

GM-728

Submitted on: 4/20/2018 3:50:28 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/25/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Testifying for Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

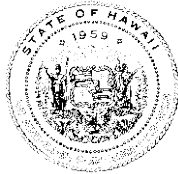
The Hawaiiabn Civic Club of Honolulu strongly supports Aaron Mahi for the Land Use Commission.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lieutenant Governor

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

MARY ALICE EVANS
Deputy Director



LAND USE COMMISSION
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
State of Hawai'i

DANIEL E. ORODENKER
Executive Officer

Bert K. Saruwatari
Planner
SCOTT A.K. DERRICKSON AICP
Planner

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Chief Clerk/Planner

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Statement of
Daniel E. Orodener
Executive Officer
Land Use Commission

Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Wednesday April 25, 2018
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of

GM 728 (as amended by GM757)
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION OF
AARON MAHI
for a term to expire 11-21-2021

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Water and Land.

I am here to respectfully request that this Committee favorably consider the nomination of Aaron Mahi to continue to serve as a commissioner for the remainder of the term expiring November 21, 2021. Mr. Mahi has been filling the role of commissioner having "substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian land usage and knowledge of cultural practices".

Mr. Mahi is well known for his past service as leader of the Royal Hawaiian Band and as an active member of the Hawaiian community. He has also served on the Burial Commission. Mr. Mahi's resume illustrates his contributions to the Hawaiian community and his knowledge of traditional Hawaiian cultural practices. Mr. Mahi is well regarded as a Hawaiian cultural resource. In his time on the Commission he has shown himself to be a concerned advocate for the protection of cultural resources as well as having an understanding of Hawai'i's housing shortage and its economic impact on the less fortunate members of our community.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Mr. Mahi's nomination to serve as an At-Large Commissioner on the Land Use Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before this Committee.



Ko`olau Foundation

P. O. Box 4749
Kane`ohe, HI 96744

April 25, 2018

To: Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair / Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Water and Land

From: Mahealani Cypher
Ko`olau Foundation

Subject: Support for Aaron Mahi's Appointment to State Land Use Commission
GM 728

Aloha mai kakou!

On behalf of the Ko`olau Foundation, we stand in strong support for Aaron Mahi's reappointment to serve on the Land Use Commission.

Our members have known Aaron for many years, and have found him to have great integrity and a deep sense of service to the people of Hawai`i.

He has demonstrated strong leadership skills, a keen sense of understanding the complexities of government and community decision-making, and a desire to help resolve conflicts and disputes that may arise.

It is the belief of the members of the Ko`olau Foundation that he brings his excellent knowledge of governance as well as his personal mana to strengthen the work of the commission.

We ask your committee to advise and consent to his appointment.

Mahalo nui loa.



KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

April 25, 2018

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
And Members, Committee on Water & Land

From: Alice P. Hewett, President
Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

Re: GM728 – Support for Appointment of Aaron D. Mahi, Land Use Commission

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of this Committee:

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club offers its strong support for the re-appointment of Aaron D. Mahi to serve another term on the State Land Use Commission.

Aaron is a member of our civic club and is our second vice president. He has proven to be an inspiring and dedicated member and leader of our club, but his service to the community is even more impressive.

We have found Aaron Mahi to be one of the most generous in giving of his volunteer time to help with our community. He has served honorably in public service for many years, and is undoubtedly proving of value as a current serving member of the commission.

We urge you to approve his nomination and recommend to the Senate as a whole to confirm Aaron for continued service on the Land Use Commission.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our mana`o.

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is one of the largest in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs nationwide. Ko`olaupoko HCC is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians and providing leadership and scholarships. Its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart."

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GM-728

Submitted on: 4/20/2018 3:15:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/25/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known Aaron for a number of years and believe his cultural knowledge and experience is something that the Land Use Commission needs and requires to fulfill its mission.

GM-728

Submitted on: 4/21/2018 10:14:42 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/25/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Matson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-728

Submitted on: 4/21/2018 12:16:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/25/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theresa Loo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Theresa Loo & Clifford Loo would like to support the confirmation to the Senate Committee on Water and Land of Aaron Mahi for a term to expire 06-30-2022. Mr. Mahi has been a great asset to our Hawaiian Culture and Hawaiian Organizations.

April 21, 2018

State Senator Karl Rhoads
State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Nomination to the Land Use Commission

Aloha Senator Rhoads:

Mahalo nui for your patience in receiving my response to the questions sent relative to my nomination for a second term to serve on the Hawai'i State Land Use Commission. It is my hope that this written response might best serve to acquaint my perspective of "Mālama 'āina both to you and the commission review committee expressing my commitment and desire in bringing service and responsibility to the future design of maintaining and sustaining a Hawai'i we can be proud of by protecting our present Hawai'i nei and the Hawai'i we leave to the generations who follow.

Response to question(s) 1 and 2:

Over these past years I've come to understand that my function as a commissioner is to serve on a 9 seat commission with responsibilities and duties contingent to determinations of land use by parties: private, corporate, commercial, governmental, educational and institutional seeking by petition a change or alteration to the present designated land use as held previous to the submission of the petition.

I also believe that due to my cultural training and knowledge of Hawaiian practices, my selection in 2014 was to offer a cultural perspective to the commission's discussions and eventual determination by lending further clarity and understanding to conditions often not addressed with in the confines of Hawai'i State land law and/or state statutes.

Question 3:

I wish to continue to serve for a second four year term in so that the awareness to cultural concepts of bringing to the fore front, insight and urgency by offering a voice to be heard in the realm of decision making while determining the face of our 'āina resounding the message of "Aloha 'Āina. It is my affirmed passion that our agricultural and preservation lands be protected and be given the highest priority of preservation when what stands in the balance are the options to reconvert these lands from a rural or conservation category to an urban commercial one.

It is my hope that Land owners, private, commercial, and/or governmental exhaust every possible avenue to maintain the "open space" and natural beauty of a green, lush, and self sustaining Hawai'i by monitoring the over use of chemicals and other industrial contaminates used by misleading agriculturalist and/or commercial entities who over use chemical insecticides and herbicides both in a rural and urban context. How would it be to again see the vast plains and valley's of Hawai'i maintained with an equitable designation of water and agriculture re-establishing the ancient wisdom of proper use of our 'Āina Hawai'i?

How wonderful it would be to again view the many fish ponds built in ancient times which when re-built can produce fish which can be marketed, or the rows of taro patches once dominating the wet lands fed by uninhibited springs and streams; to again see the return of healthy reefs producing limu and reef fish. It is a call to promote forward the rejuvenation of our Hawaiian agriculture land and fisheries. I truly believe addressing these needs can no longer be denied or mismanaged, hence through my participation on the Land Use Commission can I continue to contribute to the healthy preservation of our Hawai'i.

Question 4:

As a past serving member of the Oahu Island Burial Council both as a representative of the City and County of Honolulu for 3 years and later a representative of the Ko'olau poko district for 8 years bringing a total of eleven years of service was my attention to "Wahi Pana" – place names

and “Moku aupuni” – Island district division designation come to the fore front of my life for the selection for re-partition of burial sites for ancestral remains – “iwi kūpuna.”

Over the 24 years as director of the Royal Hawaiian Band as Bandmaster, my study and research of Hawaiian mele more specifically the poetic forms of mele and hidden meanings – “kauna.” when in the descriptive form relative to “wahi pana” – place names, it’s meaning and intended use provided me with a vision and broad understanding of significant issues facing our beloved lands.

At present I hold positions with two civic organizations, which are deeply involved in restoring and maintaining the ancient cultural sites and practice of the ahupua‘a of He‘eia - Ko‘olau Foundation – president; and Ko‘olau poko Hawaiian Civic Club – second Vice president. Resident to the ahupua‘a of He‘eia are two valleys: Ha‘ikū (where H3 connects with Hālawa valley on the Kona side of O‘ahu.) and He‘eia, which slopes to Kāne‘ohe bay through He‘eia uli to Māhuahua ‘ai o hoe to empty at Paipai He‘eia fish pond.

These two organizations also partner with Kāko‘oiwi – a cultural education program which maintains the rich taro lands of He‘eia uli named – Māhuahua ‘ai o Hoe and the fisheries maintenance program propagating fish in the restored and fully operational loko i‘a – fish pond named Paipai He‘eia.

In my present position as a Hawaiian Culture Specialist with Partners In Development foundation, it is my responsibility to train and inform our staff on the significant “wahi pana” – place names of their site location geographically, historically and conceptually with program sites on the islands of Hawai‘i, Maui, Moloka‘i, O‘ahu, and Kaua‘i with an operating staff of 320 employees.

Question 5:

It is difficult for me to say whether I personally accomplished any one particular issue or procedural act as an individual and/or member of the Land Use Commission. These kinds of accomplishments are solely won when the commission acts as a whole to forward a ruling to the issue in question and has aired and amply debated these issue as to assure a fair outcome.

As for what I wish to accomplish in a second term as a commissioner is to be more informed and aware as to conditions and knowledge to land laws which would expand the breath of my understanding and ability to make more informed decisions as a Land Use Commissioner.

Question 6:

During my tenure over the past four years, I have for the most part felt proud and satisfied as to the actions and determinations made by the commission. I believe the department staff made, in every case that came before the commission, a true supportive effort in keeping the commission well informed and prepared for the business at hand. I believe that the staff and the division's director Dan Ordenker supported and guided the commission in such a way that assured the guidance which provided a level degree of confidence and ease resulting the commission's ability to making an informative decision possible. His guidance was reflective of being honest, keeping the perspective balanced, thus affording our vision to be clear and focused to what we would estimate as being seemingly valid when considering the many issues we were to face as commissioners.

Improvements for the future: I believe that the manner and procedure of how the commission's meetings are conducted is an area that can stand some strengthening. It is important that meetings be conducted in an efficient and focused manner being formidable and centered with intent on the business at hand. During these past four years there were a few instances where the efficiency of the way the meeting was conducted lacked in focus and direction. I believe that the chair of any meeting posses skills to conduct business in a firm, confident manner with purposeful intent. They ought to be versed in keeping the direction and discussions relative to issues being expressed and expulsed in a timely and focused manner keeping all commentary of all parties present short, concise, and to the point, not being apologetic or timid. Yes, it is good to be humble and sensitive when directing a meeting, but it is even more necessary to conduct that meeting with a sense of forward movement realizing the accomplishment of the business at hand. Training of those who will be conducting meetings would be an invaluable asset to the commission's business productivity.

Question 7:

None that comes to mind, but if it were the case I would reclude myself for the duration of the deliberating and determination process with out second thought. In the event there be a potential possibility of a conflict of interest the above response would be the action to be taken.

Question 8:

None at this time – me ka mahalo

Respectfully submitted –

Aaron David Mahi
April 21, 2018

