



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of
David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
April 2, 2019
1:15 pm., Room 016

In consideration of
GM 667, William J. Aila, Jr.
as the
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in reconfirming William "Bill" J. Aila, Jr. as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) a position he has held since 2014.

Bill is the former chairman of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and served as the Harbor Agent for the Wai'anae Boat Harbor from 1987-2010. In addition, Bill has participated on several boards and task forces centered around native Hawaiian rights and natural resource management including the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, Mohala I Ka Wai, Hui Malama 'O Makua and others. Ailā holds a B.S. degree from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

My administration is committed to reshaping the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I am confident that William J. Aila, Jr. will continue to support our employees at DHHL in this effort. Moving forward together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kūpuna, and all the residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHIJO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

March 20, 2019

To: The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair,
The Honorable Kaialii Kahale, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

From: Scott T. Murakami, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: G.M. No. 667 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to
the Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee,
WILLIAM J. AILA**

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee,

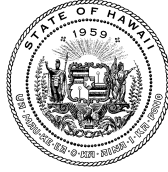
My name is Scott T. Murakami, and I am the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I am testifying in strong support of Governor's Message 667, Gubernatorial Nominee, William J. Aila, as the Deputy to the Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

Mr. Aila has demonstrated that he has the leadership and experience to assist in leading the DHHL. As the Deputy to the Chair, Mr. Aila supports the Chair by providing support in the implementation of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and overseeing seven divisions, including the Land Development and Land Management divisions. Mr. Aila's prior service as the Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Harbor Agent for the Waianae Boat Harbor as well as his extensive community service show his extensive knowledge, passion, and commitment to address the complex issues before the DHHL and his dedication to public service.

I urge you to confirm Mr. Aila to serve as the Deputy to the Chair of the DHHL so that he may continue to provide leadership and service to the public.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Aila.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
AUDREY HIDANO, DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
TUESSDAY, APRIL 2, 2019, 1:15 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 667

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **WILLIAM J. AILA**, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

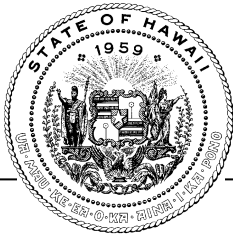
Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 667. I support the nomination of **MR. WILLAIM J. AILA** to the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I've known Mr. Aila since his work at Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). He is rich in knowledge working at the huge department of DLNR from boating to land issues.

Mr. Aila also has a deep personal connection with the Hawaiian community and knowledge of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. He would be a perfect support (deputy) to the Chairperson of DHHL (Department of Hawaiian Homelands).

Mr. Aila is truly dedicated to his work at DHHL and to the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Tuesday, April 2, 2019
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of

Governor's Message (GM) 667

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

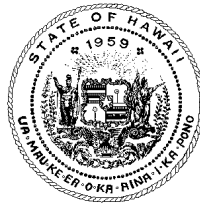
I strongly support the nomination of Mr. William J. Aila to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I have known Mr. Aila, both professionally and personally for over 10 years, and have had the opportunity to work with him in his past capacity as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and most recently in his capacity as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. His diligent work, compassion for the public, passion for the Native Hawaiian community and Hawaii's natural resources, and holistic approach have always been his assets, and he continues to demonstrate the highest level of professionalism. Mr. Aila has gained my trust and respect as someone that will always uphold the highest levels of leadership, and there is no question that he will greatly contribute and apply his knowledge and experiences to the work of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and its beneficiaries.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to advise and consent to the nomination of Mr. William J. Aila as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM 667.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 667,
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE WILLIAM J. AILA.

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

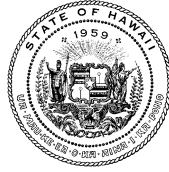
The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the nomination of William Aila as Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

Mr. Aila has already proven himself, having served very competently for the past four years as Deputy Director of DHHL. His previous employment and broad experience in community relations, stretching back to the 1980's, clearly show Mr. Aila as one who has dedicated himself to Hawaii's communities, oceans and lands. Mr. Aila's experience in regulatory ocean management, his service as the former Chair/Director of the Board/ Department of Land and Resources, and as a respected community advocate have prepared him well for the work he has done and continues to do for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

In addition, Deputy Director Aila's strong knowledge of Native Hawaiian land systems and culture make him the ideal candidate to serve in this capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

APRIL 2, 2019, 1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 016, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 667
SUBMITTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, WILLIAM J. AILA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 667. I support the nomination of Mr. Aila to the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

Mr. Aila has served as Deputy Director of DHHL since December 2014. Previously, he has served a term as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. In addition, Mr. Aila has been the Harbor Agent for the Waianae Boat Harbor, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, Department of Land and Natural Resources.

He has a passion for community service having served on numerous boards, working groups, advisory groups, councils and task forces. Mr. Aila's track record as a public servant and leadership in the community makes him the ideal candidate to continue to serve as the Deputy Director of DHHL.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

March 27, 2019

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
For Hearing on Tuesday, April 2, 2019
1:15 p.m., Conference Room 016

By

RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

Governor's Message 667
(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee on
Hawaiian Affairs

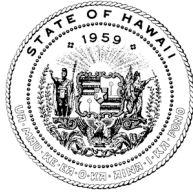
RE: Consideration and confirmation of William J. Aila as Deputy to the Chairperson for
the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I submit this testimony in **Strong Support** of the confirmation of William J. Aila
as Deputy to the Chairperson for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I have had
the opportunity to work with Mr. Aila over the past two years as Deputy to the
Chairperson. I have found him to be a dedicated, knowledgeable, measured and a well-
prepared person who is well suited for the position of Deputy to the Chairperson for the
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I support the confirmation of Mr. William Aila as the Deputy to the Chairperson for
the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 667
and William Aila.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

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Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Tuesday, April 2, 2019

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE No. 667
Gubernatorial Nominee William J. Aila

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the committee:

I am submitting testimony in support of Mr. William J. Aila, nominee for deputy to the chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Mr. Aila has held this position since 2014 and is the former chairman of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and served as the Harbor Agent for the Wai'anae Boat Harbor from 1987-2010.

In addition, Mr. Aila has participated on several boards and task forces centered around native Hawaiian rights and natural resource management including the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, Mohala I Ka Wai, Hui Malama 'O Makua and others.

Along with his strong government and leadership experience, Mr. Aila is passionate and dedicated to the community and constituents the department serves. I highly recommend the committee to favorably consider Mr. Aila for deputy to the chairperson so that he can continue his work with the department and the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this nominee.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, April 2, 2019
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 667
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
AS THE DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE WILLIAM J AILA, JR.
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON DECEMBER 5, 2022.**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources expresses its strong support for the confirmation of William J. Aila, Jr. to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for a term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022.

Mr. Aila has served as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for the past four years. As Deputy, he has played a pivotal role in implementing the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act through oversight of key programs including Land Management and Homestead Services.

Mr. Aila previously served as the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources from 2010 to 2014. As its Chairperson, he showed excellent leadership which resulted in doubling the amount of forest under watershed management, moving forward rules for the Hā'ena community-based fisheries, increasing staff morale, and expanding the Natural Area Reserves Program, among other things.

Mr. Aila lives on Hawaiian Homestead land and has dedicated much of his life to Hawaiian issues. Mr. Aila is well aware of the issues facing the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and he brings the skills, knowledge and 'ano to address and solve the challenges the Department faces.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources strongly supports confirmation of William J. Aila, Jr. as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

APRIL 2, 2019
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 016

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 667
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY TO
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WILLIAM J. AILA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON
ON 12-05-2022**

Chairperson Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 667, submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, William J. Aila, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022. The Department strongly supports this measure.

Mr. Aila has been serving as the Deputy to the Chairperson for DHHL for the past four (4) years. He has also served as the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. His leadership experience, along with his desire to support the local community, makes Mr. Aila a clear choice to continue his service at the DHHL.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





GM667

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY TO THE
CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WILLIAM J. AILĀ, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-05-2022**
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 2, 2019

1:15 p.m.

Room 016

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** GM667, which would confirm William J. Ailā, Jr., as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

Under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA), the United States and the State of Hawai‘i are entrusted with the solemn duty to administer the HHCA on behalf of its native Hawaiian beneficiaries. DHHL accordingly administers approximately 200,000 acres of Hawaiian Home Lands Trust land set aside under the HHCA for residential, agricultural, and pastoral use by native Hawaiian beneficiaries, for whom there are 10,000 existing homestead leases statewide; notably, approximately 27,000 individuals remain on the DHHL waitlist for a homestead lease. With this kuleana in mind, OHA supports the confirmation of William Ailā, Jr., to continue as Deputy to the DHHL Chairperson.

OHA believes that Mr. Ailā will continue to help provide the leadership necessary to guide DHHL, the Hawaiian Homes Commission, and the State in fulfilling their fiduciary duties to native Hawaiians under the HHCA. As the DHHL Deputy Director, a position he has held since 2015, Mr. Ailā currently oversees DHHL’s various divisions, including Homestead Services, Land Development, Land Management, Planning, Fiscal, ASO, and the Office of the Chairperson. Among other achievements, Mr. Ailā has helped to guide the development of DHHL administrative rules for subsistence agricultural leases, as well as proposed rules for multi-family complexes and rental housing, all of which are intended to deliver more leases to HHCA beneficiaries. Mr. Ailā’s demonstrated effectiveness as DHHL’s Deputy Director will likely continue to serve the department and its beneficiaries well, should he be confirmed to a second term.

Notably, Mr. Ailā’s organizational leadership experience is also well demonstrated by his prior role as the Director of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). As the DLNR Director, Mr. Ailā led an agency of more than 700 employees in 16 different divisions and offices within the DLNR, in carrying out its critical mission to protect, conserve, and manage Hawai‘i’s unique and invaluable natural, cultural, and historic resources. His many accomplishments at DLNR include securing the final Board of Land and Natural Resources’ historic approval of the Hā‘ena, Kaua‘i community based

subsistence fishing area rules; protecting critical watershed areas, through the Rain Follows the Forest initiative; expanding Hawai'i's Natural Area Reserve System program; establishing new enforcement mechanisms to better protect our natural and cultural resources; and working with the community on a variety of cultural and resource issues. Accordingly, Mr. Ailā's prior leadership experiences and achievements at DLNR further counsel his reappointment as the Deputy Director of DHHL.

Finally, OHA notes that Mr. Ailā's substantial experience working with and for the Native Hawaiian community in his personal capacity demonstrates his commitment to public service generally. He has been and continues to be a vigorous and effective advocate for protecting Hawaiian burial grounds and other lands Hawaiians consider sacred. As a Wai'anāe resident, he has also served as President of Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna as well as the Wai'anāe Community Re-development Corporation, otherwise known as MA'O Organic Farms. OHA believes his dedication to these community endeavors reflect Mr. Ailā's personal commitment to dutifully serve DHHL and its beneficiaries.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM667.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
Mike McCartney

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Tuesday, April 2, 2019
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of
GM 667

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM J. AILA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee.

I **support** the appointment of **William J. Aila** to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mr. Aila has served the State of Hawaii for over three decades. He is currently the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), that provides support to the Chair and the Hawaiian Home Land Commission by providing administration of programs and the provision of lots and loans. In his past capacity as the Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources he oversaw the budget and 800-person staff in 10 divisions and four staff offices by implementing and governing policies, managing programs and the budget. As Harbor Agent for the Waianae Boat Harbor he supervised the operation and maintenance of submerged lands for over 20 years. Aila's dedication to improving the State through his professional and community contributions will be an asset to the DHHL.

For these reasons, I urge his confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097**

April 2, 2019
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

G.M. 667

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM J. AILA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** the confirmation of William Aila Jr. as the Deputy Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

Mr. Aila's strength is the fact that he understands DHHL's responsibilities. As the current Deputy to DHHL, former Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, an environmentalist, a community activist, and a native Hawaiian cultural practitioner, he has had a lot of experience and knows the critical issues. He doesn't walk in as somebody who agreed to take the job. He walks in as someone who is willing and able and would be instrumental to make DHHL bring parties together.

We have worked with Mr. Aila on several projects. His leadership in bringing to successful completion on land and environmental matters are few examples where his wealth of experience working on challenging issues to improve our state was demonstrated time and time again. He has managed to work with people who have competing interests and differing views in the most constructive and substantive manner. He is astute, steadfast, and dependable and we have the utmost confidence he will continue to improve the living conditions of Native Hawaiians.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



LATE

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

**TESTIMONY OF JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON APRIL 02, 2019 AT 1:15PM IN CR 016**

IN SUPPORT OF

GM667

for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,
Gubernatorial Nominee, **WILLIAM J. AILA**,
for a term to expire 12-05-2022

April 02, 2019

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee:

My name is Jobie Masagatani and I serve as the Chair of the Hawaiian Homes Commission. I strongly support Governor Ige's nomination of William J. Aila as the Deputy to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

Mr. Aila has served as Deputy to the Chairman of DHHL since 2015. As part of the executive leadership team at DHHL during the first Ige Administration, Mr. Aila played an instrumental part in completing the many accomplishments achieved in the first Ige term including: securing the highest level of general funding provided to DHHL for its operating budget in the history of the program and substantial CIP resources in the last two fiscal years; completing 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; increasing the earnings from available lands; refinancing all debt resulting in a saving of over \$20 million; doubling the balance of loans to make more financing available for other beneficiaries; addressing programmatic reforms through Administrative Rules amendments; and securing approved water reservations for DHHL's foreseeable groundwater needs statewide which are significant for future development on Hawaiian home lands.

In addition, Mr. Aila shepherded through several complex issues during his time as Deputy. Most notable was the historic Mediation Agreement for the Waimea Watershed Area between Po'ai Wai Ola/West Kauai Watershed Alliance, DHHL, Kauai Island Utility Commission, Agribusiness Development Corporation, and Kekaha Agriculture Association regarding the use of water in the Waimea/Kekaha area of Kauai.

This agreement and the process followed to reach this agreement provides a tangible model and approach that balances competing public, private, and trust uses for an important trust resource, water.

On the island of Hawaii, Mr. Aila was the lead DHHL senior executive working with Ms. Niniau Simmons (DHHL staff) to respond expeditiously to the advancing lava flow that began in June 2014 that threatened to displace Makuu homesteaders. Procedurally and tactically this was no easy undertaking to set in place a plan to relocate expeditiously existing homesteaders in the event the flow overran Makuu.

Mr. Aila also was the lead senior executive to negotiate the alternative energy land disposition on Maui to select producer NextEra. Although the exit of NextEra out of Hawaii terminated this project, the lack of opposition to this project when it was brought to the Hawaiian Homes Commission for final approval was a testament to the ground work undertaken by Mr. Aila. Specifically, Mr. Aila, along with DHHL staff, invested several hours in extensive discussions with the beneficiary leaders of the impacted community, Kahikinui, and several hours invested in beneficiary consultations on Maui to identify and mitigate the concerns of the beneficiary community.

Mr. Aila is a life-long resident of Wai'anae, a graduate of Wai'anae High School, and a graduate of the University of Hawaii with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Tropical Agriculture. He has served as Harbor Agent, Wai'anae Boat Harbor, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and as the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, which governs the department, from 2010-2014.

Mr. Aila resides with his family on a Home Lands residential award to his wife. As such he understands the how, what, and why of living and being, a Home Lands resident. It is frustration, it is gratitude.

His involvement in his community has been life-long. A very few of the groups he has helped are the National Marine Protected Areas Advisory Council, Ka'ena Point Advisory Group, Advisory Group to the US Army Garrison Hawaii, US Army Ordinance Reef Advisory Committee, Leeward Community College Wai'anae Campus- Advisory Board, Hui I Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawaii Nei, Ka Papa O Kakuhihewa, Hawaii Community Development Authority, Wai'anae Weed and Seed Task Force, Mohala I Ka Wai -- just a few. This is his service, as he has been taught by his kupuna.

Having worked directly with Mr. Aila, he takes to heart the responsibilities we have at DHHL to manage the DHHL trust fairly, and in the best interests of all beneficiaries: lessees, applicants, and those yet to come or to be qualified as beneficiaries. He is thoughtful in his approach, doing his homework before reaching conclusions and recommendations. He strives to be responsive and timely in the

requests made of him by beneficiaries and other stakeholders, recognizing the impact delay on the part of DHHL can have in the individual lives of beneficiaries. He has demonstrated through his action and words his steadfast commitment to the vision of Ke Alii Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole, and the mission of DHHL.

We respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination, and we thank you for your consideration of this testimony.



LATE



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Aha Moku Advisory Committee

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Tuesday, April 2, 2019
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

**Governor's Message 667
William Aila**

Governor's Message 667 has been submitted to the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, gubernatorial nominee, William J. Aila, for a term to expire at noon on December 05, 2022.

On behalf of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC) and the Moku of Moku O Keawe (Hawaii Island), Moku O Pi'ilani (Maui), Moku O Kanaloa (Kaho'olawe), Nana'I Kaula (Lana'i), Molokai Pule O'o (Moloka'i), Moku O Kakuhihewa (O'ahu), Manokalanipo (Kaua'i) and Ka Aina O Kawelonakala (Ni'ihau), we strongly support this nomination.

William Aila has the experience, and the knowledge needed to be part of the leadership of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. A true keiki o ka aina, he comes from a family of traditional practitioners and has been involved in Hawaiian Affairs for most of his life. He is intimately familiar with the traditional ahupua'a system on the individual islands and understands the *'ike* of *kupuna*. He uses his gifts of understanding Hawaiians and their *kaona* to work with the Native Hawaiian beneficiaries on Hawaiian Home Lands, on each island. This knowledge and expertise bridges the *ike and uhane* (knowledge and spirit) between the Hawaiians of each place, and the beneficiaries of Hawaiian Homes who now live among those who are native to each of the areas where Hawaiian Homesteads now stand.

William Aila is a strong supporter of the Aha Moku Process, a traditional land and ocean management system that was restored through the translations of oral chants and mo'olelo that came from the 9th century by the late respected historian and kumu, John Kaimikaua. Attached to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) by the Legislature via Act 288, SLH 2012, Mr. Aila solidified the office of the Aha Moku within the DLNR Chairs Office, thus giving native Hawaiian traditional practitioners access to the DLNR Land Board, the divisions of DLNR, and other state and county agencies where education and collaboration was made possible.

The native Hawaiian generational and traditional practitioners of many different disciplines who are part of the Aha Moku process are grateful to William Aila, one of their own, who continues to support and take care of his people.

Aha Moku strongly supports this gubernatorial nomination and urge this Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs to confirm the appointment of William Aila as the Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully,

Leimana DaMate
Hawaii State Aha Moku
Phone: 808-640-1214
Email: Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 9:01:23 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Iwalani McBrayer	Testifying for SCHHA Homestead Housing Authority	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS NOMINATION! OUR LĀ€HUI CANNOT AFFORD ANOTHER FOUR YEARS OF ENDLESS RETALIATORY PERSECUTION OF LESSEES & OUT RIGHT ANTAGONISTIC APPROACH TO LESSEES AND BENEFICIARIES. WE NEED FRESH LEADERSHIP FROM ROBIN DANNER AS DIRECTOR & BERNARD CARVALHO AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR. MAHALO!

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 11:33:52 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
SYBIL LOPEZ	Testifying for Kalama'ula Mauka Homestead Association	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable State Leaders!

It is with a bittersweet feeling for us to report to you our findings from Homestead Leaders across Ko Hawai'i Pae`Aina, in relation to who should be appointed Director and Deputy Director of DHHL going forward for the next four years.

We have found that the vast majority wants to see FRESH NEW LEADERSHIP, under the direction of Bernard Carvalho and either Robin Danner or Esther Kia`aina as his deputies. Robin Danner's name also overwhelmingly came up for Kaua'i Commissioner.

As is very well known, we have staunchly supported TEAM MASAGATANI, we still strongly & unwaveringly support Jobie Masagatani as Director. However, in recent discussions with Deputy William Aila, we have concluded that the great resentment by an overwhelming number of lessees and beneficiaries are correct: A STRONG NO VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR WILLIAM AILA.

Personally, we love Deputy Aila and his Ohana. However, its time that the voice of Lessees and Beneficiaries be heard and matter to the Department, this cannot happen under Deputy Aila, as long as he continues to find ZERO FAULT on the part of the Department for any issue that arises between the Department and Lessees, and his belief that Lessees are always wrong.

Appointing William Aila as Deputy Director or even Interim Director of DHHL would fly in the face of the majority of Hawaiian Homestead Lessees and Beneficiaries.

PLEASE HEAR OUR VOICES! A'OLE AILA!

-----Original Message-----

From: david kawelo [<mailto:dlkrnkawelo@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 2:37 PM

To: Sen. Maile Shimabukuro <senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Subject: William Bill Aila - Nomination

Aloha Maili Shimabukuro and committee members:

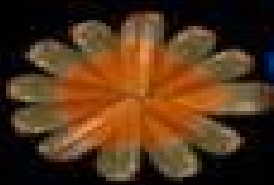
On behalf of Rochelle N.Kawelo and the Waianae Hawaiian Civic Club we fully support the nomination of William Bill Aila as deputy director for DHHL at a 4 year term with Department of Hawaiian Homes.

Mahalo Nui,

Rochelle N.Kawelo

Pelekikena

Please forward to your committee members. Mahalo



Keaukaha
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 5146 HILO, HI 96720

Email: kcaiprez@gmail.com

Phone: (808) 937-8217

March 28, 2019

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

NOTICE OF OBJECTIONS FOR REAPPOINTMENT GM 667

Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Honorable Senator Kaialii Kahele Vice Chair

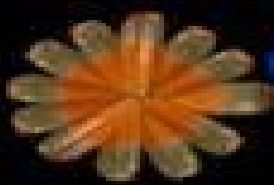
Aloha Senator Shimabukuro and other members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I am Patrick L. Kahawaiolaa. A native Hawaiian as defined pursuant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 as amended July 9, 1921 (**ch. 42. 42 stat. 108**) and the current president of the Keaukaha Community Association, the SECOND Hawaiian Home lands settled in the territory on **December 16, 1924**, one (1) day after the FIRST Hawaiian Home lands was settled in the territory on **December 15, 1924** on the island of Molokai at Kalamaula and according to the 2010 Census there are 1457 people living there in Keaukaha in approximately 400 homes.

Mokupuni o Hawaii is divided according to the DHHL's last **Annual Report to the State Legislature** and its Beneficiaries dated 2014 into East and West Hawaii. Over 65% of the Trust lands statewide **administered** by the DHHL are situated in East Hawaii. Proceeds and Income from those Trust lands in East Hawaii **GENERATES** the HIGHEST LEASE REVENUES IN THE STATE, however the East Hawaii District Office (EHDO) until just recently was run but a Spartan staff of an 89 day hire District Manager (6 years) and a clerk. In the past a full staff was a District Manager, three (3) clerks and an Enforcement Officer. So! For Keaukaha Community IT BOILS DOWN TO LEADERSHIP AT THE DEPARTMENT.

The management and Leadership of the DHHL under Jobie Masagatani and William Aila leave much to be desired and to continue in this vain would not be in the best interest of the native Hawaiian Beneficiaries. The **failure** to provide both the Legislature and the Beneficiaries with an Annual Report for over five (5) years is inexcusable and it also reflects poorly upon our elected officials for NOT MAKING AN INQUIRY ANNUALLY AS TO WHY NONE WAS PRODUCED.

IN THE EAST HAWAII DISTRICT THAT GENERATES THE MOST INCOME IN LEASE RENTALS YET WE BEG FOR HELP IN EAST HAWAII TO MOVE FORWARD. THE AINA HURTS WHEN IN EAST HAWAII WE HAVE LOST CONTROL OF OUR AINA MAUNA LANDS IN HUMUULA (56K ACRES) AND OTHER PROJECTS BROUGHT FORWARD DISCUSSED BUT NOT ACTED UPON, such as UXO in Makuu, Lava plans, Honomu Subsistence Agricultural development, Economic and Self Determination on Aina Mauna Lands, Aina Mauna Lands Taskforce three (3) meeting (incomplete), NAHASDA funding rolled out under Gov. Abercrombie and stalled under Gov. Ige, Airport Noise



Keaukaha
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 5146 HILO, HI 96720

Email: kcaiprez@gmail.com

Phone: (808) 937-8217

Attenuation stalled, and the straw that broke the camel back for Keaukaha whereby the Mayor of Hawaii County and the Chair of the DHHL were about to enter into an AGREEMENT to one Reimburse the County \$400K for RETROFITTING LED STREETLIGHTS and pay for Traffic Control devices (Speed Bumps) within our community.

In light of the recent court case 2012 ***Nelson vs. Hawaiian Homes Commission SCWC 30110***. This case dealt with the State of Hawaii's **FAILURE** to **sufficiently provide** funding to the DHHL. The resolution reached AFTER the State of Hawaii **APPEALED** the final decision of Judge Castingetti that among other things the State of Hawaii **OWES** the DHHL \$28m a year for Operating and Maintenance of the DHHL. Even after the Supreme Court ruled that the **purview** of appropriating funds to the DHHL is **vested** in the Legislative Body and not the Judicial the mere facts that for about 25-30 YEARS the DHHL was using the GENERAL LEASE revenues to **operate** the DHHL and that in my opinion was a **breach of their fiduciary duties** whereby the beneficiaries was left with mere pittance and the staff and employees of the DHHL grew exponentially under this administration and also from the previous administration.

As a Product of the Homestead ma Keaukaha I am sorry for my rambling but the Lack of Confidence on behalf of Masagatani & Aila is especially hurtful this past election cycle where Mr. Aila ran for one of the At Large seat on the OHA board, failing that Mr. Aila and this Governor feels COMFORTABLE to have him return as the Deputy of DHHL the very same position he was **PREPARED TO LEAVE IF ELECTED TO THE OHA BOAD OF TRUSTEE**. Was his heart truly in it for the Beneficiaries OR for SECURING a JOB? I leave with ONE of the most important bullet point of the approximately 40 bullet points of the *Finding Of Facts and Conclusions Of Laws* (FOFCOL) from the **Nelson Case** wherein the Judge concluded that the DHHL **"...could not serve two masters and that their primary function was to work in the best interest of the beneficiaries and not the State..."**

THEREFORE WE ASK THAT BASED ON THE AFOREMENTIONED NOTICE OF OBJECTIONS FOR REAPPOINTMENT THIS BODY DENY REAPPOINTMENT.

If more information is needed I can be reached @ (808) 937-8217

'Owau me ka ha'aha'a (I humbly remain)

Patrick L. Kahawaiola'a

On Mar 28, 2019, at 11:46 AM, Sybil Lopez <lopezs808@gmail.com> wrote:

Aloha Honorable State Leaders!

It is with a bittersweet feeling for us to report to you our findings from Homestead Leaders across Ko Hawai'i Pae `Aina, in relation to who should be appointed Director and Deputy Director of DHHL going forward for the next four years.

We have found that the vast majority wants to see FRESH NEW LEADERSHIP, under the direction of Bernard Carvalho and either Robin Danner or Esther Kia`aina as his deputies. Robin Danner's name also overwhelmingly came up for Kaua`i Commissioner.

As is very well known, we have staunchly supported TEAM MASAGATANI, we still strongly & unwaveringly support Jobie Masagatani as Director. However, in recent discussions with Deputy William Aila, we have concluded that the great resentment by an overwhelming number of lessees and beneficiaries are correct: A STRONG NO VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR WILLIAM AILA.

Personally, we love Deputy Aila and his Ohana. However, its time that the voice of Lessees and Beneficiaries be heard and matter to the Department, this cannot happen under Deputy Aila, as long as he continues to find ZERO FAULT on the part of the Department for any issue that arises between the Department and Lessees, and his belief that Lessees are always wrong.

Appointing William Aila as Deputy Director or even Interim Director of DHHL would fly in the face of the majority of Hawaiian Homestead Lessees and Beneficiaries.

PLEASE HEAR OUR VOICES! `A`OLE AILA!!

MAHALO NUNUI;

SYBIL K LOPEZ, (808) 298-6442

President of Kalama'ula Mauka Homestead Association

Molokai Representative of Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee

Successor to the Hawaiian Homestead Commission Act

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 4:49:57 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Testifying for Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

WE STRONGLY OPPOSE WILLIAM AILA AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR DHHL, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT, HE WILL BECOME INTERIM DIRECTOR ONCE OUR ESTEEMED DIRECTOR, JOBIE MASAGATANI'S TERM ENDS IN EARLY MAY. THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE MORE EVICTIONS FROM HOMESTEADS & LESS DEATHLISTERS GETTING INTO HOMESTEADS.

I DO NOT HAVE A PERSONAL AXE TO GRIND WITH MR. AILA & CONSIDER HIM TO BE A FRIEND. HOWEVER, IN THE SEVERAL TIMES IN WHICH I'VE TRIED TO INFORMALLY RESOLVE THREE (3) HOMESTEAD LEASE ISSUES, ALL I GOT WAS A BELIEF THAT THE LESSEE WAS TO BLAME AND THE DEPARTMENT WAS WHOLLY WITHOUT BLAME. IT IS THIS KIND OF MENTALITY THAT WILL LEAD TO INCREASED LAWSUITS AGAINST THE STATE AND THE DEPARTMENT.

IN THE END, WE NEED A DEPUTY DIRECTOR THAT DOESN'T SEEK TO LAY BLAME ON THE COMMISSION OR LESSEES, AND ASCRIBES NO BLAME WHATSOEVER TO THE DEPARTMENT. WE NEED A DEPUTY/INTERIM DIRECTOR WHO WILL SEEK TO WORK WITH OUR HOMESTEAD LESSEES TO FIGURE OUT WAYS IN KERPING THEM IN THEIR HOMES, MUCH LIKE OBAMA'S H.A.M.P. LAW FORCED MORTGAGE LENDERS TO WORK WITH HOMEOWNERS TO KEEP THE HOMEOWNERS IN THEIR HOMES, RATHER THAN TO LOOK FOR EXCUSES TO KICK NATIVE HAWAIIANS OUT OF OUR HOMES & ONTO OUR ALREADY CROWDED BEACHES THAT IS FILLED WITH HOUSELESS PEOPLE.

Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice-Chair
COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Pauline Nakoolani Namuo
Hawaiian Homes Commission
Email: pnamuo@gmail.com
Cellphone: (808) 292-2610

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, April 2, 2019

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

Support for **GM 667** Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM J. AILA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

I strongly support William J. Aila's nomination as the Gubernatorial Nominee for Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

William, as we know him, has an extensive, longstanding, courageous Hawaiian cultural background that is unprecedented and unmatched.

I have had experiences with various Hawaiian organizations. Currently, as the Pelekikena of Ahahui Kaahumanu, I work with many strong, independent, opinionated Hawaiian women with whom William is able to communicate so well as he is able to relate to them culturally and intellectually as part of the community they live in by speaking to them in cultural terms that they understand and hold dear to their hearts. And as a member of the Kalihi Palama Civic Club, I experience the trials and tribulations of low income Hawaiian children when I substitute in the public schools, similar to what William experiences in his Waianae public schools, his empathy and compassion for people helps him in his job.

We have been through various gubernatorial political campaigns and I have found him to be honest, straightforward, reliable, and extremely diligent. That is the type of person you need a Deputy to be.

In working with the Hawaiian Homes Commission, I have been impressed with his performance and his handling of difficult situations. He is doing a great job.

I strongly support the confirmation of William J. Aila for Deputy to the Chairperson of Hawaiian Home Lands.

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 6:14:42 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shar Poe	Testifying for Waianae Neighborhood Board #24	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of Sharlette Poe

Waianae Neighborhood Board #24

IN SUPPORT

GM 667 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the

Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,

Gubernatorial Nominee,

WILLIAM J. AILA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 27, 2019

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee,

As the Chair of the Waianae Neighborhood Board #24 (WNB#24) I am writing in support of Governor’s Message 667 and ask that you confirm Mr. William J. Aila to be the

Deputy to the Chairman for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. The WNB#24 unanimously voted in support of Mr. Aila on February 5, 2019.

As an entity that represents a Community with a very large population of Native Hawaiians, and with six Hawaiian Homesteads plus scattered Hawaiian Homestead Lands agricultural lots within and adjacent to our area, the WNB#24 supports strong leadership in the Native Hawaiian community, and recognize Mr. Aila as a strong leader. As a homesteader himself we believe Mr. Aila has the experience and knowledge that is needed to support the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. We also believe that this experience will provide important insights in decision-making at the DHHL on behalf of the beneficiaries. His professional experience as Deputy to the Chairman for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands these past four years, Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources prior to that, and Waianae Harbor Master before even that speak for themselves. We are encouraged by his continued appointment at DHHL.

As a City organized and Community focused entity, of which the majority of members are beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Home Lands trust, the WNB#24 believes Mr. Aila's leadership will directly and positively impact our lives, and the lives of many others in the broader Hawaiian community and our state. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with Mr. Aila and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to elevate the quality of life of our Community and to fulfill Prince KĀĀhiĀ's vision.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of our testimony.

Sharlette Poe, Chair

Waianae Neighborhood Board #24

96792solutions@gmail.com

April 1, 2019

Senator Maile Shimabukuro
Chair, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: OPPOSITION TO THE CONFIRMATION OF WILLIAM AILA AS DEPUTY TO
THE DHHL CHAIRPERSON // GM 667 Submitting for consideration and confirmation
as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Dear Senator Shimabukuro,

The Keaukaha Pana'ewa Farmers Association (KPFA) Board of Directors is submitting this testimony in opposition to GM 667. KPFA opposes the confirmation of William Aila as Deputy to the DHHL Chairperson.

KPFA does not support Mr. Aila's confirmation because we need stronger and more capable leadership at DHHL. We also need leadership that will support our communities and protect our DHHL trust lands for the benefit of current and future DHHL beneficiaries.

We also support homestead association efforts to require the administration and the State Legislature to institute reforms within DHHL and to fully fund DHHL operational expenses.

KPFA represents lessees for 285 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) agricultural lots on 1,615 acres. Our Pana'ewa community is located in the Waiakea ahupua'a, South Hilo District. It includes 3,200 acres owned by DHHL that is held in trust for Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and our successors.

The trust doctrine provides that DHHL and the State of Hawai'i has a fiduciary obligation to protect all DHHL land for the benefit of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. This obligation includes

protecting DHHL land from adverse impacts from surrounding uses and opposing development that would impede future development of DHHL lands and impact the use and quiet enjoyment of DHHL trust lands for existing and future beneficiaries.

DHHL lands are leased to non-Hawaiian entities for industrial and other commercial uses. DHHL is under significant pressure to commercialize Trust Lands to fund its operational expenses. Pana'ewa general leases provide the largest lease revenue to DHHL.

Our community has a tragic history with DHHL and state/county agencies allowing DHHL trust lands to be used for projects that benefit the public at large. Native Hawaiians were forced to relocate from their homes so that the Hilo International Airport could be built. More Native Hawaiian families were forced to relocate when the airport was expanded.

The County landfill was placed adjacent to our community and only closed because it reached its maximum capacity. Other major land uses in the vicinity that generate noise and odor continue. The County solid waste facilities (transfer station, green waste) and the Mass Transit Agency Base Yard are to the east of our community.

One unencumbered DHHL lot lies between the County facilities and our community. Two outlying unencumbered lots are within the 551dn noise contour of the airport.

The County race car drag strip borders one of the large unencumbered lots that is designated for residential DHHL use. Our community has to not only live with the noise from the drag strip, drag strip activities and noise levels has diminished the use of adjacent DHHL trust lands.

In 2017, KPFA challenged and was able to prevent the County of Hawai'i's placement of an islandwide waste management facility next to our community. While we were engaged in that challenge, one of our representatives initiated and the State Legislature approved \$250,000 to fund an environmental assessment to place a missile launch facility, the Pacific Spaceport Complex-Hawai'i (PSCH), on the other side of our community.

Since 2014, the PSCH process was secretive and reflects the lack of integrity and concern for our DHHL community as well as adjacent communities. This lack of integrity is reflective of not only Alaska Aerospace Corporation (ACC), but the Hawai'i Island Economic Development Board, the University of Hawai'i, DBEDT, Shipman Corporation and all Hawai'i Island county, state and federal representatives who never bothered to disclose PSCH plans to the community; the most significant stakeholders. Although our community is adjacent to the PSCH, we were not included in these 'stakeholder' discussions from 2014 to the present.

In addition to the lack of public disclosure, the Environmental Assessment was not only initiated and/or supported by legislative representatives in districts directly impacted by PSCH, our taxpayer funds are being diverted via UH to pay for the Environmental Assessment for a private corporation. Moreover, the fact that state legislators are trying to create a pathway for PSCH that would exempt PSCH from state oversight and regulations is disturbing.

After five years of meetings, Alaska Aerospace Corporation (AAC) *finally* initiated one meeting with our community in January 2019. At that meeting, our community informed AAC CEO Craig Campbell that we opposed PSCH. No county or state representative attended that meeting.

On February 6th, ACC conducted an 'open house' 'informational' meeting for the general public in Hilo. That 'open house' did not qualify as a 'public meeting'. Its format did not provide a full and open forum for the community to respond to the PSCH. It is evident that KSF never intended to hold a public meeting for fear of news headlines displaying significant opposition to PSCH. If AAC or KSF truly wanted public input, then an open forum public meeting would have been held.

It is critical that the Committee take note of the foregoing issues because our DHHL communities need formidable and capable leadership to stand up and challenge initiatives supported by the Governor, business interests and our own county and state representatives that are detrimental to our DHHL Trust Lands and to our beneficiaries. Our DHHL communities also need DHHL leadership with the qualifications needed to plan, finance and build homes for our beneficiaries.

Your consideration of our opposition to GM 667 is appreciated. We will be making DHHL leadership recommendations to the administration.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maile Lu'uwai". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Maile Lu'uwai
President
Keukaha Pana'ewa Farmers Association
maile@luuwailaw.com // 808.280.0083

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 8:02:58 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Brown	Testifying for Pana'ewa Hawaiian Home Lands Community Association	Comments	No

Comments:

"Transparency is not about restoring trust in institutions. Transparency is the politics of managing mistrust." ~ Ivan Krastev

May missing continuity in management of Trust Lands meet our needs in reparations.

Bill Brown

President, PPHLCA

From: "NSW District 8" <kanehilinsw@gmail.com>
To: "HWNTestimony" <HWNTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Cc: "All Senators" <sens@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: **Opposition Testimony on Bill Aila as Deputy**

March 31, 2019

To: 2019 State of Hawaii Legislative

RE: DHHL Deputy Director Nomination

Aloha Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

This written testimony is submitted based on factual information that was provided to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Deputy Director Bill Aila. On the recent budget hearing in 2019 our NSW (Neighborhood Security Watch) attended this meeting, and a question was asked by State Senator Kai Kahele to Deputy Bill Aila if he was aware of any kind of "Drugs" in the Homesteads? Mr. Aila responded (no) he was not aware of any drugs in the Homesteads.

Our group is from Kanehili Community Association in Kapolei, right behind DHHL's building, we are one of the newest Hawaiian Homesteads in Kapolei. We are known as Ka Laulima Ho'omalua (protection corporation) which is a subsidy for the NSW (neighborhood security watch). Our mission is to help bring awareness to our communities about prevention of crime/drugs and to give back the hope of instilling safety to the communities. We work along with the Honolulu Police Department.

Getting back to the question that was asked by State Senator Kai Kahele to Deputy Aila, if he was aware of any "drugs" in the Homesteads, Mr. Aila replied saying he was not aware of it, (*that was a dagger to our hearts that day to hear him say that*). Our NSW watch groups have taken information from residences regarding illegal drug activities and information we have gathered during our walks in our homestead communities and handed it over to law enforcement, under the "WATCH" of Deputy Bill Aila. The illegal activities occurring in the residences ceased. The NSW did hold several scheduled meetings with Aila to update him on the presence of illegal drugs in our homesteads. Deputy Aila was well aware of the drug problem, prior to his questioning by Senator Kai Kahele. We need leadership in the DHHL who must be open, honest and transparent with the beneficiaries and will take swift action to address a serious drug problem in our homesteads. Deputy Aila turned his back on the Homesteads for the Safety of our people, especially our

Keiki's. Our last drug report given to Deputy Aila in 2017, was of great concern to our community. It turned out that a drug dealer who was aired on our News Stations as being "WANTED", was the same individual who was dealing drugs in our Homestead. Bill Aila's lack of care, concern, and interest is why we are in opposition of his reappointment to Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo,
Kanehili NSW Patrol Coordinator
District 8 Community Policing Team
Phone: (808) 620-9169
Email: kanehilinsw@gmail.com



Ko`olau Foundation

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

April 2, 2019

TO: Chair Maile Shimabukuro
Vice Chair Kaiali`i K. Kahele
And Members, Hawaiian Affairs Committee

FROM: Aaron Mahi, President
Ko`olau Foundation

RE: Support for Appointment of William J. Aila – DHHL Deputy Director

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Distinguished Members of this Committee:

The Ko`olau Foundation considers it an honor and a privilege to offer our strong support for the confirmation of William J. Aila as deputy director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Our foundation has been involved in many activities, over the years, in which we have been able to observe and witness the character and professionalism of Mr. Aila in how he handled both his community and public service. We have been pleased and impressed with his abilities to listen well to the communities he has served, and to take action when needed to support his agency's goals and objectives. We feel he made an excellent leader as the former chair of the State Board of Land and Natural Resources, and he has helped to uplift his current agency – the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands – by providing his strengths and insights to assist in the work of DHHL.

We feel he should at least continue in his current position or, if at all possible, he should be elevated to serve as chair of the Hawaiian Homes Commission. We offer our recommendation that your committee approve this Governor's appointment and that the full Senate confirm this action.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer our mana`o.

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:21:05 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Akau	Testifying for SCHHA	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I stand in strong opposition to the re-appointment of William J. Aila, as the Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

These last four years has been challenging times for HHCA beneficiaries as we have faced many injustices, mismanagement of our trust lands, a steep decline in federal funding, lack of adequate housing development, thousands of qualified beneficiaries on the waiting list, DHHL's failure to preserve it's trust obligations and fulfill it's fiduciary responsibilities. Years of experience as the Deputy don't equate to competency. We have voiced our concerns with this current Administration, only to endure much frustration and dissatisfaction with their responses and subsequent minimal actions taken. Our basic rights as native Hawaiians has been violated many times over in light of the passage of the HHCA of 1920. We definetly need a change of Leadership; we need Leaders who's vision are aligned with the same vision Prince Kuhio had for his people, and who possess the courage and determination to implement and fulfill the provisions outlined in this ACT. This Administration lacks the capacity and the will to faithfully carry out the intents and purposes of the ACT.

Mahalo for allowing me to share my testimony.

Randy Akau

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 12:54:52 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald T Kodani	Testifying for Piihonua Hawaiian Homestead Community Association	Oppose	No

Comments:



April 2, 2019

The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Senate
435 S. Beretania St., #016
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

RE: GM 667 - Consideration and Confirmation of the Deputy to the Chairperson of the
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, William J. Aila.

Thank you for your consideration William J. Aila as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of
Hawaiian Home Lands.

My name is Edward M. Kobel, President of Development for DeBartolo Development. We strongly
support for the nomination of Mr. Aila as the Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian
Home Lands. We feel that Mr. Aila has the leadership abilities and vision to guide the Department
towards further growth and development of resources and services for Native Hawaiians.

Mr. Aila has foresight and skills that have allowed seem-less partnering with the Department,
especially with a complex project such as the Ka Makana Ali'i Center. We thoroughly enjoy
working with him and his team in creating new possibilities for the Department and the many
constituents that the Department serves.

We look forward to a continued partnership with Mr. Aila and his team and encourage you to
confirm him as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for your consideration and for this opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,


Edward M. Kobel, President

Testimony of
Linda K. Rosehill
President, Rosehill & Associates

Before the
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
April 2, 2019
1:15pm, Room 016

In consideration of
GM 667, William J. Aila
as the
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the nomination of William J. Aila as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I have known and worked with Mr. Aila for many years, even prior to him joining the state government. He is fair, thoughtful, respectful, and reasonable in his deliberations and in the manner with which he approaches issues and decisions. To the extent possible, his follow up when addressing sensitive issues is timely. His willingness to work through these types of issues to create win-win outcomes will continue to move the DHHL forward in addressing its many pressing goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Testimony of Sheldon Mattos
Kelonu Enterprises LLC
IN SUPPORT

GM 667 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,
Gubernatorial Nominee,
WILLIAM J. AILA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

April 01, 2019

Aloha Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing in support of Governors message 667, and ask that you confirm Mr. William J Aila to be the Deputy of the Chairperson for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I have worked closely with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for the past eight years leading multiple projects all focusing on the common goal of maintaining and achieving better management of our lands and it's resources. Working with Mr. Aila has been a successful and pleasant experience. Mr. Aila has the ability to recognize and understand the magnitude of diverse circumstances involved with Land and Resource Management, and through his work experience and institutional knowledge his capabilities makes him an asset to both Native Hawaiians and to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Mr. Aila is a Native Hawaiian and a homesteader of which further validates his insurable interest for the Hawaiian people abroad.

I strongly encourage Mr. Aila's continued appointment at DHHL and I look forward to continue working in partnership with Mr. Aila and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands fulfilling a legacy for our lands and our people.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your consideration of my testimony.

Sheldon Mattos
Kelonu Enterprises LLC



200 North Vineyard Boulevard, B140
Honolulu, HI 96817
Ph: 808-587-7886
Toll Free: 1-866-400-1116
www.hawaiiancommunity.net

April 1, 2019

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 1:15pm
Conference Room 016

GM667 - Comments

Aloha Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members:

I am submitting testimony in my capacity as Executive Director of Hawaiian Community Assets (HCA), a Native Hawaiian controlled nonprofit community development corporation, the State's largest HUD-approved housing counseling agency and native community development financial institution (CDFI), to submit comments regarding the appointment of William Aila as Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

Founded in 2000 by native Hawaiian beneficiaries, our organization has specialized on building the capacity of low- and moderate-income native Hawaiian households and communities to achieve and sustain economic self-sufficiency. Our philosophy supports affordable housing, culturally-relevant financial education, and asset building and community lending programs to realize our mission. Over the last 18 years, we have served over 18,000 individuals with free financial education, assisted 5,900 children and adults secure or sustain housing, and helped native Hawaiian communities access more than \$142 million in capital for affordable housing from mortgage financing, grants, and loans.

Since 2006 HCA has served as the Housing Chair for the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement responsible for facilitating the annual Native Hawaiian Housing Caucus. It has been during these caucuses and in conversations with the thousands of native Hawaiian families, native Hawaiian community leaders, and other housing stakeholders, that we have developed the enclosed the 2018 policy priorities and recommendations for increasing affordable housing for Native Hawaiians. These policy priorities and recommendations allow the Hawaiian community to guide the work of our leadership and staff, ensuring we remain dedicated to community-driven solutions for increasing affordable housing for the beneficiaries of Hawaiian Home Lands.

It is with this experience that we offer our comments and call for leadership at DHHL that is committed to taking actions that will increase access to affordable housing for native Hawaiian children, adults, and families.

HCA calls for leadership at DHHL that commits to:

- Understanding that Hawaiian Home Lands is one of the nation's largest land trusts built for affordable housing and should be utilized to build housing that is affordable for households earning \$75,000 annually or less;
- Signing the updated FHA 247 MOU to allow native Hawaiian homeowners access to their home equity at 85% loan-to-value (currently at 75%) like all other FHA homeowners in the nation which would unlock \$43 million that could be used to build ohana units, renovate/rehab aging homes, start small businesses, send children to college, or consolidate debt and ultimately boost our state economy;
- Allowing accessory dwelling and ohana units on Hawaiian Home Lands where there exist approximately 9,000 homestead lots that could provide space for 9,000 rental units for individuals and families in need of affordable housing;
- Partnering with native Hawaiian nonprofit developers and native community development financial institutions to renovate and rehab the approximate 400 vacant housing units on Hawaiian Home Lands so they can be offered to the 22,000+ native Hawaiians who continue to wait for their residential lease award;
- Adopting provisions of Act 48 to ensure native Hawaiian homeowners receive the same foreclosure protections and access to HUD housing counseling as all other homeowners in Hawaii which will help reduce DHHL's 25% mortgage delinquency rate and prevent unnecessary lease cancellations that lead to homelessness;
- Exercising DHHL's right to exempt itself from County zoning to increase the financial viability of housing development that is affordable for the 22,000+ native Hawaiian beneficiaries who wait for their residential lease award and rightful place on their land;
- Working in partnership - and good faith - with native Hawaiian-controlled nonprofit developers and native community development financial institutions to build and finance multi-family rental housing, tiny homes, homeless shelters, and for-sale units that Hawaiian Home Lands' beneficiaries have requested for years;
- Utilizing DHHL's backlog and annual allocation of NAHASDA funds according to the recommendations from native Hawaiian beneficiaries through extensive beneficiary consultation;
- Prioritizing and executing contracts with nonprofit developers to build affordable rental, rent-to-own, rent with option to purchase, and for-sale units for native Hawaiian beneficiaries;
- Assisting the native Hawaiian community in accessing the remaining mortgage financing required by Bank of America as a result of a Federal Reserve order as a result of historic and verified redlining;
- Contracting Hawaiian Homestead Associations for services to support homestead communities whenever possible, and;
- Presenting annually to the Hawaii State Legislature its progress on housing production and issuance and cancellation of leases to beneficiaries.

At a time when Hawaii renters and homeowners are the most cost burdened in the nation, while reporting the lowest annual average pay rates and when our houseless population is nearly 50% Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, we are far beyond a moral imperative to have focused, action-oriented, and respectful leadership within the Governor's Administration and DHHL that will fulfill the mission of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and make its #1 priority, to provide homes that are affordable for the native Hawaiian people.

On behalf of our organization's Board, staff, volunteers, and thousands of Hawaiian families we serve, we hope your committee will consider this call for leadership and approve individuals for Governor appointed DHHL positions who commit to taking action that will lead to greater access to affordable housing for native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

Mahalo for your time, leadership and consideration. Please contact me directly at 808.587.7653 or jeff@hawaiiancommunity.net should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Gilbreath". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jeff Gilbreath
Executive Director

2018 Native Hawaiian Housing Caucus Policy Priorities and Recommendations

Policy Priority 1 (Federal/State/DHHL). Update the FHA 247 MOU between Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and Department of Housing and Urban Development. One of the most common sources of consumer capital for business start-ups, enterprise investments and fueling economic development in any community, is home equity financing. There is a significant disparity between the loan products available to native Hawaiians in comparison to loans available in the fee simple marketplace in Hawaii. Likewise, there are similar disparities in product availability on trust lands in Hawaii in comparison to trust lands on the continent.

While the rest of the nation is allowed to refinance existing FHA mortgages to reduce interest rates and access equity up to 85 percent of loan to value, the FHA 247 loan product for Hawaiian Home Lands limits refinancing transactions and equity financing to 75 percent loan to value. Further, the product prohibits business purposes, educational tuition and other meaningful financing purposes that advance economic security and economic opportunities for native Hawaiians. The rest of the nation, including the counterpart FHA 248 program for Indian lands, does not have these prohibitions, creating a significant disparity in accessing consumer capital and a potential fair lending violation.

In 2012, the acting Deputy Director at the Hawaii State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and HUD representatives re-negotiated the MOU to update the FHA 247 program based on the requests from native Hawaiian homeowners. Despite HUD's willingness to enter into the re-negotiated MOU, it has not been signed by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. The result of the deficiencies in the FHA 247 program creates an even greater economic divide by closing off the lifeline of capital that is a requirement of any healthy community.

Recommendation 1: We recommend that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands assess and implement actions necessary to bring parity to the FHA 247 program available to native Hawaiians and their trust land assets.

Policy Priority 2 (State/DHHL). Housing Partnerships with Native Hawaiian nonprofit developers. Partner with Native Hawaiian nonprofits to develop affordable housing with leveraged public and private funds to gain efficiencies and meet the expectations of the Native Hawaiian Housing Plan and contribute to the State's 10-Year Affordable Housing Plan. Native Hawaiian nonprofit developers are prioritizing affordable, supportive housing, including multi-family rental housing, duplexes, 4-plexes, accessory dwelling units, and self-help programs. Collectively, the Native Hawaiian nonprofit developers plan to develop more than 2,000 affordable housing units on and off Hawaiian Home Lands for Hawaii residents by 2026.

Recommendation 1: We recommend the Administration to include projects being developed by Native Hawaiian nonprofits on and off Hawaiian Home Lands in the State's 10-Year Affordable Housing Plan.

Recommendation 2: We recommend the State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to match Rental Housing Revolving Fund awards to affordable housing projects led by native Hawaiian developers on Hawaiian Home Lands with Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act funding.

2018 Native Hawaiian Housing Caucus Policy Priorities and Recommendations

Policy Priority 3 (State/DHHL). Foreclosure Prevention on Hawaiian Home Lands. Create parity between native Hawaiian homeowners and all other homeowners across the state in regards to foreclosure protections. The State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands could adopt the foreclosure protections outlined in Act 48, including a 5-month moratorium on foreclosures on Hawaiian Home Lands, written collection policies, and mandated HUD housing counseling before foreclosures can occur, as a strategy for reducing our growing homeless population and addressing the extremely high 14.5% overall mortgage delinquency rate on Hawaiian Home Lands. Nearly 80% of native Hawaiian homeowners HCA has worked with over the last 5 years are delinquent on their mortgage because they experienced a loss or reduction in income. Adoption of the Act 48 provisions would provide time and opportunity for public and private sectors to partner in using standard loss mitigation options as tools proven effective in the mainstream marketplace for reducing the costs of unnecessary foreclosure. Without access to these tools, we risk more families falling victim to homelessness.

Recommendation 1. We recommend the State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands adopt Act 48 by writing and approving collection policies and provide a moratorium on foreclosures while partnering with HUD housing counseling agencies to conduct delinquent loan assessments for native Hawaiian homeowner families and assist with drafting mutually-beneficial loan modifications.

Policy Priority 4 (DHHL). Partner with Hawaiian Homestead Associations to identify lots with infrastructure and vacant units suitable for affordable housing development.

Hawaiian Home Lands is one of the largest land trusts in the nation with 203,000 acres of land available to native Hawaiians and their Native Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian family members. According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Hawaiian Home Lands has been successful in reducing Hawaii residents' monthly housing costs¹. The average housing cost burden of Hawaiian Home Lands residents is 21% versus the 42% average housing cost burden of all other Hawaii residents. Furthermore, there are existing lots with infrastructure and, according to the 2010 US Census, 400 vacant units in homestead communities across the state that could be utilized for both reducing the Hawaiian Home Lands waitlist and helping meet the State's mandate for affordable housing units.

Recommendation 1. We recommend the State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to fund Hawaiian Homestead Associations to identify lots with infrastructure and vacant units suitable for affordable housing development.

Policy Priority 5 (OHA/DHHL). Leverage loan funds to increase capital available for affordable housing development for Native Hawaiians. Native Hawaiian controlled community development financial institutions (CDFIs) are nonprofit intermediaries that are helping communities build affordable housing in Hawaii by pooling together public and private capital for deployment to underserved populations through loans and grants. Collectively, Native Hawaiian CDFIs in Hawaii hold nearly \$4 million in capital that can be leveraged with public and private capital. According to the Carsey Institute, CDFIs across the nation are

¹ HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research. Housing Needs of Native Hawaiians. July 2017. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr-edge-research-072417.html>

2018 Native Hawaiian Housing Caucus Policy Priorities and Recommendations

levering Federal investments at a rate of up to 8:1². Equity and loan investments by the State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in Native Hawaiian controlled CDFIs could not only realize a financial return on investment, but a social return on impact by providing the financing for soft and hard costs of affordable housing development.

Recommendation 1. We recommend the State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands assess and implement actions to invest in Native Hawaiian controlled CDFIs as part of its affordable housing strategy.

Policy Priority 6 (DHHL). Invest in a pilot program for native Hawaiian beneficiaries to construct additional dwelling units on their lots. In 2015, Native Hawaiian Housing Caucus attendees recommended the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to invest \$10 million of Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act funding into additional dwelling units on existing lots held by native Hawaiian beneficiaries. The recommendation was part of a comprehensive plan to reduce Native Hawaiian homelessness and overcrowding on Hawaiian Home Lands as well as address health and safety concerns of families residing in dilapidated structures.

During the 2018 Caucus, Native Hawaiian nonprofit - Youth Build Waimanalo – presented their plans of constructing small homes on native Hawaiian beneficiary lots in Waimanalo at a price point of approximately \$40,000. The program is training young native Hawaiians in the construction trades so they can not only build critical career skills, but also lend their hands to addressing the affordable housing crisis of native Hawaiians.

Recommendation 1. We recommend that State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands launches a pilot project to provide NAHASDA funding for Youth Build Waimanalo and other native Hawaiian beneficiary organizations to build additional dwelling units as affordable housing options for beneficiaries and their family members.

Policy Priority 7 (OHA). Convene the Native Hawaiian Trusts to identify land that is suitable for affordable housing development. When the Hawaii State Legislature mandated the creation of a Special Action Team on Affordable Rental Housing no Native Hawaiian representatives were provided a seat at the table to engage in a plan that would address the affordable housing needs of Hawaii's residents. In July 2018 the Task Force, under the Governor Ige Administration, released the State's 10-Year Affordable Housing Plan which included lands that are suitable for affordable housing development. Excluded from the plan was one of the nation's largest land trusts – Hawaiian Home Lands – as well as lands held by other Native Hawaiian trusts that may be suitable for affordable housing development. With more than 22,000 individuals on the Hawaiian Home Lands' waitlist and housing instability disproportionately impacting Native Hawaiians, these lands could provide the space necessary for affordable housing units developed in manner that preserves cultural assets, promotes social well-being, and provides greater opportunity for economic self-sufficiency.

² CDFI Industry Analysis: Summary Report. Carsey Institute, Spring 2012.
<https://www.cdfifund.gov/Documents/Carsey%20Report%20PR%20042512.pdf>

2018 Native Hawaiian Housing Caucus Policy Priorities and Recommendations

Once identified, HCA and its local, regional, and national partners as well as the trusts' land management experts would be able to evaluate the costs and time to develop the parcels and recommend a development type and optimal financing structure. Moving forward with this policy priority would ensure Native Hawaiian-driven solutions to the community's affordable housing needs.

Recommendation 1. We ask for Office of Hawaiian Affairs' assistance in convening the Native Hawaiian Trusts to identify land that is suitable for affordable housing development for Native Hawaiians and their Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian family members.

Policy Priority 8 (State). Establish a \$10 million Affordable Homeownership Revolving Fund at Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation. Hawaii's housing market is dynamic and a spectrum of housing is necessary to meet the projected demand of 66,000 units by 2026 of which 3 in 4 units will need to be affordable for households earning \$75,000 annually. Like the Rental Housing Revolving Fund, an Affordable Housing Revolving Fund at the State would be able to leverage County, Federal, and private affordable housing funds for the development of for-sale units for local workers and local families at 30-100% area median income. This would be an effective approach at meeting the 60-100% area median income households unable to be housed through affordable rental housing projects.

Recommendation 1. We recommend the State Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to establish a \$10 million Affordable Homeownership Revolving Fund to leverage public and private funds for the development of for-sale units for local workers and local families at 30-100% are median income.

Policy Priority 9 (State/DHHL). Inclusion of Hawaiian Home Lands in the State's 10-year Affordable Housing Plan. Hawaiian Home Lands is one of the largest land trusts in the nation with 203,000 acres of land available to native Hawaiians and their Native Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian family members. According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Hawaiian Home Lands has been successful in reducing Hawaii residents' monthly housing costs³. The average housing cost burden of Hawaiian Home Lands residents is 21% versus the 42% average housing cost burden of all other Hawaii residents. Furthermore, there are existing lots with infrastructure and, according to the 2010 US Census, 400 vacant units in homestead communities across the state that could be utilized for both reducing the Hawaiian Home Lands waitlist and helping meet the State's mandate for affordable housing units.

Recommendation 1. We recommend the State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to fund Hawaiian Homestead Associations to identify lots with infrastructure, vacant units, and land that is suitable for affordable housing development.

³ HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research. Housing Needs of Native Hawaiians. July 2017. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr-edge-research-072417.html>



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April 2, 2019

The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Senate
435 S. Beretania St., #016
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 667 - Consideration and Confirmation of the Deputy to the Chairperson of the
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, William J. Aila.

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

Thank you for your consideration William J. Aila as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of
Hawaiian Home Lands.

My name is Danton Wong testifying in strong support for the nomination of Mr. Aila as the
Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. In our working relationship with
Mr. Aila, he has shown himself as a strong leader with vision, who has compassion as well as a
very strong working knowledge of government, which we believe will help guide the
Department towards further growth and development for the benefit of Native Hawaiians.

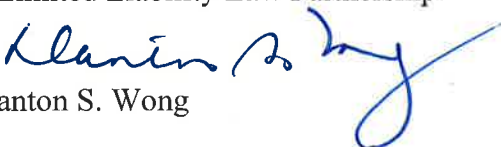
Mr. Aila's leadership at the DHHL has allowed us to work together seamlessly in partnering on
complex development projects such as Ka Makana Ali'i. We look forward toward continuously
working with him and his team on new projects that will benefit the Department and the
constituents of DHHL.

We strongly urge you to support and confirm William J. Aila as the Deputy to the Chairperson of
the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for your consideration and for this opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

CHUN KERR LLP
a Limited Liability Law Partnership


Danton S. Wong



KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

April 2, 2019

To: Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Sen. Kaiali`i Kahele, Vice-Chair
& Members, Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

From: Leialoha “Rocky” Kaluhiwa, President
Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

Subject: Nominee William J. Aila, Dept. of Hawaiian Home Lands – SUPPORT

Aloha! The members of the Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club send you their fond aloha and best wishes as you continue with the second half of the 2019 legislative session.

Today, we wish to offer our strong support for the confirmation of William J. Aila as deputy director for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

We have been impressed with his work, even in his prior position as director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. He continued his inspiring leadership when he transitioned to DHHL as deputy director, and is deserving of another term. We are even convinced that he would make a great chairperson for the Hawaiian Homes Commission, given the leadership skills he has exhibited in his professional and community capacities over the years.

We urge your committee to approve this appointment, and that you recommend that the Senate confirm William J. Aila as deputy director for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo nui.

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.”

P. O. Box 664 * Kaneohe, HI 96744
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Kapolei Hawaii 96707
Ph: 808 529 1624
www.hawaiiancouncil.org

April 1, 2019

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date: April 2, 2019

Time: 1:15 p.m.

Hearing Room: Capital 016

Re: Confirmation Hearing of William Aila as Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands

To the Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) testifies in support of the appointment of William Aila as the Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) as noted in Governor's Message 667 from Governor David Ige to the Hawaii State Senate.

CNHA views DHHL as a key partner in providing homestead beneficiaries with the financial and family stability that owning a home offers and has been and remains committed to working collaboratively with DHHL to house and create financial independence and stability for as many Hawaiian homesteaders as possible.

Since taking the helm at CNHA, Mr. Aila and I have maintained an open line of communication. We don't always agree, but we have been working together to find solutions on the many areas where we do agree. I have found Mr. Aila to be open, honest, communicative and reliable – all characteristics that are vital to leading this department.

In light of the restructuring occurring at DHHL, what is needed is competence, maturity, and experienced management to shepherd the agency's fulfillment of its trust responsibility to its beneficiaries.

From CNHA's perspective, Mr. Aila has demonstrated time and again that he is a steady and learned hand, with the ability to manage his responsibilities with dignity and professionalism, and to do the right thing required at the right moment.

CNHA believes that Mr. Aila is and will be an excellent Deputy Director of the DHHL with the ability, judgement, and skill to bring increased stability to the agency during this time of transition. We at CNHA fully support Mr. Aila's appointment and will continue to collaborate with the DHHL to advance its trust duties and responsibilities.

We urge the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs to recommend Mr. Aila's confirmation to the full Senate.

Respectfully,

J. Kuhio Lewis
Chief Executive Officer

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 3:27:24 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Perry O. Artates	Testifying for Waiohuli Hawaiian Homesteaders Inc	Support	No

Comments:

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 3:41:24 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai	Testifying for Waianae Valley Homestead Community Association	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Hawaiian Affairs Committee Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and Members,

The Wai'anae Valley Homestead Community Association stands in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM 667** requesting your consideration and **confirmation of William J. Aila as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands**, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Deputy Aila is dedicated to providing the benefits of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act to our native Hawaiians. WVHCA knows his commitment, skills, knowledge and experience are instrumental to our success and makes his continued service a necessity at the DHHL.

WVHCA also supports Chairperson Jobie Masagatani and is very disheartened to not see her GM. We deeply appreciate her service and accomplishments. While we fully support William J. Aila as the Deputy today, we know that he is fully equipped to receive and assume the DHHL Chairperson position.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of GM 667 and ask you to confirm William J. Aila's appointment as Deputy Director of the DHHL. Please pass this onto the Senate floor for full consideration and confirmation.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kapua Keliikoa-Kamai

President,

Wai'anae Valley Homestead Community Association



O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kaiali`i Kahele, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, April 2, 2019
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 016State Capitol

RE: Testimony in Support of GM 667 Relating to William J. Aila

To the Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro., Chair; Senator Kaiali`i Kahele, Vice Chair; and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

My name is Melodie Aduja and I serve as Chair of the O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i ("DPH"). Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on GM 667. The O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee ("OCDLPC") hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of GM 667, Relating to William J. Aila.**

GM 667 is submitted for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM J. AILA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Deputy Director William Aila's background and experience in government service has been nothing short of astonishing and impressive. From 2014-2018, he has served as Deputy to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. As Deputy Director, he has provided support to the Chairman and Hawaiian Homes Commission with the implementation of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. From 2010-2014, he served as head of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and was responsible for approximately 800 positions in ten (10) divisions and four (4) staff offices. From 1987-2010, he served as Harbor Agent for the Wai'anae Boat Harbor, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation, Department of Land and Natural Resources where he managed, operated and maintained 31 acres of fast and submerged lands.

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., William Aila's background and experience as Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Director of the Department of Land and

Natural Resources, and as Harbor Master for the Wai`anae Boat Harbor, OCDLPC supports GM 677, and urges the confirmation of William J. Aila, to continue his position as Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

Mahalo nui loa

Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ *Melodie Aduja*

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 7:00:23 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Young	Testifying for Malama Makua and Women of Wai'anae	Support	No

Comments:

William Aila Jr. has consistently and actively worked to protect Hawaii - its great natural environment and precious resources. He understands and has witnessed the poverty in Wai'anae, as well as the richness of a life steeped in the local Hawaiian way.

In whatever position he has held, or simply as a community member, he has been a protector of Makua Valley for at least 20 yrs.

Also, he has taken the time to come to Women Of Wai'anae projects, to help us fund scholarships for nontraditional Wai'anae students to go to college or a trade school, even though we are just a small community nonprofit.

He has courageously taken intelligent and informed positions that have sometimes been brutally unpopular, but has persisted in providing complex information and foresight.

He remains calm, reasonable, and acts from a position of integrity, knowledge and study.

He understands the workings of government and has the trust and confidence of our community.

I know that he will continue to bring all his talent, knowledge of Hawaii and the Hawaiian people, to his position. At all times he has been reachable, open, and keen in his communications with us. He has also brought something special to

government : PERSONAL KINDNESS, PATIENCE.amd ACTION. We deeply need William to

continue in his position. Mahalo, Karen Young, Malama Makua and Women of Wai'anae

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:11:34 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Guylean Newman	Testifying for Ka 'Ohana O Kahikinui	Support	No

Comments:

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 8:11:28 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janice Javar	Testifying for KHHLA	Support	No

Comments:



LiUNA! **LATE**

**TESTIMONY OF RYAN K. KOBAYASHI
GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR
HAWAII LABORERS UNION LOCAL 368**

PETER A. GANABAN
*Business Manager/
Secretary-Treasurer*

ALFONSO OLIVER
President

JOBY NORTH II
Vice President

TONI FIGUEROA
Recording Secretary

JAMES DRUMGOLD JR.
Executive Board

ORLANDO PAESTE
Executive Board

JOSEPH YAW
Executive Board

MARTIN ARANAYDO
Auditor

RUSSELL NAPIHA'A
Auditor

MARK TRAVALINO
Auditor

ALFRED HUFANA JR.
Sergeant-At-Arms

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, April 2, 2019

TIME: 1:15 p.m.

PLACE: Room 016

**SUPPORT FOR WILLIAM AILA AS NOMINEE FOR DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS**

ALOHA COMMITTEE CHAIR SHIMABUKURO, VICE-CHAIR KAHELE, AND
COMMITTEE MEMBERS,

My name is Ryan K. Kobayashi, Government and Community Relations Director for the Hawaii Laborers Union, Local 368. The Hawaii Laborers Union is made up of over 5000 working and retired members across the State of Hawaii, and we **SUPPORT** the nomination of **William Aila** as the **Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.**

Respectfully,

Ryan K. Kobayashi

LiUNA Local 368
1617 Palama Street
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 841-5877
Fax: (808) 847-7829
www.local368.org

Feel the Power

LATE

April 2, 2019

To whom this may concern,

Pa`upena Community Development Corporation, or CDC, is a 28-month-old Maui-based beneficiary organization under the auspices of the 1921 Hawaiian Homes Commission Act federal trust. Homelands beneficiaries make up entirely its six-member board of directors. Pa`upena CDC's mission is to provide resources and training to empower fellow Hawaiian Homes beneficiaries to build homes and self-sufficient agricultural and pastoral communities.

At a March 29, 2019, board session, Pa`upena directors were in consensus to withhold support of reappointment of William Aila Jr. as deputy director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. They based this decision in part on Aila's presentation at the Native Hawaiian Convention in 2017. At that time, three Pa`upena principals — the president, executive director and myself — heard Aila focus on department constraints of lack of money and staffing.

Instead of excuses, the department deputy has kuleana, or fiduciary responsibility, to urge and ensure accountability by the DHHL director and staff to implement trust purposes of "placing native Hawaiians on the lands set aside under this Act in a prompt and efficient manner (where) they may live, farm, ranch . . . (and) providing adequate amounts of water and supporting infrastructure."

I am a 33-year homesteader at Keokea farm lots, the very last agricultural homesteads awarded throughout Hawai`i more than three decades ago. I advocate on behalf of 4,667 native Hawaiians languishing on the waitlist for Maui ag homestead parcels only (not statewide). I met Sunday with 13 waitlisters at Ke`anae to educate them about their trust entitlements, and to motivate them to envision and manifest their future homestead homes, farms and ranches on 985 East Maui homeland acres that largely have laid fallow for a quarter-century.

I am a volunteer. I want the department deputy to be as or more proactive in serving trust beneficiaries.

Therefore, in the interest of selecting a department deputy — who demonstrates kuleana, or fiduciary responsibility and accountability; `eleu, or proactivity, plus `ike, or knowledge, of homelands issues in interfacing with trust beneficiaries — Pa`upena CDC respectfully declines to support reappointment of William Aila Jr. as DHHL deputy.

Kekoa Enomoto
Chairwoman of the board

LATE



Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair

Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 2, 2019

RE: **SUPPORT OF GM667- NOMINATION OF WILLIAM AILA**

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Pane Meatoga III and I am the Community Liaison representing the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund (HOEISF). We are a labor management fund representing 4000 unionized members in the heavy engineering site work and 500 general contractors specializing in heavy site and vertical construction.

Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund **supports the confirmation of William J. Aila, Jr as the Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).**

We support strong leadership in the Native Hawaiian community and believe Mr. Aila is a strong leader that is needed to support the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mr. Aila has demonstrated that he has the leadership and experience to assist in leading the DHHL. As the Deputy to the Chair, Mr. Aila supports the Chair by providing support in the implementation of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and overseeing seven divisions, including the Land Development and Land Management divisions. In addition, Mr. Aila has participated on several boards and task forces centered around native Hawaiian rights and natural resource management including the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, Mohala I Ka Wai, Hui Malama 'O Makua and others.

We urge you to confirm Mr. Aila to serve as the Deputy to the Chair of the DHHL.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pane Meatoga III".

Pane Meatoga III

Community Liaison

Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 11:53:48 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY OF JO ANN UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 1:15 PM
Conf. Rm 016

G.M. 667

**Testimony in support of Governor's Message No. 667
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM J. AILA,
for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022**

TO THE HONORABLE MAILE SHIMABUKURO, CHAIR,
TO THE HONORABLE KAIALI'I KAHELE, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I am writing to express my **support** of the appointment of WILLIAM J. AILA to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, for a term to expire on December 5, 2022. My name is Jo Ann Uchida Takeuchi and I am submitting this supporting testimony in my personal capacity.

I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Aila in his previous capacity as Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and in his current role as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and in my role as Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Mr. Aila is an excellent listener and has a strong and inclusive leadership style. He is collaborative and a problem solver. He is intelligent, personable and hardworking, and is an individual who has the temperament, experience, ability and wisdom to effectively serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 667.

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/20/2019 7:12:56 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support William Aila as Deputy for DHHL. He is a trustworthy advocate for the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
RODERICK K. BECKER
AND
ROBERT YU

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 667

April 2, 2019
1:15 p.m.
Room 016

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WILLIAM J. AILA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee:

We strongly support the appointment of William Aila to the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). We are working with Mr. Aila in our professional capacities as Director and Deputy Director of Finance, respectively.

Governor Ige's administration is committed to addressing the many issues facing our state in a direct and forthright manner. We strive to do the right thing, the right way to achieve our shared goal of a healthy, sustainable economy to support our keiki, our kupuna, and the disadvantaged.

Mr. Aila is an integral part of a team that is committed to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Mr. Aila has served as the deputy to the chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands from 2014. Prior to that, he served as chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) from 2010-2014, and as harbor agent with DLNR's Boating and Ocean Recreation from 1987-2010. His work experience and knowledge of DHHL will benefit the department and the State; therefore, we support confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

TESTIMONY OF DAMIEN ELEFANTE
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019 1:15 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016

GOV. MSG NO. 667

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY TO
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WILLIAM J. AILA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT
NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the Committee. I am testifying as an individual and I am in strong support of William J. Aila's confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

During his time at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands he has actively sought to develop an understanding of the administrative process and procedures of the department. He has a commitment and determination to work towards establishing and achieving goals for the department. His professional experiences working in a variety of areas in the public and private sector is an asset and resource for the State.

I urge you to support the confirmation of William J. Aila as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 9:52:21 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kahana albinio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Fully support confirmation of William J. Aila, Jr., as Deputy to the Chairperson for DHHL.

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 9:57:28 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aldene Albinio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Fully support confirmation of William J. Aila, Jr., as Deputy to the Chairperson of DHHL.

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 9:12:08 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamana'o Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support William Aila as deputy of DHHL.

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 4:42:23 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Chu Takayama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Bill Aila's passion for and dedication to the land, waters and people of Hawaii are unquestioned. The State and the Hawaiian people would benefit from the contributions he would make as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I urge your support for his nomination.

Aloha mai kākou,

Upon hearing the nomination for Deputy Director of DHHL, I am compelled to write to our government leaders on behalf of all Native Hawaiians who have been unserved by this role.

Prince Kuhio, scripted the Homestead Act as a political leader. His wisdom and foresight took vision, compassion and strategy to achieve this remarkable act. The Act itself, was and is, incredibly visionary for its time, its execution and interpretation of that ACT has been horrible.

I do not have anything against Mr. Aila, but I do have an issue with the lack of execution, over many years. We cannot afford more of the same, and the fact that we lost Federal Housing funding, puts us further behind.

The question is, is your selection going to make the execution of the Hawaiian Homestead Act “same”, “better” or “worse”. To me, the qualifications of your candidate, will result in business as usual (“same”), could be “worse” and there is no reason to believe Mr. Aila can gain the trust in making the system “better”.

We need an **innovative leader** that will regain the trust of the people it serves, pushes for empowerment and autonomy with compassion and empathy for all beneficiaries of that trust. Uses strategy that embraces change and empowers communities to create solutions together. Although, because of Mr. Aila’s experience in the DHHL system it can feel like it’s an easy choice, that experience is almost useless because the system it operates in is not only stalled, it is doomed to fail under the **burden** of the State of Hawaii.

Native Hawaiians need these lands to feel valued as the only indigenous people of it, we cannot keep holding the lands when the system believes its “ready” for them.

We need a leader that is going to get out of the construction business and get into the Federal/State and Private Partnership worlds. To create influence to make change possible and lead the Department of Hawaiian Homelands into delivering on its commitment.

To realize the readiness of each Native Hawaiian to achieve homeownership doesn’t start with streets and lights, it starts with Financial literacy and looks at the family unit as the beneficiary. Not the single person who meets the blood quantum.

I ask the Senate and its committees, don’t take the easy route. Be fearless, be visionary and allow for innovation to thrive in your selection process.

Mahalo nui to all of you who commit your life to public service, your work is deeply appreciated.

Lisa A. Victor

‘O wau Kanaka Maoli

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 5:23:21 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support GM 667 nomination of William Aila as DHHL Deputy. Mr.Aila brings a wealth of experience and understanding from working with our community and more pecifically with our Hawaiian community on many fronts. Further, I personally can say he does his best to serve DHHL beneficiaires and the greater Native Hawaiian and local community who work to care for our lands in ways that care for our community as well.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Kevin Chang

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Testimony of Jame K. Schaedel

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Support for Governor's Message No. 667 – Nomination of William J. Aila as Deputy to the
Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

I am writing in **support** for Governor's Message No. 667 which nominates William J. Aila to continue his service to our state and Hawaiian homestead beneficiaries as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Kapolei Community Development Corporation (KCDC), which serves Native Hawaiian homestead beneficiaries in the Kapolei region. However, I offer this testimony as a private citizen.

Mr. Aila has been supportive of KCDC's efforts to construct, maintain and expand the Kapolei Heritage Center, which is a resource for Kapolei homestead beneficiaries. Besides his institutional knowledge of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands obtained over the past four years as Deputy to the Chairperson, Mr. Aila has the knowledge and experience to continue serving in his current capacity. He has served as Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, served for many years as Harbormaster at the Wai'anae Small Boat Harbor, and has earned the respect of the silent majority of Native Hawaiians who do not have the time to testify here this afternoon because they are working, or they do not possess the 'ike on how to submit testimony online.

It would be a shame to for this committee to defer or recommend against advise and consent at the behest of a very vocal minority of k̄naka who are unknowing pawns of an individual or individuals who are disgruntled with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. These are the same individuals who continuously criticize and undermine the efforts of the department, but are h̄mau before the "money committees" which appropriate funds to the department. How can leaders efficiently operate a department and fulfill a mandate when one hand is tied behind their backs? How can a department operate efficiently when its leaders change almost every decade, and it is not sufficiently funded?

I ask that this committee recommend advise and consent to the nomination of William J. Aila as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission so he can continue to share his 'ike and mana'ō at the department, and so he can k̄kua in fulfilling Prince Kūhiō's mandate. Continuity at this department is needed now more than ever. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

Respectfully,

Jame K. Schaedel
Kapolei, Hawai'i

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 11:38:50 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sybil Lopez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable State Leaders!

It is with a bittersweet feeling for us to report to you our findings from Homestead Leaders across Ko Hawai`i Pae `Aina, in relation to who should be appointed Director and Deputy Director of DHHL going forward for the next four years.

We have found that the vast majority wants to see FRESH NEW LEADERSHIP, under the direction of Bernard Carvalho and either Robin Danner or Esther Kia`aina as his deputies. Robin Danner's name also overwhelmingly came up for Kaua`i Commissioner.

As is very well known, we have staunchly supported TEAM MASAGATANI, we still strongly & unwaveringly support Jobie Masagatani as Director. However, in recent discussions with Deputy William Aila, we have concluded that the great resentment by an overwhelming number of lessees and beneficiaries are correct: A STRONG NO VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR WILLIAM AILA.

Personally, we love Deputy Aila and his Ohana. However, its time that the voice of Lessees and Beneficiaries be heard and matter to the Department, this cannot happen under Deputy Aila, as long as he continues to find ZERO FAULT on the part of the Department for any issue that arises between the Department and Lessees, and his belief that Lessees are always wrong.

Appointing William Aila as Deputy Director or even Interim Director of DHHL would fly in the face of the majority of Hawaiian Homestead Lessees and Beneficiaries.

PLEASE HEAR OUR VOICES! `A`OLE AILA!

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 3:20:06 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodney Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/28/2019 4:15:43 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of William J. Aila Jr. to be confirmed as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Since Mr. Aila became Deputy, working with Chair Masagatani, they have been a tremendous team in working towards correcting many of the issues that have been brought up for years by the beneficiaries and various audits on the Department.

He has takne his role on seriously and works tirelessly for the Hawaiian beneficiaries by listening and attempting to lead by responding to valid concerns/questions and also in moving the Department out of the traditional norms of engagement by finding new ways to add more lands being available to lease to beneficiaries.

He has also taken a firm hand in enforcement of the Department's accountabilities and helped to guide various situations to positive outcomes, i.e. Kaua`i and water concerns for the Department.

I believe he will continue to be a valuable asset to the Department and beneficiaries for the next four years given the experience he has gained in his long tenure of working for the State government by not only providing the services his position has required but also continuing to be a large factor in advocating for the people.

I encourage you to support him in his confirmation to Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo,

Cynthia K.L. Rezentes

Wai`anae Resident

Testimony of Linda Jury
IN SUPPORT

GM 667 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,
Gubernatorial Nominee,
WILLIAM J. AILA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 27, 2019

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of Governor's Message 667, and ask that you confirm Mr. William J. Aila to be the Deputy to the Chairman for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Aila and I can see that his roots in the Hawaiian community and values will prove to be an asset to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. His track record speaks for itself.

I support strong leadership in the Native Hawaiian community and believe Mr. Aila is a strong leader that is needed to support the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Mr. Aila is a homesteader and his experience will provide important insights in decision-making at the DHHL on behalf of the beneficiaries. His professional experience as Deputy to the Chairman for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands these past four years, Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Waianae Harbor Master speak for themselves. We are encouraged by his continued appointment at DHHL.

As a beneficiary of the Hawaiian Home Lands trust, Mr. Aila's leadership will directly and positively impact our lives, and the lives of many others in the broader Hawaiian community and our state. I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with Mr. Aila and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to fulfill Prince Kūhiō's vision.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Linda Jury
Wai'anae Valley Homestead Resident
Hawaiian Homes Applicant

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 5:16:18 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamuela Werner MPH	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Kamuela Werner, a Native Hawaiian and Hawaiian Homelands beneficiary. I strongly support Uncle William Aila's nomination.

Me ke aloha,

Kamuela Werner, MPH

Wai'anae Resident

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 5:47:15 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Yamamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 11:12:57 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harold Johnston	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, members of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

Re: GM - 667 April 2, 2019 -- Confirmation of William J. Aila for Deputy Director DHHL

My name is Harold Johnston. I am a homesteader at Papakolea, where my family has lived for over 60 years. It is with a heavy heart but very clear mind that I must oppose the Senate's confirmation of William J. Aila for another term as Deputy Director of the DHHL. While I have endorsed and supported a number of Hawaiians over the years for elected office or leadership roles in government or community service, this is the first time in my life that I am publicly stating my opposition to another Hawaiian seeking a leadership role that would serve our people.

I do not know Mr. Aila at all – I am sure that he is a decent man. Based on the dismal track record of DHHL over the recent years that Mr. Aila was its deputy director, however, it is obvious that change in the leadership team is sorely needed. Senators, it is not secret among us homesteaders that Governor Ige had to withdraw his earlier nomination of the current DHHL Chair because he was not going to get the required Senate confirmation votes for her reappointment. What was the governor thinking in now sending you Mr. Aila's nomination for confirmation? Mr. Aila was in a very key leadership role and must accept accountability for DHHL's shortcomings well known to your committee that include:

- Forfeiture of tens of millions of dollars of future (and recent) Federal NAHASDA dollars by failing to adequately use the tens of millions of dollars already received to address housing needs on HHL
- Lack of accountability transparency – failure to provide annual financial reports to the Legislature and to our communities
- An over-aggressive foreclosure program that has resulted in a record number of Beneficiaries losing their homes, without opportunity for adequate workout programs that are standard in the banking industry
- Failure to develop – and actually blocking – innovative housing initiatives as Attached Dwelling Units on HHL for Oahu, whereas ADUs are authorized elsewhere on Oahu.

Senators, we homesteaders are praying that the governor will nominate, and that you will confirm, a true leader for the DHHL Chairmanship position – one who is knowledgeable, innovative and passionate about fulfilling Prince Kuhio’s vision for our people. That new Chairman will need the support of a deputy who shares the same level of energy and commitment as he or she has. We cannot have more of the same. I respectfully request that you do not confirm Mr. Aila for another term.

Mahalo,

Harold Johnston

808-291-0750

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/29/2019 12:48:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anela Reis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Shame on David Ige for picking someone that hates his own people. He threatens, and belittles us. He talks down as if we a lesser then him. We the people of beneficiary DO NOT NEED someone like him. They can't even follow the Hawaii State laws of foreclosures they just throw you off. All people on DHHL land are talking about him and Jobie. We call, them, throw DHHL people from he train. They claim soverty. They don't have to follow the laws. We need Robin Danner and Bernard Carvalho. Thank you.

March 28, 2019

Senator Maile Shimabokuro

Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Hawaii State Senate

Subject: GM 667 – Nomination and Confirmation of **William J. Aila, Jr.** as the Deputy
to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

This is in strong support of Mr. Aila continuing his excellent work as Deputy to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. He has performed admirably over the past four and a half years in this position and has truly helped the Department move ahead in its mission to place Hawaiian beneficiaries onto DHHL lands statewide. I have known and worked with Mr. Aila over the past 20 years and know him to be one of the most hard working and dedicated State employees who tirelessly gives both his time and best efforts to achieve the goals of the Department. He works very well with the current DHHL administrative team and in fact I have heard several DHHL Division Administrators comment that they enjoy working with him and that he is always available to them whenever needed. His open-door policy is well known and appreciated by his fellow workers who regularly seek his advice and counsel on complicated or difficult DHHL issues.

During his tenure as DHHL Deputy he has had the opportunity to accompany staff regularly to public meetings that at times have been about controversial subject matter but Mr. Aila's calming demeanor at these times has helped to quell anxiety on both sides of the table. He possesses both excellent meeting management skills and inter-personal communication skills and the caring way in which he approaches his tasks enables him to work successfully with people in the Department and the public.

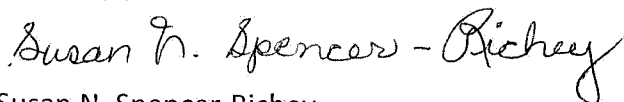
Mr. Aila has honed his administrative skills as a State employee over the past three decades and has risen through the "ranks" at DLNR (27 years) and DHHL (4 ½ years) thus giving him the unique perspective of knowing well the pertinent issues and goals for both departments. At DLNR, as Chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources he learned the intricacies of land dispositions and as Chairman of the Commission on Water Resource Management he learned about water use and rights and then took this knowledge to DHHL when he became Deputy and utilized it to assist in DHHL's goal of land and water dispositions to their

beneficiaries. Again, his work at DLNR helped to obtain water rights for DHHL beneficiaries and this shows how his past experiences serve him well when working through issues for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. His ongoing voluntary work with his community is evidence of his exceptional work ethic and he continues to use his personal time to make sure that the special attributes of the Waianae Coast are kept in-tact.

Many of Mr. Aila's past endeavors involve the successful conservation of resources throughout the state and on the Waianae Coast of Oahu. He has done this both at work in his former capacity as Chairman of DLNR/BLNR and as the Chairman of the Commission on Water Resources Management as well as on his own personal time (on conservation issues) because he is truly committed to saving what makes our Hawaii so unique. One of those efforts was to assist in establishing the Papahānaumokuākea Reserve in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and then again in 2016 he successfully fought for the expansion of the Reserve. Another example of his dedication involves his assistance at DHHL with the reservation of water rights for beneficiaries on DHHL lands in the Keauhou, Kona area of the Big Island. This dedication and commitment are evident in all the work done by Mr. Aila. His 40 plus years of giving back to his community and to the departments that he has worked for is evidence of his caring commitment and unwavering service to the people of our State and to keeping our Hawaii the very special place that it is.

In summation he is intelligent, kind, disciplined, respectful, empathetic, humble, loyal and has a self-deprecating sense of humor that serves him well quite often. Many of you on the Committee know him and I'm sure you could add to the list of positive attributes that he possesses. Basically, William J. Aila, Jr. is the whole package and Lokomaika'i (works well w/others) and would continue to be an asset to DHHL and the State of Hawaii as the Deputy of DHHL. Thank you for your time and attention to this testimony and I humbly request that you and the honorable members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee confirm the nomination of William J. Aila, Jr. as Deputy to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and please do not hesitate to contact me if any clarification is needed regarding this testimony for the confirmation of Mr. Aila.

Sincerely yours,



Susan N. Spencer-Richey

(808) 232-1097

Susanrichey123@gmail.com

Josiah Jury
IN SUPPORT

GM 667 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,
Gubernatorial Nominee,
WILLIAM J. AILA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

March 29, 2019

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of [name of organization], I am writing in support of Governor's Message 667, and ask that you confirm Mr. William J. Aila to be the Deputy to the Chairman for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I support strong leadership in the Native Hawaiian community and believe Mr. Aila is a strong leader that is needed to support the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Mr. Aila is a homesteader and his experience will provide important insights in decision-making at the DHHL on behalf of the beneficiaries. His professional experience as Deputy to the Chairman for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands these past four years, Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Waianae Harbor Master speak for themselves. We are encouraged by his continued appointment at DHHL.

As a beneficiary of the Hawaiian Home Lands trust, Mr. Aila's leadership will directly and positively impact our lives, and the lives of many others in the broader Hawaiian community and our state. I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with Mr. Aila and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to fulfill Prince Kūhiō's vision.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Josiah Jury', written in a cursive style.

Josiah Jury

April 2, 2019

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM667, Strong support for the Nomination of William Ailā, as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Committee Members,

My name is Jonathan Likeke Scheuer. It has been my great pleasure to work with Mr. Ailā in his role as Deputy at DHHL for the last four years, and I am happy to encourage you to recommend him for confirmation. While I have various official roles, I offer this testimony in my personal capacity.

I have actually been privileged to have worked with William in various situations for well over a decade. We have not always agreed, and sometimes our thoughts on a proper action have been nearly opposite. When he served as chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Commission on Water Resource Management, I had to advocate before him on various water and land issues. I have always been able to count on William to be thoughtful, clear, and kind, whether we were aligned, mostly aligned, or in opposition.

In my interactions with him in the last four years while he has been at DHHL, I have also been privileged to see his internal leadership skills. Along with his kindness and clarity, he is tenacious, encouraging, humorous, and incredibly hard working. I have been privileged to see how he thoughtfully works through decisions and considers multiple viewpoints and issues before recommending action. These are critical skills needed to manage this precious trust and obligation held by the people of Hawai'i.

I **strongly** encourage you to recommend the Senate that they Advise and Consent to this nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration of my mana`o.

Jonathan Likeke Scheuer, Ph.D.

Shirley S. Swinney
91-216 Koanimakani Place, Kapolei
Kapolei Homestead

Testimony IN SUPPORT

GM 667 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM J. AILA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2019

Time: 1:15PM

Room: 016

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee,

I write in support of Governor's Message 667, and ask that you confirm Mr. William J. Aila to be the Deputy to the Chairman for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

In his current appointment as Deputy to DHHL Chair, Mr. Aila has proven himself to be a strong and fair leader for the Native Hawaiian community. His leadership is needed to support the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the beneficiaries it serves. Mr. Aila is a homesteader and this attribute provides him with direct experience to the condition of beneficiaries and the program. This in turn gives him keen insight to decision-making at the DHHL on behalf of the beneficiaries. His professional experience as Deputy to the Chairman for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands these past four years, Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Waianae Harbor Master speak for themselves.

I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with Mr. Aila and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to fulfill Prince Kūhiō's vision.

Mahalo nui loa for your kind consideration of my testimony in support of GM667.

Shirley Swinney
Kapolei Homesteader

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 1:39:04 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debbie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of William Aila for Deputy of the Department Hawaiian Home Lands for the term as stated to expire on December 5, 2022.

To whom it may concern:

My name is Jo-Anne Aiwohi and I am in support of William Aila to continue as Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I have worked with Deputy Aila for 2 years, I thoroughly enjoyed my time working with Deputy Aila and came to know him as a truly valuable asset to the department. He is dependable and hard-working.

Deputy Aila is a true leader, and always manages to foster positive discussions and bring the best out of other employees.

As a dedicated and knowledgeable leader and an all-around great person, I know that he will be a beneficial part for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo for your support and consideration in this confirmation.

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 6:47:26 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helen N. Wai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:04:45 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Quenton Browm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in FULL SUPPORT of Consideration and Confirmation of Deputy to the Chairman William J. Aila Jr. of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

TESTIMONY BY MICHELLE WH BROWN
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
GM 667
RELATING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY TO THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
WILLIAM J. AILA JR.

Tuesday April 2, 2019
1:15 p.m.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in SUPPORT of the appointment of William J. Aila Jr to serve as the Deputy to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, for the term to expire on December 5, 2022.

I had the honor and opportunity to work with Mr. Aila for the past 4 years. In this time working with Mr. Aila I have had the privilege of witnessing Mr. Aila's dedication and commitment to the clientele of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and to the State of Hawaii as a hard working and thoughtful public servant who has demonstrated time and over again the skills needed as a leader.

I believe that Mr. Aila's experience, knowledge and along with his deep passion for servicing of the State of Hawaii will continue to bring exuberating value to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of GM 667.

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:23:11 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marla Wain	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 9:34:58 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nadine Pomroy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, April 2, 2019
1:15 PM
Conference Room 016

RE: GM 667 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WILLIAM J. AILA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022

Attention: Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

My name is Alan Fern and I reside in Kailua-Kona, HI. I urge the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs to **STRONGLY OPPOSE GM 667**, the confirmation of William J. Aila as Deputy Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

I am writing this testimony to share the experience my family and I had in dealing with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) since Mr. Aila has been in his role as Deputy Chairperson and why I have no confidence in the leadership of this organization. I feel it is time for change.

My experience began in April, 2016 with the initial contact I had with the DHHL receptionist in the lobby of the Kapolei office. I asked for a few DHHL applications and the receptionist stated, "What is a few? If you want three that's OK but if you want ten then that's an issue." There was no smile and no semblance of welcoming or aloha exhibited by this individual. I stated I only wanted three as I had family members who wished to fill out an application.

A week later I returned to Honolulu and we met with the DHHL applications officer who reviewed my Kumu 'Ohana and asked a few questions. Three hours and 45 minutes later we left the meeting feeling very optimistic that we would have an answer in a very short time period.

We did not hear back from the DHHL applications officer for 6 weeks and, in the meantime, sent emails and placed several phone calls for some type of update. I did not receive any written response from the DHHL applications officer until July 2016, at which time he requested more information. The requested information was immediately returned for his perusal. Again, we did not hear from DHHL for some time. The DHHL applications officer was very non-responsive to the point that I called and left messages for 17 consecutive days with no response in August 2016. Finally, I had a verbal response on the 18th day that they were very busy. The DHHL applications officer kept leading me on and asking for more information that my family and I always submitted in a very timely manner.

This type of communication and lack of “Aloha” went on for over one year. At one point I was even told that they had lost records of other family members due to the migration of records. They showed blatant disrespect to my family and me and did not respond to any communication both verbal and written. I did not have a final disposition of my Hawaiian blood quantum until I received a registered letter 16 months after our initial meeting with DHHL stating I was 1/32 below the required Hawaiian blood quantum for a DHHL homestead. Though we were dismayed at their decision and how they chose to perceive certain records we submitted, we were disgusted and felt so disrespected by how we were treated.

Aloha is the very basic foundation of our native culture. Unfortunately, DHHL does not practice or utilize this very important element in their treatment of those who are seeking assistance and guidance.

I have never participated in anything of this nature before, but feel compelled to do so now because of my experience as listed above.

Confirming Mr. Aila as Deputy Chairperson will only extend what is currently in place right now. In my case it took 16 months to receive a response regarding my blood quantum. Is this process efficient? How many people get frustrated with the lack of communication both written and verbal? In my view, the DHHL is an organization that is in place to assist and guide native Hawaiians. What has been done to get the 27,000 on the waiting list on to the ‘aina? What is being done to educate, guide and communicate with fellow Hawaiians? Where is the transparency? What steps should be taken to streamline the application process? Are there standardized policies and procedures for the application process? There are too many stories of despair and lost hope and lack of aloha (on DHHL’s part). These are all issues that should be consistently reviewed and enhanced by the leadership.

As part of that team, I feel Mr. Aila has a responsibility to ensure that care and aloha is afforded each individual who seeks knowledge, guidance and assistance from members of the DHHL staff. Unfortunately this has not been the case as evidenced by my experience as well as many others.

I believe that the strategy of treating others with respect and aloha can go a long way in unifying our race. The DHHL should look at this simple strategy as a first step in moving forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my mana’o on this matter. I urge the Committee to **STRONGLY OPPOSE GM 667.**

Alan Noa Fern

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 11:52:10 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annette Hayashi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support William J. Aila for confirmation as the Deputy of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Mahalo for your consideration.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kahealani Kolo [<mailto:kahealani.kolo@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, March 29, 2019 1:45 PM

To: All Senators <sens@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Subject: Opposing William "Bill" Aila

Aloha,

I am writing in opposition of William "Bill" Aila who has been nominated as deputy for DHHL. His appointment would be more detrimental than beneficial to us Hawaiians who are already oppressed in many ways.

I have personally witnessed Bill's rudeness and uncaring attitude towards homesteaders right here in my hometown. He doesn't talk to you, he talks "at" you in an almost "I don't need you, you need me" type of tone.

We need someone who actually has a heart for the Hawaiian people, understands our restraints and our struggles, is willing and is strong enough to represent us and really be "for the people". I don't see any of these traits in Bill Aila. He already holds a position within DHHL and has not performed any moral duties or reached out in ways to be of assistance. Concerns of our community have been brought to his attention and no changes have been made or are even in progress. I'm absolutely blown away that his nomination even exists. He is definitely not the person for this position.

Please consider my concerns as us Hawaiians and the next generations to come suffer enough. I humbly ask for your opposition as well and pray for our Lord to reveal the right candidate that will make the right choices for all of us.

Thank you for your time,
Kahealani Kolo

3/31/2019

To: 2019 Senate of the Hawaii State Legislature

Re: DHHL Deputy Director Nomination

Aloha kakou,

My name is Roland L. Lee and I am a resident of Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead. This is my written testimony supporting DHHL Deputy Director William J. Aila's nomination to be the Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I encourage Hawaii's Senators to confirm Deputy Aila's nomination because I appreciate his candor, temperament, and years of leadership as the Director of DLNR and as the Deputy Director of DHHL.

I am naïve as to the machinations of Agency priorities, prerogatives, and resultant accomplishments or failures but am aware of Deputy Aila's professionalism and respect for the Nanakuli community's concerns in regards to my experience with the Waianae Coast Emergency Access Route (WCEAR). Deputy Aila advocated for the proposed WCEAR #5 while I opposed it. Presenting myself to him as a liaison for the Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead community, he met with me one-on-one twice. I also interacted with him at two community meetings. Though the WCEAR project is ongoing, I attest to Deputy Aila's persistence, focus and professionalism and prefer someone with his temperament and sensitivity to Hawaiian cultural values to continue in the position of the Deputy Director of DHHL.

Respectfully,

Roland L. Lee
89-372 Mokiawe Street
Waianae, Hawaii 96792
(808)690-0538

**DEREK KIMURA
P.O. BOX 4603
HONOLULU, HI 96812**

April 1, 2019

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Tuesday, April 2, 2019
1:15 P.M., Conference Room 016

G.M. 667

Submitting for consideration as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, gubernatorial nominee, WILLIAM J. AILA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

ALOHA CHAIRPERSON MALE SHIMABUKURO AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

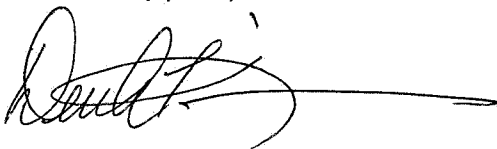
Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support for the confirmation of William J. Aila as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

Mr. Aila's experience as the present Deputy to the Chairperson at DHHL as well as his previous experience as Chairman of the Department of Land and Natural Resources provides him with the tools that are necessary to provide strong leadership to the Department.

Mr. Aila is a leader of high ethical character and integrity. He works well with employees, community groups, legislators and Native Hawaiian beneficiaries. Mr. Aila has the understanding of the Department's homestead program, internal operations and budget requirements. He has the commitment, knowledge and experience needed to serve as the Deputy of DHHL.

There is no better qualified person. I strongly urge this committee to confirm William J. Aila as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Kimura', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Derek Kimura

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 12:31:04 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

My name is Rosie F Davis, I am very active Community Member from the homestead of Kalamaula, Molokai.

I am submitting strong support for Confirmation of William J Aila, for Deputy of Hawaiian Homelands.

Mahalo nui loa, Rosie F Davis

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 12:46:48 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paula Aila	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I am writing in support of William J. Aila, Jr.'s nomination for Deputy to the Chair for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo,
Paula Aila
Waimānalo Homesteader
Beneficiary Applicant of HHCA

Sent from my iPhone

Testimony to the Senate Committee on
Hawaiian Affairs

The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session of 2019

Tuesday, April 2, 2019
1:15 p.m.

Testimony on **Governor's Message No. 667**, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the **Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **William J. Aila**, for a Term to Expire on December 5, 2022.

To the Honorable Maile S. Shimabukuro, Chair, the Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am writing in **support** of the appointment of William Aila to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

Over the last four years, I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Aila on matters relating to the services provided by Sandwich Isles Communications to the Hawaiian Home Lands' beneficiaries. During that process, I have found Mr. Aila to be a deeply concerned advocate for the beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Home Lands. Mr. Aila is calm, thoughtful, and collaborative in his approach, and has demonstrated he possesses the skills and temperament needed to assist in leading the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I firmly believe Mr. Aila will continue to be a valued and highly productive member of Governor Ige's cabinet, and respectfully request that you recommend approval of his nomination as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to support G.M. No. 667. I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have.

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 1:08:07 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaila Bolton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please confirm William J. Aila Jr. as deputy to the Chairman of DHHL as he is a Homesteader, experienced and successful Deputy to the Chairman, and has longstanding connections in a position in this Capacity.

Mahalo for this opportunity!

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 1:10:36 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gene Ross K. Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Maile Shimaburo and distinguished members of the HWN Affairs Committee, My name is Gene Ross K Davis a Beneficiary of the Hawaiian Home Lands and I am in Strong Support of William Aila Jr's Confirmation as Duputy of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I continue to be very Supportive of the Leadership of DHHL and ask for your consideration in the continuity of STRONG LEADERSHIP for this State Agency. I will Advocate for your Support for all Programs that has been initiated by our current Administrators and do desire a continuation through this confirmation.

Mahalo,

Gene Ross Davis

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 1:37:56 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tercia L. Ku	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, Senator Ihara, Senator Keohokalole and Senator Fevella:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Mr. William Aila's confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. As a person who has held the position of President of the Board of Princess Kahanu Estates, a Native Hawaiian Homestead Community in Nanakuli, and as original owner and 24 year resident, I have had the privilege and honor of working with Mr. Aila in addressing the needs of my homestead community.

As a homesteader himself, Mr. Aila has wisdom and insight that is conducive for relationships within the various homestead community ohana. But I have been privileged to know Mr. Aila for over 40 years since he and I are both proud graduates of Waianae High School Class of 1976. I can think of no better person to lead and support Kanaka Maui Aloha!

Mahalo nui loa, Tercia L. Ku

From: uncluesday [<mailto:uncluesday@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2019 12:43 PM
To: Sen. Maile Shimabukuro <senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: William Aila

Aloha Senator Shimabukuro

I would like to pledge my support for William Aila as the DHHL deputy director.

I have know William since he was the harbor master in Waianae and you could not find a finer person. He is Honest and of the highest integrity. Altho we are on opposite sides of the political spectrum I still believe he is the perfect person for the job.

Feel free to contact me at any time.

Mahalo

Bruce Barham

808-683-8383

From: Bolton, Kaila [<mailto:kaila.bolton@hawaii.gov>]

Sent: Monday, April 1, 2019 1:11 PM

To: Sen. Maile Shimabukuro <senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Subject: Nanakuli Homesteader Kaila Bolton - Testimony Submission for Deputy to the Chairman of DHHL

Aloha Senator Shimabukuro,

Please confirm William J. Aila Jr. as deputy to the Chairman of DHHL as he is a Homesteader, experienced and successful Deputy to the Chairman, and has longstanding connections in a position in this Capacity.

Mahalo for this opportunity!

From,

Kaila Bolton
Nanakuli Homesteader

March 29, 2019

TO: 2019 State of Hawaii Legislative Body

RE: Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Deputy Director Nomination

Aloha Mai Kakou,

Upon hearing the nomination of William "Bill" J. Aila for Deputy Director of Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, I felt compelled to write this letter. I write to my State government leaders on behalf of my family and those in the Native Hawaiian community, whether they've been served, not served and underserved by the current Department of Hawaiian Home Lands administration. My letter is in opposition to the aforementioned nominee.

I have nothing personal against Mr. Aila, my opposition is based on his tenure as Deputy Director. The position currently held requires accountability and responsibility for the departments results and or lack thereof. As second in command, role clarity is understood that with accolades and praises of jobs well done so are the demerits and censures for failures of the jobs done. The loss of NAHASDA federal funds, numerous lease cancellations, no mercantile leases awarded, no pastoral leases awarded and over 900 vacant lots/homes currently sitting empty while 22,000+ people are on the waitlist, I've listed few of the many issues that plague DHHL. More importantly the department is responsible for, accountable to and continue to fail our La Hui. The lack of action severely undercuts the La Hui's ability to strive for self-sufficiency, economic development and self-determination.

When people on the waitlist are dying daily without the opportunity to designate beneficiaries this is no longer an entitlement issue it becomes an issue of genocide. It's loathsome to use such an extreme descriptor of what's happening to La Hui, how else am I to describe this occurrence? We need change, and we need change NOW! You have the opportunity and obligation to change the course of history to support the Hawaiian community, we are your community and more importantly we are your constituents. I need not remind you why you were elected, you were chosen to be the voice of the community and we need you to use that voice to find and vote for the right fit, it is your privilege and duty.

With the HHC Act, Prince Kuhio intended for Hawaiians to have access to OUR trust lands, OUR trust funds and OUR path to self-determination. In order to create the State of Hawaii, an agreement with the federal government was made and it will be honored. We need someone who is an expert on the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, someone with executive experience, someone who has a proven track record of understanding the federal systems and how to ensure Hawaiians have the same opportunity as any other citizens of this state and country. We cannot and will not wait for what's rightfully ours.

As your constituent I implore you to consider my testimony and the numerous others that continue to write theirs in opposition of Mr. Aila's nomination for Deputy Director for Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I know your job is difficult, one that you entered into willingly, with this letter of opposition I would also like to offer options of solutions. There are many that are suitable for this task all you need do is ask.

Thank you for your time, understanding and look forward to what this legislative body can accomplish this session and many more to come.

Mahalo,

Rolina K. Faagai

Dear Senators Shimabukuro, Kahele & Others;

Mahalo nui loa for all you do for the people of Hawai`i.

I'm sending you this quick email to state my strong opposition to the confirmation of William "Bill" J. Aila for Deputy Director of Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I write on behalf of my 'ohana and my fellow Hawaiian homestead beneficiaries. I have been an advocate for homesteader beneficiaries for nearly 20 years now.

We, as homestead beneficiaries, deserve a lot better than what we've gotten from the failed leadership of both Director Masagatani and Deputy Director Aila at DHHL. By now, I'm sure you're all well aware of all the resources and opportunities lost by homestead beneficiaries because of their mismanagement. Instead of helping empower homestead beneficiaries, they have put up roadblocks and barriers. They have truly dishonored the legacy and intention of our beloved Prince Kuhio. And, our homestead beneficiaries have further suffered because of it!

Homestead beneficiaries are hopeful that there will be new leadership in both the Director and Deputy Director positions; new leadership that will work with beneficiaries and not against us!

Please take a close look at Mr. Aila's record during his tenure at DHHL. And, please honor the testimony of DHHL homestead beneficiaries, as well as the legacy and intention of our beloved Prince Kuhio; by blocking the confirmation of William "Bill" J. Aila for Deputy Director of Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo,

KipuKai Kualii

Anahola Homestead Beneficiary & Advocate

Agricultural Homestead Beneficiary Waitlistee (since 1980)

--

MAHALO!!!

Me ka ha`aha`a,

(With Humility)

KipuKai Kualii

kipukai.kualii@gmail.com

(808) 652-3684

From: Aliviado [<mailto:aliviadod001@hawaii.rr.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2019 12:21 PM
To: Sen. Maile Shimabukuro <senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: William J. Aila

Aloha Senator Shimabukuro,

I am emailing you directly my notification of support for William J. Aila as Deputy to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo,
Debbie Aliviado

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 2:53:24 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I personally know Mr. Aila and have observed his leadership as both the former chair of the DLNR and deputy for DHHL and believe he has the leadership skills to continue to do a good job at the DHHL. Thus, urge passage of GM667.

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 3:32:35 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marlene Kamuela Purdy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Ka 'Aha Kenekoa
THE SENATE

Ka 'Aha Kenekoa
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

'Aha Kau Kānāwai 2019
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

Ke Kōmike Kuleana Hawai'i
COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Kenekoa/Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Luna Ho'omalu/Chair
Kenekoa/Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Hope Luna Ho'omalu/Vice Chair

'Ōlelo Ho'olaha No Ka 'Aha Ho'olohe
NOTICE OF HEARING
Lā / DATE: Pō'alua, 'Apelila 2, 2019 / Tuesday, April 2, 2019
Hola / TIME: 1:15 p.m.
Wahi / PLACE: Lumi 'Aha Kūkā 016 / Conference Room 016
Ke Kapikala Moku'āina / State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

POSTION: Support Confirmation, GM667

This letter is to give support to the confirmation of William (Bill) J. Aila as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). As current deputy prior, Mr. Alia was primary in engaging with beneficiaries of Hawaiian Home Lands and hear their concerns and desires. I find him to be of good character and the type of person what will serve the incoming Chair of DHHL with diligence.

This is not an easy position because there are many Hawaiians that feel that DHHL has not doing enough for Hawaiians. Though the deputy cannot make any lasting decisions as deputy, his knowledge of the various DHHL properties and connections with those beneficiaries which reside in DHHL will be invaluable to whom shall be appointed as Chair of DHHL. Please accept this letter as my formal endorsement for Mr. Alia.

Mahalo,

Ken Farm

GM-667

Submitted on: 3/31/2019 12:24:49 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Irene Kaahanui	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying for support of William Aila as Deputy to the Chairperson, as he has the experience, and heartbeat of our Beloved Prince Kuhio's Legacy for the betterment of our beneficiaries. Mahalo

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 6:22:49 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Herring K Kalua Jr.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Sen. Shimabukuro, Kahele, and Favella,

My name is Herring Kalua Jr. and I am a lessee on Nanakuli homestead, Princess Kahanu Estates. I live in Sen. Shimabukuro's district and quite possibly Sen. Kahele's congressional district, if he is successful in his bid. I have a son that resides in Hilo and attends the University of Hawaii at Hilo also Sen. Kahele's district. I have added Sen. Favella as I have grown to admire his efforts and dedication to the people in Ewa and believe he was elected in Ewa because his constituents wanted a change from the status quo and to feel they are being heard. I attempting to be heard as well by asking for a change to the status quo today in opposition of William Aila's nomination as chair of DHHL. He served as DLNR chair, deputy chair of DHHL, and ran for OHA. Some would say a lifetime of public service and that I agree. I would say of his tenure as deputy of DHHL, it was more of the status quo. Sen. Shimabukuro has served the Wai'anae Coast well. Very soon as issues that are critically detrimental to our lifestyle on the Westside are being introduced to the legislature, such as the tax on miles traveled proposed by the Dept. Of Transportation to fund highway repairs and projects, Sen. Shimabukuro will have to vote against the status quo in order to vote in favor of her constituents. I ask her to consider the same in this instance. I have recently had an experience in Hilo, specifically at the East Hawaii District Office of DHHL, located on Baker Avenue in Keaukaha on March 25th 2019. My daughter went into the office to ask for an application for my son residing in Hilo to apply for Hawaiian Homes and was denied an application. The manager, Nina Fisher, cited the reason being that on that day, they were short staffed and only processing mortgage payments. They do not hand out applications without an appointment and in order to receive the application we had to have documentation required by DHHL rules, ie, SSCard, Birth Certificate, etc. We were asked to return on Wednesday to see if an appointment was available and left the office without an application. We were scheduled to return to O'ahu that evening but extended our visit till Wednesday afternoon with the intention to receive an application on that day to fill out and have ready for my son in Hilo to have ready to submit at the discretion of appointment schedule. Unfortunately, we were not able to again receive an application on the 27th even though we had all documentation available for processing. The reasons we were told were that our documentation needs to be sent to O'ahu for verification of 50% blood quantum and that would take 2 to 3 weeks, depending on how fast O'ahu could process it. After approval they would call us to then make the appointment to fill out and submit an application. They do not hand out any applications.

We again left without an application. Also in line on the 25th at DHHL was my cousin who was trying to get a lessee successor form for her father who is currently at the Otsuka Veterans care facility in Hilo. She was denied a form by Nina Fisher who stated that my Uncle would have to go to the East Hawaii office in person to fill out the form. She left without a form. How do I know this? She was in line before us at East Hawaii office. Shameful. My Uncle cannot even leave the care home to return to his home let alone the East Hawaii office to fill out a form. These inconsistencies at the East Hawaii district office cause undue detriment to beneficiaries exclusively to East Hawaii as they are the only office with these processes. How long has this been going on? How many Hawaiians in East Hawaii may lost a few "places in line" on the list for awards to beneficiaries in West Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, Molokai and Oahu? The Mainland? Worldwide? 2-3 weeks delay could mean 2-3 people per island ahead of them by the time they are allowed to apply for homestead. I have placed a complaint in to chair Masagatani to have these questions answered, but have not heard back from her or her deputy William Aila. This is unacceptable. And it happened under their watch. I am sure that there must be some frustrated beneficiaries in East Hawaii and Sen. Kahele may have heard concerns about the operations of the East Hawaii Office but State Chairs and deputies must be held accountable for this. The East Hawaii District office manager/supervisor is an appointed position. To allow this to happen under the direction of an appointed position shows lack of oversight on this DHHL leadership and to not address the concerns of the East Hawaii associations and beneficiaries by approving this appointment of William Aila, can only mean that this committee supports the status quo. If you Google the current chair's name on Hawaii News Now search engine you see headlines of the results of this administration. "Dozens gathered to protest the DHHL, calling for more homesteader input", "As DHHL stockpile swells, feds withhold funding", "DHHL under fire for creating positions when vacancies are high" "Panel supports Ige's nominees for Hawaiian Home Lands", and much more, few good, more still unresolved by the current leadership which include William Aila as the Deputy. If Deputy Aila is approved for nomination, nothing will change. Nothing, except my view on the members of this committee. There are many more qualified people who will be able to propel the DHHL into a direction it should go...away from the status quo. Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Oppose the nomination. Move away from the status quo. Mahalo.

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 10:03:05 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Awo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of Randy Awo

Before Senate Committe on Hawaiian Affairs

April 2, 2019 - 1:15 pm @ Conference Room 016, State Capitol

In Consideration of GM 667, William Aila, Jr - Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and Committee Members

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on GM 667. I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** to reconfirm William Aila, Jr. as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. As the former Administrator for the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, I had the privilege of working closely with Mr. Aila during his tenure as the Chairperson for the Department of Land and Natural Resources. His strong leadership, collaborative style and tireless work ethic garnered tremendous support from many employees within the DLNR. His leadership elevated morale and inspired positive and creative change. Under his tenure community outreach increased significantly. Communities were encouraged to become partners in DLNR initiatives, dialogue was encouraged and their value recognized. Mr. Aila had a calm and deliberate temperament. He was able to steady the ship through turbulent waters until calmer seas were encountered. During his leadership he prioritized the effects of climate change and expanded the creation of watershed management areas. In addition, he helped to establish the first Community Fishereis Enforcement Program on Maui. He also helped to finalize the first Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area in the waters off Ha'ena Kauai.

Mr. Aila was also instrumental in increasing community collaboration in the reporting of fisheries violations under the "Makai Watch" program. These programs are only a few of the many accomplishments that demonstrate his leadership skills, his solution-oriented mindset and his commitment to serving diverse communities throughout the State.

As the current Hawaiian Homes Commissioner representing Maui, I find myself working with Mr. Aila once again. His leadership style remains strong and inclusive. As a long time resident of the Waianae Hawaiian Homes community, Mr Aila brings a unique and relevant perspective to the Department he currently serves. His life long commitment to serving on numerous community boards, task force initiatives and his participation in "community activism" much of it centered around Native Hawaiian and environmental issues has prepared him for the challenges as well as the rewards that come with this position. Mr. Aila continues to demonstrate a deep commitment, desire and vision to serve our Native Hawaiian beneficiaries in the legacy created by Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole. Mahalo for your consideration on this very important matter.

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 10:26:03 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clayton Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha to whom it may concern.

I'm testifying on the behalf of William Aila, I've known him for about 20 years and feel that he is the right person for the Chairperson job, he is familiar with our Hawaiian problems and is willing to take DHHL into a future direction while navigating through the trust and act's that make DHHL seem like a non responsive department, which I know is not true! I've spoken to him many times about many issues and have always been satisfied with his answers. I truly believe that he is a man of the people and will do his best to secure funding and create more opportunities for our Hawaiian communities.

Mahalo!

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

LATE

April 1, 2019

Dear Senator Shimabukuro,

I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Mr. William Aila to the position of Deputy to the Chair, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. **As a beneficiary on the waiting list and a constituent living in Senator Jarrett Keohokalole's district**, I have a strong interest in the leadership that is selected to manage the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Mr. Aila is a person that understands the kuleana that leaders at DHHL must shoulder; that is to manage the trust in the best interest of ALL beneficiaries, consistent with what the law and the rules provide.

I have observed Mr. Aila from his years at the helm at DLNR, and now as the current Deputy to the Chair at DHHL. He is a humble man, extremely hard working and committed to doing the best that he can to support the priorities of the Commission and the current Chair. He is reasonable and open to hearing all sides, and willing to make the hard decisions when required.

Too often the voices of those of us yet to benefit are forgotten among the politics of those lessees living on the land. I ask that you confirm Mr. Aila so that the positive gains that have been made during this Administration – highest level of general funding received by DHHL; new award types; new changes to improve the service I receive from DHHL, etc. can continue without delay.

Mahalo for your consideration of this testimony.

Aloha,

Ernesta Masagatani, Beneficiary

LATE

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, April 2, 2019
TIME: 1:15 p.m.

Support for **GM 667** Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, **WILLIAM J. AILA**, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Aloha Senators of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

My name is D. Kaipo Nuuanu and I am writing to strongly support William J. Aila Jr.'s nomination as the Gubernatorial Nominee for Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I grew up on a homestead in Nanakuli, specifically 89-1045 Nanakuli Avenue. My parents still live in the home that I was raised in. I am a native Hawaiian. I am currently number 7230 on the Hawaiian homestead waitlist.

I support the appointment of William Aila Jr. because I believe he will provide continuity and stability at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. *Nelson v. Hawaiian Homes Commission* highlighted the State's failure to provide sufficient funding to DHHL for decades. It is no wonder tens of thousands of qualified applicants are on the waiting lists. The State Constitution mandates that the Legislature shall provide sufficient funding to DHHL to fulfill all of its constitutional purposes. In some years, the Legislature provided zero funding for administration and operating costs, forcing DHHL to lease its lands to generate administrative and operating funds. Only in recent years, under this administration, has DHHL been provided any real funding.

The Department has room for improvement, but it has also come a long way. William's appointment will provide enough continuity and momentum of the past eight years to make improvements without giving up the progress it has made.

I strongly support the confirmation of William J. Aila for Deputy to the Chairperson of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo,

D. Kaipo Nuuanu
Bills.nuuanu@gmail.com

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 11:03:43 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hokulei Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 12:22:05 AM
Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and committee members:

As a former Special Assistant at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, I am in steadfast support of this individual who is held in high esteem within the Native Hawaiian community. His advocacy and commitment for Hawaiian Homes Commission Act beneficiaries and the homestead associations are often underappreciated. Respectfully, urge committee members to agree to individual's appointment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 7:26:29 AM
Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey Fujimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a Engineer in the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Land Development Division. I have seeked Deputy William Aila's guidance and direction numerous times on very complex project issues. With his knowledge and experience, Deputy Aila presented critical projects to the legislature, government officials, Native Hawaiian Beneficiaries, and the public. With his leadership, the Land Development Division has been able to overcome difficult project challenges. Although he was our Deputy, he still made time to meet with me and the working staff. Deputy Aila is an exceptional leader and a man of integrity, but he is also very personable and humble. This is an outstanding quality. I am in strong support for the confirmation of William Aila as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Jeffrey Fujimoto

LATE

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 8:49:59 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie-Ann Cachola	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Reasons for support: William Aila has an important prerequisite that other Deputy Directors of DHHL have not possessed: he is a **homesteader who understands, first-hand**, what that experience entails. As a Hawaiian administrator he addresses beneficiaries with respect, is **culturally appropriate, and has compassion for the beneficiaries**--which is what you'd expect of a leader of the agency. At the same time, he is keenly aware and knowledgeable about **land management and regulatory issues** that a State agency must navigate. Opposing testimony is evidence that he is **not afraid to make decisions that have impact**--again, it's what you'd expect of a leader of the Dept of Hawaiian Home Lands. **Transition in leadership requires a degree of stability that William Aila can provide.**

LATE

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 11:07:50 AM
Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanekawaiola Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

From: Blossom Feiteira <blossom96708@yahoo.com>

Date: April 1, 2019 at 9:49:50 AM HST

To: "senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov" <senshimabukuro@capitol.hawaii.gov>, "senkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov" <senkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov>, "Senator Les Ihara, Jr." <senihara@capitol.hawaii.gov>, Senator Jared Keohokalole <senkeohikalole@capitol.hawaii.gov>, Senator Kurt Fevella <senfevella@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Cc: "Sen. J. Kalani English" <jk.english@capitol.hawaii.gov>, Senator Roz Baker <senbaker@capitol.hawaii.gov>, Senator Gil Keith-Agaran <senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Subject: Testimony in support of GM667

Aloha Madame Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee;

My name is Blossom Feiteira, a beneficiary of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act from the island of Maui.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of GM 667; for the re-appointment of Mr. William Aila Jr. In the position of Deputy to the Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mr. Aila is a lifelong homesteader and has chosen public service as his lifelong career. As a Hawaiian practitioner he has worked tirelessly to protect our precious resources his entire life.

He has proven his dedication to Hawaii and the Hawaiian people as a public servant any he brings that same level of commitment to the Hawaiian Homes community over the past four years by educating himself on the law and making himself available to the beneficiary community to learn how he and the department can better serve and support our people.

He is a person of integrity and I ask that you and your colleagues support his nomination.

Once again, mahalo ia oukou for this opportunity.

O wau me ka ha'aha'a,

Blossom Feiteira

LATE

On Apr 1, 2019, at 3:37 PM, Hawaii Informant <hiinformant@yahoo.com> wrote:

Aloha Senators,

I am writing this to ask that you do not move forward and confirm William Aila, Jr. as the Deputy for Hawaiian Home Lands. Reconfirming his appointment will only continue to worsen the Department. As you already may know that there has been a lot of nepotism with high paying jobs to cousins and friends who have no idea or clue on how to do these jobs. This will only continue the downward spiral the Department has been in. The Department needs a need start with new administration and that should start with a new Chairperson and Deputy.

I say this to you all from my personal experience from working in this Department. I wish to be anonymous due to the childish acts of retaliation that may come. I have worked in this Department for many years and have seen the people who are qualified for promotion be bypassed by friends or family of higher ups getting higher paid positions or made up positions.

I humbly ask that William Aila does not get reconfirmed.

Mahalo
Mark Badan

LATE

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 12:01:36 PM
Testimony for HWN on 4/2/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ross Kapeliela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice-Chair

HEARING DATE: Tuesday, April 2, 2019
TIME: 1:15 p.m.

Support for **GM 667** Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM J. AILA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Aloha Madame Chair and Senators of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I write to strongly support William J. Aila Jr.'s nomination as the Gubernatorial Nominee for Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I work for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, but today I am testifying as an individual. I am a native Hawaiian, raised on a homestead in Hoolehua, Molokai.

As the former head of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Harbor Agent, and member of numerous community and professional Boards, William has already proven his leadership abilities, so today I will speak toward his character.

I have known William for several years and have found him to be straightforward yet diplomatic and empathetic. William's ability to diffuse difficult situations comes from his humble nature and Hawaiian upbringing. He is conscientious and works tirelessly to fulfill his duties and commitments. He is extremely diligent and reliable and will provide continuity and stability to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

William's dedication to homesteaders is not only advocating for them in the office, but in the community as well. When a homesteader complained that someone dumped their trash in the front of their home, he attended to it himself by taking the trash to the dump the next time he took his trash. When a homesteader complained about a branch encroaching on this parcel, William went out on the weekend to cut the branch and haul it away.

I strongly support the confirmation of William J. Aila for Deputy to the Chairperson of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Leatrice W. Burrows-Nuuanu
Native Hawaiian
wailaahia@gmail.com

LATE

On Mar 28, 2019, at 11:46 AM, Sybil Lopez <lopezs808@gmail.com> wrote:

Aloha Honorable State Leaders!

It is with a bittersweet feeling for us to report to you our findings from Homestead Leaders across Ko Hawai'i Pae `Aina, in relation to who should be appointed Director and Deputy Director of DHHL going forward for the next four years.

We have found that the vast majority wants to see FRESH NEW LEADERSHIP, under the direction of Bernard Carvalho and either Robin Danner or Esther Kia`aina as his deputies. Robin Danner's name also overwhelmingly came up for Kaua`i Commissioner.

As is very well known, we have staunchly supported TEAM MASAGATANI, we still strongly & unwaveringly support Jobie Masagatani as Director. However, in recent discussions with Deputy William Aila, we have concluded that the great resentment by an overwhelming number of lessees and beneficiaries are correct: A STRONG NO VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FOR WILLIAM AILA.

Personally, we love Deputy Aila and his Ohana. However, its time that the voice of Lessees and Beneficiaries be heard and matter to the Department, this cannot happen under Deputy Aila, as long as he continues to find ZERO FAULT on the part of the Department for any issue that arises between the Department and Lessees, and his belief that Lessees are always wrong.

Appointing William Aila as Deputy Director or even Interim Director of DHHL would fly in the face of the majority of Hawaiian Homestead Lessees and Beneficiaries.

PLEASE HEAR OUR VOICES! `A`OLE AILA!!

MAHALO NUNUI;

SYBIL K LOPEZ, (808) 298-6442

President of Kalama'ula Mauka Homestead Association

Molokai Representative of Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee

Successor to the Hawaiian Homestead Commission Act

LATE

Testimony of Oriana Leao
To the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs (HWN)
In support of Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM J. AILĀ, Jr. For Deputy to the Chairperson of
the Department of Hawaiian Home lands (GM 667)

April 2, 2019
1:15pm

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee,

I am speaking in support of Governor's Message 667, and I ask that you confirm William J. Ailā Jr. to be the Deputy to the Chairman for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

True progressive leadership at DHHL requires an esoteric understanding and ability to balance four (4) integral parts of the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust 1) The intention of Prince Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole to reconnect Kānaka to 'āina and each other in perpetuity 2) The Department, the staff, and the daily operations that serve this Trust and serve 3) The varied and interesting beneficiaries across the pae'āina o Hawai'i (archipelago of Hawai'i) with limited resources, and last but not least 4) A keen understanding of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and the laws, statutes, parameters and system that can help, hinder, and sometimes complicate the ability of each part to problem solve, progress, and thrive.

William Ailā Jr. is a solution-oriented leader who understands the macro and micro level complexities of each of these dimensions and like a true fisherman and boat harbor master, Ailā is a man who navigates with his nā'au (instincts, moral compass) through the various social, capital, and political doldrums that Native Hawaiians and homesteaders face every day.

Ailā is the Deputy that DHHL needs for continued morale. He is the leader that the State of Hawai'i needs to seek balance, and William Ailā Jr. is the 'ano (energy) that the world needs for connection and harmony among 'āina, people, and purpose in perpetuity.

Mahalo,



Oriana A. Leao