mai kakou, I write in STRONG SUPPORT of the confirmation of Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer to the Commission on Water Resource Management. I was a graduate student of his and have been privileged to learn from his deep, traditional 'ike (wisdom) bestowed upon him by his ancestors. I have seen him in action on the Commission, and have seen how he contributed in decision-making on really difficult issues that had the potential to affect a large number of people. His transparency, diligence, and genuine concern for the people and the environment his decisions will impact make him a truly trustworthy commissioner. I know that when he makes decisions, it is not just for those who are alive today, but also for those who have passed on and those yet to be born, as well. For these reasons, I STRONGLY urge you to CONFIRM Dr. Beamer to the Commission. Mahalo a nui, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez

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
Sent: Sunday, April 16, 2017 4:09 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM795 on Apr 17, 2017 14:45PM



GM795

Submitted on: 4/16/2017

Testimony for WTL on Apr 17, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
penny levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Kamana Beamer is respected in the community for his research and knowledge of traditional cultural practice, his management skills and his discernment in analyzing complex issues such as often comes before the Water Commission. He has served the Commission well in his first term and I strongly support his appointment to a second term on the Water Commission.

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From: [Sandra Ann K. Pratt-Aquino, Esq.](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: GM 795 Support for confirmation of Dr. Beamer
Date: Monday, April 17, 2017 9:54:32 AM



Aloha,

Please accept this testimony in strong support of Dr. Beamer's confirmation to the Water Commission. Dr. Beamer's confirmation is critical to the Water Commission in order to align the Commission with the state's mandate to have an appointed cultural practitioner on the board. By appointing Dr. Beamer, this will help the state meet its trust obligation to protect and preserve customary and traditional rights under the Hawai'i State Constitution, Article 12 Section 7, because Dr. Beamer has first hand training and knowledge in this area in addition to a network of practitioners who may provide information to educate the board on cultural practices. His unique background will grow the capacity of the Commission because he specializes in Native Hawaiian rights, is a doctor, a kalo farmer and an active community member. He understands first hand the challenges facing our precious communities at a time when access to water for cultural survival is at the center of so many of Hawai'i's issues. His appointment will bring a sense of balance to the Commission because he will bring a cultural perspective to the table that will allow the board to be informed to make equitable decisions for the future of our state. He will also help the state work toward discharging its duty as Trustee of our natural resources to ensure Hawai'i's water supply is used in accordance with the law. Dr. Beamer is ideal for this appointment because he is seen in our community as a credible, collaborative and respected leader who works endlessly to find viable solutions for our state's water needs.

In fact, we need more citizens like Dr. Beamer to be appointed to the Water Commission. Please do right by our community and confirm his appointment. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Mahalo,

Kau'i Pratt-Aquino, Esq.
Pratt Law Hawai'i, LLC
Phone: (808) 393-1948

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 3:50 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: pratt.ronni@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM795 on Apr 17, 2017 14:45PM

GM795

Submitted on: 4/17/2017
Testimony for WTL on Apr 17, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronni Pratt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please accept this testimony in strong support of Dr. Beamer's confirmation to the Water Commission. Dr. Beamer's confirmation is critical to the Water Commission in order to align the Commission with the state's mandate to have an appointed cultural practitioner on the board. Appointing Dr. Beamer, will help the state meet it's trust obligation to protect and preserve customary and traditional rights under the Hawai'i State Constitution, Article 12 Section 7, because Dr. Beamer has first hand training and knowledge in this area in addition to a network of practitioners who may provide information to educate the board on cultural practices. His unique background will grow the capacity of the Commission because he specializes in Native Hawaiian rights, is a doctor, a kalo farmer and an active community member. He understands first hand the challenges facing our precious communities at a time when access to water for cultural survival is at the center of so many of Hawai'i's issues.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 3:04 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: kardeen.wong7@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM795 on Apr 17, 2017 14:45PM

GM795

Submitted on: 4/17/2017
Testimony for WTL on Apr 17, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kardeen Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support the nomination of Kamanamaikalani Beamer for a second term on the Commission on Water Resource Management due to his extensive knowledge of Hawai'i ahupua'a, Native Hawaiian law & Hawaiian studies, cultural geography, and his work in resource management, and community stewardship. Mahalo for your full consideration. Kardeen Pili Wong

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