

William J. Aila Jr.

EDUCATION

University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawai'i, B.S. General Tropical Agriculture, 1980.
Wai'anae High School, Wai'anae, Hawai'i 1976.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2014-2018 Deputy to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. Provide support to the Chairman and Hawaiian Homes Commission with implementation of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act including the provision of lots, loans, rehabilitation, and administration of programs. Assist with the oversight of the following Divisions: Homestead Services, Land Development, Land Management, Planning, Fiscal, ASO, and the Office of the Chairman.

2010-2014 Under the Governor of the State of Hawaii and through the Board of Land and Natural Resources, serve as the head of the Department of Land and Natural Resources responsible for approximately 800 positions in ten (10) divisions and four (4) staff offices. Through the divisions and staff I plan and direct the various activities of the department, encompassing public lands of the State; water resources and minerals thereon; forest, fish and game resources of the State; and manage the forest reserve, state parks, small boat harbors, including historic sites. I directed and implement departmental policies and organization; recommend administrative rules, regulations and procedures governing the conduct of the departments activities; direct and maintain program planning, evaluation activities and management improvement services; direct the preparation of departmental and program budgets; justify budget before approving authorities; and exercise control of funds made available for the department.

1987-2010 Harbor Agent for the Wai'anae Boat Harbor, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, Department of Land and Natural Resources. Manage, operate and maintain 31 acres of fast and submerged lands. Manage State waters from western end of Reef Runway to Kaena Point out to a distance of three miles. Diver in charge of Boating Division's Dive team. This team assists with the removal of navigation hazards and maintaining aids to Navigation the State has under its jurisdiction. Provide input to Boating Administrator on Legislative initiatives. Work with other State and Federal Agencies on joint issues.

1986-87 Storeroom Clerk, City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Police Department. Issue equipment to HPD officers, including firearms, and other controlled items. Maintain equipment inventory.

1983-86 Liberty House, Distribution Center, an AMFAC Company. Started as a stock clerk moving merchandise throughout the distribution center. Promoted to Neighbor Island Shipping Supervisor within a year and Reserve Stock Manager a year later. Responsible for movement of merchandise between four major department stores and 20 resort shops and for annual inventory of merchandise valued at more than \$10 million. Managed more than 50 employees including 8 supervisors

1982-2010 Commercial Fishing aboard my own vessel. Learned about 16 hour days, weather and competition. Also learned a great deal about business and regulatory impacts on business.

1980-82 Research Assistant, Dole Wahiawa Plantation, Castle and Cooke, Inc. Participated in design and implementation of early studies on organic fertilizer and soil conditioner. Also designed and implemented pineapple density trials. Results incorporated into management practice currently used around the world.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- 1983 to present, Member of the O'ahu Game Fish Club. Have also served as president.
- 1983-85 Board Member on the Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center. During this time supported expansion projects and senior day care initiatives
- 1986-88 Board Member on the Wai'anae Coast Neighborhood Board #24. As member supported responsible development initiatives that were consistent with community's vision
- 1988-90 Member on the State Bottom Fish Task Force, a committee to assess, make recommendations regarding, and assist with implementation of administrative rules governing bottom fish resources. At the request of Division's Administrator, traveled with Aquatic Resources personnel to all most of the public hearings, providing information, resulting in the adoption of State-wide bottom fishing closed areas.
- 1989 to present, co-founding Member of the Hawai'i Fishermen's Foundation, a group dedicated to the perpetuation of small boat fishing. Group was instrumental in mediating gear conflict between Longliners and Small Boat Fishermen.
- 1989-99 Member of Pelagic Advisory Sub-Panel to the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council (WESPAC). Served as co-chair from 1992-99. This panel made recommendations to the full council on federal fisheries management plans. Many of its recommendations adopted by U.S. Department of Commerce.
- 1992-94 Member of the State Shark Task Force, a committee charged with developing policies involving shark attacks occurring in state waters. Many of its recommendations adopted as current State policy.
- 1994-96 Chairman of the Small Boat Pelagic Fisheries Working Group. This committee made recommendations to WESPAC regarding issues such as the collection of catch data from the small boat fishing fleet in Hawai'i. Many of its recommendations adopted and implemented by U.S. Department of Commerce.
- 1996 Appointed as a member of the Saltonstall-Kennedy Constituency Panel. Invited to Washington, D.C. to review scientific grant applications related to fisheries projects and to prioritize funding requests. During this session the Southwest region, which includes Hawai'i, received record funding for projects, one of which resulted in changes in the State's ocean leasing statues, which allowed open ocean aquaculture to proceed in State waters.
- 1995-97 Member of the Bottom Fish and Indigenous Rights Advisory Sub-Panel to WESPAC. These panels made recommendations to the full council on federal fisheries management plans. Many recommendations adopted by WESPAC Council and implemented by U.S. Dept. of Commerce
- 1997-98 Member of the State Gill Net Task Force, a committee charged with making recommendations to amend administrative rules governing the use of gill nets. Many of the recent regulations governing gill nets, resulted from recommendations.
- 1998-2010, member of the Ukani Po Advisory Council, a committee set up to work with the U.S. Army regarding restoration of Ukani Po Heiau complex. Drafted restoration plan and access plan. Currently

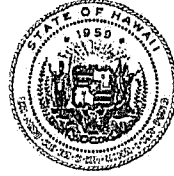
awaiting funding.

- 2000 Invited to testify before the U. S. House of Representatives Committee on Resources, regarding pending legislation to ban shark finning. Legislation became federal law later in the session.
- 2000-01 Member of Makaha Elementary School's School Community Management Board. Assisted New Principal with difficult transition of past Administration.
- 2000-2010, Member of the Wai'anae Coast Neighborhood Board, Parks and Recreation Committee. Made recommendations such as park closures, and overnight permit for Keawaula State Park, which has been adopted and implemented.
- 2001-2010, Co-founding member of Lokahi A Lanakila O Wai'anae, a group of community volunteers dedicated to keeping graduation ceremonies at Wai'anae High School. We entered into an agreement with school officials to provide planning and support services for graduation ceremonies. Ten years of successful graduations to date.
- 2001-2010, Council member representing Native Hawaiians on the North-Western Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Council. Responsible for providing advice to NOAA Sanctuaries Division of U.S. Department of Commerce. Review applications for access into the area.
- 2001-2004, Board member of Wai'anae Coast Alternative Community Development Corporation. A non-profit dedicated to community economic development and social capital. Ma'o Organic Farm is an example of success.
- 2008-2010, President of the Board for the Wai'anae Coast Alternative Development Corporation. During this tenure Ma'o Farms grew from 5-acre operation to 23-acre operation, employing more than 30 people and contributing to the continuing education of more than 25 students in college.
- 2002-2010, President of the Lualualei Ahupua'a Council. A community group dedicated to protecting and preserving Hawaiian cultural sites and perpetuating cultural practices along the Wai'anae Coast. We continue to provide cultural monitors for construction projects. Organized workshops to teach Hawaiian culture along the Wai'anae Coast.
- 2002-2010, President of Mohala I Ka Wai. A watershed restoration group focusing on restoring the health of Wai'anae's watersheds and educating residents on the need to conserve water and protect our streams. Community partner in the Wai'anae Watershed Partnership, created to better manage our watershed.
- 2002-2006 Member of the Wai'anae Weed and Seed Task Force, a group of community members applying for federal Weed and Seed status to assist with reducing drug dealing and use in the Wai'anae community. Although funding expired, many projects such as community clean ups and graffiti paint out projects continue.
- 2004-2006; Appointed Board member of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority by governor to represent the public's interests in the development of Kalaeloa. Provided advice on Hawaiian Cultural perspectives that were incorporated into the Kalaeloa Master Plan.
- 2005-2010, Board member of Ka Papa O Kakuhihewa, an organization formed to fund educational projects relating to resource conservation in the area from Kapolei to Kaena. Continue to work through Hawaii Community Foundation to award more than \$70,000.00 in grants every year.

- 2005-2010, Board member of Hui Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawaii Nei, an organization dedicated to repatriating and reburying iwi kupuna and their possessions. President of organization since 2008.
- 2009-2010, member of Leeward Community College Wai'anae Campus Advisory Board. Provide advice on programs and curriculum choices for students attending classes at the campus. Advise on future planning options for the campus. Interact with Wai'anae community and expand support for campus.
- 2009-2010, member of U.S. Army Ordinance Reef Advisory Committee. Provide advice to U.S. Army and the University of Hawai'i regarding plans, protocol on sampling strategies, and methodology of analysis, for health studies and plans for removal and disposal of ammunition disposed of off the Wai'anae Coast.
- 2009-2010, member of Advisory Group to U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i. Providing advice to the Garrison on issues relating to the transition of Army lands located in Wai'anae, to public control and use. Issues include, unexploded ordinance, health, and protection of cultural sites and resources.
- 2009-2010, Chairperson of the Kaena Point Advisory Group. Provide advice and recommendations to the Board of Land and Natural Resources on management changes needed to reduce the negative impacts occurring at Kaena Point State Park Reserve. Review and make recommendations to improve the State's Ocean Recreation Management Plan as it relates to Kaena Point. Land Board is currently reviewing the group's recommendations.
- 2009-2010, appointed to National Marine Protected Areas, advisory council. This group advises the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Interior, on policy issues relating to the Nation's Marine Protected Areas, and any uses within. The Advisory Council has recently adopted policies incorporating Native American, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander, views and positions into these National Policies.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

March 31, 2019

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro
Chair, Senate Committee on
Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Aloha Senator Shimabukuro!

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide the information requested.

1. As Deputy Director for the past four years, I have learned that the Department is much more complex than observers from outside can imagine. It manages more than two hundred thousand acres of land statewide. It is supposed to manage a Hawaiian Trust for three sets of beneficiaries: 1) lessees, 2) those on the waiting lists, and 3) qualified (n)ative Hawaiians who are eligible to be on the waiting list. Any decision that the Commission or Department makes regarding one of these beneficiary classes affects the others. For example, applying revenue to rehabilitation impacts the timing of infrastructure to complete much needed lots to award to beneficiaries on the waiting list. It maintains a recordation system and a successorship procedure akin to a probate process. With ten thousand lessees, with each transfer, either as a sales transaction, transfer to family, or a death of the lessee, the Department remains involved unlike in the fee simple world.

From personal experience with my wife Melva, an agricultural lot lessee, we know the struggles first hand of obtaining financing to build as an owner builder, working several jobs while raising a family and cultivating two thirds of our four-acre lot.

2. I believe my experiences as the spouse of a Homesteader, Harbor master at the Waianae Boat Harbor, former Chairman of DLNR, and Deputy of DHHL are strengths. In addition, I have been told that I am calm, respectful, reasonable, dependable, at times innovative, and a good listener. I always try to see the other persons point of view and always willing to work with those whom I have had disagreements with on the merits of an issue. I am willing to change my position when new information becomes available. As for my weaknesses, I can always be a better communicator. I need to continue to accept, learn and apply the use of new technologies.

3. The Department and Commission has a staff that is committed to serving beneficiaries and works diligently to fulfill Prince Kūhiō's vision. The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act provides strong authority to the Department to act on behalf of Beneficiaries. The continuing support of the Department's general fund budget by the Governor and the Legislature is an example of the hard work by staff in demonstrating need for continuing funding to further implement the Act. With regard to our weaknesses, we need to improve our communication with lessees and those on the waiting list. Increasing communication opportunities within our organization, between Honolulu and the neighbor islands staff has been identified to provide better service to beneficiaries. The Department is currently improving our Information and Community Relations Office by hiring new employees with greater technical skills. The creation of a new Division, the Awards and Customer Service will allow the Department to bring all the Awards activities into one Division and the implementation of an inquiry tracking system will allow for more timely responses to beneficiary questions.
4. The priorities for the department articulated by the Chair and the HHC includes: 1) ensuring fiscal sustainability by growing revenues from financial resources as well as revenues from lands not available for homesteading while reducing ongoing subsidies and the risk to trust assets, 2) addressing the waiting list by developing over 1300 lots over the next five years as well as water infrastructure and expanding residential lease offerings to include multi-family housing since DHHL is in the environmental/planning phases for three sites – 820 Isenberg Street (former "Bowl-a-Drome"), Ulu Ke Kukui in Mailli, and East Kapolei (DHHL parcel near the rail station), 3) growing thriving healthy communities including addressing natural and cultural resources through resource management, special district transition, sea level rise plans, water system improvements, and 4) improving DHHL operations through the creation of a new Division mentioned above and the phased reorganization aimed at improving efficiencies and enhance DHHL's ability to meet its mission.
5. The department's top budgetary priority is to continue to secure the necessary resources for our administrative and operating expenses and to manage the nearly two-thirds of DHHL's land inventory designated as General Agriculture or Conservation/Special District since most of these lands will remain in DHHL's inventory over the next 20 years thereby allowing the revenues earned off of our available lands to be used to serve our beneficiaries including the development of over 1300 lots in the pipeline over the next five years, assuming funding to design and construct these lots are made available.
6. The Department continues to have a very low turn over rate although there are many staff who are eligible to retire. Morale has improved for several reasons, decision making based upon what is in the General, Island or Regional plans has brought consistency to the Department. Additionally, in response to Chair's and my efforts to turn around requests for approval/signature within 48 hours allows staff to complete processes and respond to inquiries in a shorter period.

7. I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interests.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide information and the privilege of serving the beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and the people of Hawaii.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William J. Aila, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

William J. Aila, Jr., Deputy to the Chair
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

DAVID Y. IGE
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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P O BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

April 1, 2019

**The Honorable Senator Kaiali'i Kahele,
State of Hawaii, Senate District 1 – Hilo
415 S. Beretenaia St., ROOM 213
Honolulu, HI 96813**

Dear Senator Kahele,

Subject: Response to Your Request for the Submission of a Written Statement Regarding My
Nomination for Deputy to the Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

- 1) Why do you want to serve another term as the Deputy to the Chair of DHHL?

Growing up in a predominantly Native Hawaiian community, it was instilled in me by my 'ohana at a very young age to serve others. I believe the experience I have acquired over a long track record of community service and as the Deputy to the Chair of DHHL for the past four years, my service as the Chair of DLNR prior to that, as well as the over twenty years at the Waianae Boat Harbor can be used to further Prince Kūhiō's legacy that my wife, myself, and my 'ohana have the privilege of benefitting from today.

- 2) During your service in this role, describe how you have fulfilled the department's mandate in enabling Native Hawaiians to return to their lands, assuring long-term tenancy to beneficiaries, in order to fully support self-sufficiency and self-determination of Native Hawaiians?

As the Deputy to the Chair of DHHL, I supported the Chair in the completion of over 700 lots, of which nearly half have been awarded on Hawaii, Kauai, Maui and Oahu and the remaining lots are planned for award beginning this year. In addition, we are providing greater options to beneficiaries by increasing the number of vacant lot awards, which beneficiaries requested so they can build their own homes or work with self-help providers as well as expanding the product type offerings available on Hawaiian home lands including multi-family affordable rentals (possibly for kupuna) and/or multi-family condominiums through proposed administrative rules expected to be completed this year. Sustaining the level of general funds to cover administrative and operating expenses are key to ensuring that the revenues earned off of available lands can be used to return more native Hawaiians to their lands.

- 3) If you are confirmed, what do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope to continue to implement the priorities articulated by the Chair and the HHC, specifically ensuring fiscal sustainability, addressing the waiting list, growing thriving healthy communities including addressing natural and cultural resources, and improving DHHL operations. This term is also uniquely critical because it will mark the 100th anniversary of the HHCA enactment and

given this significance, DHHL will be updating the General Plan, which will set the direction for the next 20 years.

- 4) What are some of the challenges that you have faced in assisting beneficiary families maintain their homes and how have you and DHHL remedied, or plan on remedying, those challenges?

The challenges that I have faced in assisting beneficiary families maintain their homes is the life circumstances that many of us face like the death of a family member or loss of a job and even sometimes the dispute that occurs within the family. To the extent that is appropriate without interfering in what is often a family decision, we do our best to find solutions that can work. We recognize that unfortunately, agreement cannot always be reached, so one of the areas we are looking to expand is allowing for families to access ho'oponopono services to assist where possible. In situations that are completely outside of the lessee's control like emergency disaster situations such as the lava flow that could have potentially impacted families in Maku'u, I served as the point person within DHHL in facilitating communications and relocation if needed.

- 5) How would you propose garnering further political will regarding infrastructure to secure water access for agricultural lessees?

I propose to build off of the great strides that DHHL has made in this area since the HHC's adoption of the Water Policy Plan. Just this past year, DHHL secured approved water reservations for DHHL's foreseeable groundwater needs statewide from the Commission on Water Resource Management. These reservations are significant for future development on Hawaiian home lands because they clearly articulate to current and potential future users of water what amounts must be set aside and protected now for DHHL's future use. In addition to these reservations, DHHL collaborated with the UH Law School to host and sponsor a series of statewide workshops for beneficiaries to understand water issues associated with DHHL and to provide for more informed advocacy.

- 6) What considerations should be given when developing high-rise or condominium projects to potentially house more beneficiaries?

The first consideration should be given to our beneficiaries, which is why DHHL conducted beneficiary consultation on administrative rules that proposes to expand residential lease offerings to include multi-family housing. DHHL is in the environmental/planning phases for three sites that are being considered for multi-family affordable rentals (possibly for kupuna) and/or multi-family condominiums. These sites include 820 Isenberg Street (former "Bowl-a-Drome") site, Ulu Ke Kukui in Maili (an existing multi-family structure on DHHL lands), and East Kapolei (DHHL parcel near the rail station).

- 7) How do you propose that we address the growing waiting list?

As one of the priorities articulated by the Chair and the HHC, addressing the waiting list includes building off of the completion of over 700 lots by developing the over 1300 lots in the pipeline over the next five years, assuming funding to design and construct these lots are made available. Water infrastructure is another critical component to lot development in Ka'u, North Kona, and Wailua, Kauai. The acquisition of land on Oahu as a result of funding in the last biennium also presents another unique opportunity. The expansion of the Subsistence Ag award with projects commencing on Hawaii Island, Kauai, Molokai and Oahu will allow DHHL to address the longer waiting lists for an agricultural lot on Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, and Molokai.

Aloha,

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William J. Aila, Jr., Deputy to the Chair
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands