



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

January 23, 2020  
1:15 p.m., Conference Room 016

In consideration of  
**Governor's Message 507**

Submitted for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, Tyler I. Gomes

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Tyler I. Gomes to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)

Gomes earned a B.A in Olelo Hawai'i from University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and received his J.D. and Certificate in Native Hawaiian Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

Gomes was previously employed as the partnership manager at Elemental Excelerator, where he oversaw the Elemental Hui – a partnership network of local business, non-profit, educational, and philanthropic institutions. He also served as the deputy public defender in the Office of the Public Defender.

This administration is committed to transforming the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I'm confident that Tyler Gomes will support our employees in the Department of the Hawaiian Home Lands in this effort. Together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.

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**

**Thursday, January 23, 2020  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 507  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
AS DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TYLER I. GOMES  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 05, 2022.**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources expresses its strong support on the confirmation of Tyler I. Gomes. to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for a term to expire on December 05, 2022.**

Mr. Gomes is a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, earning a bachelor's degree in Hawaiian Language. He eventually attained his J.D. and certificate in Native Hawaiian Law from the William S. Richardson School of Law.

Before coming aboard to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Mr. Gomes was the Partnership Manager at Elemental Excelerator, where he oversaw the Elemental Hui, a partnership network of local business, non-profit, educational, and philanthropic institutions. Mr. Gomes was also with the Office of the Public Defender, as a Deputy Public Defender.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources believes that Mr. Gomes brings a fresh perspective toward addressing the needs of Native Hawaiians. His background points to his ability to work and get along with diverse groups of people. The Department of Land and Natural Resources is confident that Mr. Gomes will serve the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands well.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources strongly supports confirmation of Tyler I. Gomes. to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this appointment. .

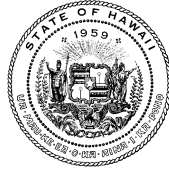
**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**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



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

JANUARY 23, 2020, 1:15 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 016, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 507

SUBMITTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY  
TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TYLER I. GOMES, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-05-2022

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 507. I support the nomination of Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mr. Gomes has served as the Partnerships Manager at the Elemental Excelsior since August 2018. He has worked as a self-employed independent contractor from 2017 to 2018. Previously, he served as a Deputy Public Defender at the Office of the Public Defender from 2013 to 2017. In addition, Mr. Gomes has served as a law clerk in the chambers of the Honorable Dexter D. Del Rosario.

He has a passion for public service. Mr. Gomes' track record in the field of law and experience in business makes him the ideal candidate to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
HEARING ON JANUARY 23, 2020 AT 1:15PM IN CR 016

IN SUPPORT OF

**GM507**

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

January 23, 2020

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

I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Tyler I. Gomes as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

Mr. Gomes is an attorney who will provide important insight in decision-making at DHHL on behalf of the beneficiaries. A graduate of the Kamehameha Schools, he went on to receive his BA in `Ōlelo Hawai`i from the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa and his J.D. & Certificate in Native Hawaiian Law from the William S. Richardson School of Law. His experience ranges from public service as a Deputy Public Defender to serving as the Partnerships Manager for Elemental Excelerator where he oversaw the Elemental Hui – a partnership network of local business, non-profit, educational, and philanthropic institutions.

Having worked directly with Mr. Gomes, 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 brings a fresh perspective to advancing the vision of Ke Ali`i 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.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI  
DIRECTOR

ANNE EUSTAQUIO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
[www.labor.hawaii.gov](http://www.labor.hawaii.gov)  
Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099  
Email: [dlir.director@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.director@hawaii.gov)

January 22, 2020

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

Date: Thursday, January 23, 2020  
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. 507 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES**

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

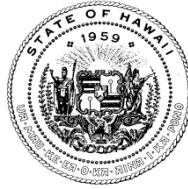
My name is Scott T. Murakami, and I am the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I am testifying in strong support of Governor's Message 507, Gubernatorial Nominee, Tyler I. Gomes, as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

Mr. Gomes has demonstrated that he has the leadership and experience to assist the Commission Chair in leading the DHHL. As the Deputy to the Chairperson, Mr. Gomes assists the Commission Chair in implementing the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and conducting outreach on behalf of DHHL. Mr. Gomes' prior experience as the Partnerships Manager at the Elemental Excelerator demonstrate his ability to work collaboratively with different groups as well as effectively communicating important information. In addition, Mr. Gomes' legal background and legislative experience at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs will be a strong asset to the DHHL in understanding and addressing the challenges before it.

I urge you to confirm Mr. Gomes to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson 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. Gomes.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program  
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.  
TDD/TTY Dial 711 then ask for (808) 586-8866.



**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

January 23, 2020  
12:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 016

**G.M. 507**

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

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

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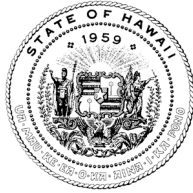
The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** the confirmation of Tyler Gomes as the Deputy Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

Mr. Gomes holds a J.D. and Certificate in Native Hawaiian Law from the University of Hawaii. As a legislative fellow at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs he strongly advocated on behalf of Hawaiian beneficiaries. As a Partnership Manager with Elemental Exelerator he demonstrates the ability to bring public private partnerships to innovate together.

The critical and demanding issues that DHHL faces will require the thoughtful consideration, focus, and resolve. His commitment to uphold DHHL's sacred trust and responsibility for Native Hawaiians is without question and it is with the highest regard that we endorse his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK  
CHIEF INFORMATION  
OFFICER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119  
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922  
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of  
DOUGLAS MURDOCK  
Chief Information Officer  
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Thursday, January 23, 2020

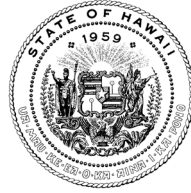
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE No. 507  
Gubernatorial Nominee Tyler I. Gomes

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

I am submitting testimony in support of Mr. Tyler Gomes, nominee for deputy to the commission chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Mr. Gomes earned his law degree and certificate in Native Hawaiian Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Native Hawaiian language. He was also a board member of the Native Hawaiian Bar Association.

Professionally, Mr. Gomes' experience spans from serving as a deputy public defender in the State of Hawaii to most recently, a partnerships manager with Elemental Excelsior. His professional experience along with his passion and educational background will make him a tremendous asset to the department. Therefore, I highly recommend the committee to favorably consider Mr. Gomes for deputy to the chairperson.

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



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. Box 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
[cca.hawaii.gov](http://cca.hawaii.gov)

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

Thursday, January 23, 2020 1:15 PM  
Conf. Rm 016

G.M. 507

**Testimony in support of Governor's Message No. 507  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the  
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES, 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:

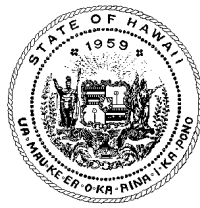
My name is Jo Ann Uchida Takeuchi and I am the Deputy Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA). On behalf of DCCA and in my personal capacity, I am writing to express **strong support** of the appointment of TYLER I. GOMES to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

Mr. Gomes has a strong legal, legislative and entrepreneurial background that makes him uniquely suited to assist the Chairperson on the myriad issues at the DHHL. He is friendly, gracious and personable 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. I am looking forward to working with him on matters of mutual interest.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 507.



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

**Shari L. Kimoto**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Renee R. Sonobe Hong**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 507  
NOMINATION OF TYLER I. GOMES, AS DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON,  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.

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

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

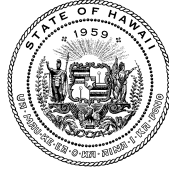
Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports the nomination of Tyler I. Gomes as Deputy to the Commission Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). PSD applauds Mr. Gomes' example of utilizing his education, including the J.D. and Certificate in Native Hawaiian Law from the William S. Richardson School of Law, and skills to support progressive initiatives in the community.

The Department believes his background and training will make him an asset to DHHL and a strong partner to Chair Aila, and urges this Committee's favorable consideration of his nomination.

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

TESTIMONY  
OF  
AUDREY HIDANO, DEPUTY COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

ON

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2020, 1:15 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 016, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 507

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **TYLER I. GOMES**, 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. 507. I support the nomination of **MR. TYLER I. GOMES** to the position of the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Although I just recently met Mr. Gomes, I found him to be genuine and truthful. He projects caring by community involvement and with his experience in several network partnerships, he can be an advocate asset to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

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

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA  
DIRECTOR

ANDREW T. GARRETT  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

January 16, 2020

TESTIMONY TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
For Hearing on Thursday, January 23, 2020  
1:15 p.m., Conference Room 016

By

RYKER WADA  
DIRECTOR

**Governor's Message 507**  
**(WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY)**

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

RE: Consideration and confirmation of Tyler I. Gomes, Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I submit this testimony in **Strong Support** of the confirmation of Tyler Gomes as Deputy to the Chairperson. In the short time I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Gomes in his capacity as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, 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 of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. In his current capacity I have experienced Mr. Gomes as cooperative, helpful, and welcoming.

I support the confirmation of Mr. Gomes as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governors Message 507 and Tyler Gomes.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY  
CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
AND  
ROBERT YU  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 507

**January 23, 2020**  
**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, TYLER I. GOMES, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

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

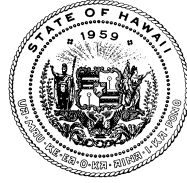
We strongly support the appointment of Tyler Gomes to the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

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. Gomes 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. Gomes has served as deputy to the chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands since September 30, 2019. Prior to that, he was partnership manager at Elemental Excelerator and as deputy public defender in the Office of the Public Defender. He is a graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a bachelor's degree in Hawaiian Language and a J.D. and certificate in Native Hawaiian Law from the William S. Richardson School of Law. His work experience and educational background will benefit the department and the State; therefore, we support confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM507**  
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the**  
**Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES, for**  
**a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022..**

SENATOR MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: January 23, 2020

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health strongly supports the nomination of Mr.  
3 Tyler Gomes for Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Mr.  
4 Gomes' education and experience in Native Hawaiian issues will bring a fresh perspective and  
5 legal intuition to an agency with complex needs.

6 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

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**DAVID Y. IGE**  
GOVERNOR

**JOSH GREEN M.D.**  
LT. GOVERNOR



**RONA M. SUZUKI**  
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

**DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION**  
P.O. BOX 259  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone: (808) 587-1540 / Fax: (808) 587-1560  
Email: Tax.Directors.Office@hawaii.gov

To: The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair;  
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair;  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

From: Rona M. Suzuki, Director  
Department of Taxation

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT of GM 507**

Date: Thursday, January 23, 2020

Time: 1:15 P.M.

Place: Conference Room 016, State Capitol

The Department of Taxation (Department) strongly supports GM 507 and the confirmation of Tyler I. Gomes as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mr. Gomes has served the community in numerous capacities, most recently as the partnership manager at Elemental Excelsior. Prior to that, he served the indigent population of Hawaii as a Deputy Public Defender, a challenging job that requires patience and passion. His experience working with different segments of the community, business, non-profit, education, and philanthropic, and a varied intersection of our population will enable him to properly administer the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and care for the lessees with compassion and wisdom.

On a personal note, I have known Mr. Gomes for a few years and found him to be intelligent, thoughtful, humble, and committed to public service. I am confident that he will be an asset to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 507 and the confirmation of Tyler I. Gomes.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA  
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**

**JANUARY 23, 2020  
1:15 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 016**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 507  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE COMMISSION  
CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
TYLER IOKEPA GOMES, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-31-2022**

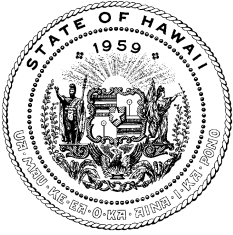
Chairperson Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 507, submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, Tyler Iokepa Gomes, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022. The Department strongly supports this measure.

Mr. Gomes has the education and professional experience serving in various private sector and government positions which required awareness of native Hawaiian issues, problem solving and critical thinking. Mr. Gomes has expressed his strong desire to assist the Chairperson with service to the beneficiaries of DHHL and the State of Hawaii. He will serve an important role for the State as the Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5<sup>TH</sup> Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813 | energy.hawaii.gov

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN  
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 587-3807

Statement of  
Scott Glenn  
Chief Energy Officer, Hawaii State Energy Office

before the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, January 23, 2020  
1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

in consideration of  
GM 507

Submitting for consideration as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian  
Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
TYLER IOKEPA GOMES, for a term to expire on 12-05-2022

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

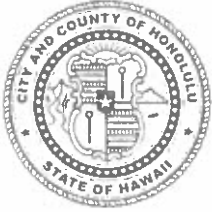
I support the nomination of Mr. Tyler Iokepa Gomes to serve as Deputy to the  
Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mr. Gomes has experience in both native Hawaiian issues and community building that  
will prove invaluable at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Before joining DHHL Mr.  
Gomes served as Partnership Manager at the Elemental Excelerator where he helped carry out  
the nonprofit's mission of funding companies that impact people's lives through improvements in  
energy, transportation, water, agriculture and other areas.

Mr. Gomes also spent more than four years as a deputy public defender for the Hawaii  
State Judiciary. He holds a bachelor's degree in Hawaiian language from the University of  
Hawaii and a J.D. and certificate in Native Hawaiian Law from the William S. Richardson School  
of Law.

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





**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

**TOMMY WATERS**  
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT 4  
PHONE: 768-5004 FAX: 768-1171  
EMAIL: tommy.waters@honolulu.gov

January 22, 2020

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Lumi 'Aha Kūkā 016 / Conference Room 016  
Ke Kapikala Moku'āina / State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

RE: January 23, 2020, Hearing on GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

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

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands ("Department").

Mr. Gomes is a dedicated public servant and community advocate. His background in Native Hawaiian Law makes him an asset to the Department, and his time as a Deputy Public Defender provides him insight into some of the disparate impacts faced by our Native Hawaiian community. Mr. Gomes is also positioned to facilitate cross-sector collaboration in light of his time with Elemental Excelsior, partnering with local businesses, non-profits, and other institutions. My work with Mr. Gomes has revealed a commitment to producing exceptional work product, maintaining a high ethical standard, and fostering an environment conducive to productive communication. Mr. Gomes also has an admirable ability to weigh both short-term needs and long-range vision to then implement effective strategic planning. I strongly urge the committee to support the confirmation of Mr. Gomes as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tommy Waters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councilmember Tommy Waters

District 4 (Hawaii Kai, Kuliouou, Niu Valley, Aina Haina, Wailupe, Waialae-Iki, Kalani Valley, Kahala, Wilhelmina Rise, Kaimuki, portions of Kapahulu, Diamond Head, Black Point, Waikiki, and Ala Moana Beach Park)



PO Box 5146, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

E-mail address: [kcaiprez@gmail.com](mailto:kcaiprez@gmail.com)

Ph. 981-0950

January 20, 2020

## COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

### **NOTICE OF OBJECTIONS FOR REAPPOINTMENT GM 506-507**

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

Aloha Senator Shimabukuro and Honorable 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 2017 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 GENERAL 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 *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 and have since our last testimony in March of 2019 the office ICRO a branch of the DHHL that deals with Communications to the Beneficiaries, the Legislature and to the taxpaying public is **inexcusable** and it also reflects poorly upon our elected officials for NOT MAKING AN INQUIRY ANNUALLY AS TO WHY NONE WAS EVERY PRODUCED.

*"...To better the conditions of all native Hawaiians as defined HHCA, 1920..."*



PO Box 5146, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

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Ph. 981-0950

IN THE EAST HAWAII DISTRICT THAT GENERATES THE MOST INCOME IN GENERAL 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 NEVER 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 Attenuation stalled, and the straw that broke the camel back for Keaukaha whereby the Mayor of Hawaii County and the Interim Chair of the DHHL William Aila were about to enter into an AGREEMENT to one Reimburse the County of Hawaii \$400K for **RETROFITTING LED STREETLIGHTS** and pay for Traffic Control devices (Speed Bumps) within our community, WHEN THE REST OF THE COMMUNITIES I Hawaii County gets those issues taken care of the use of Fuel Tax monies, but we on the homesteads must reimburse for those same services? Why? Is this a form of institutional racism?

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 and continue to be 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 **Ainahoopulapula ma Keaukaha** (Homestead of Keaukaha) I am sorry for my rambling but the Lack of Confidence on behalf of William Aila was especially hurtful this past election cycle whereby the record will show that Mr. Aila ran for one of the At Large seat on the OHA board, and he was **PREPARED TO LEAVE IF ELECTED TO THE OHA BOARD OF TRUSTEE**. Was his heart truly in it for the Beneficiaries OR for SECURING a JOB? However failing that Mr. Aila and this Governor felt COMFORTABLE to have him ELEVATED THROUGH A PROCESS I BELIEVE KNOWN ONLY TO POLITICIANS whereby the State Senate APPROVED Mr. Aila as the Deputy Director of DHHL (in regular session of the Legislature) and weeks later AFTER the Confirmation hearing process was completed, this Governor moves to APPOINT Mr. Aila to the position of INTERIM CHAIR

*"...To better the conditions of all native Hawaiians as defined HHCA, 1920..."*



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Ph. 981-0950

and installs (or I will use the terms) in my OPINION to throw a young Hawaiian man, Tyler Gomes who the BENEFICIAIES KNOW NOTHING ABOUT in as the new Deputy Director of the DHHL.

William Aila and the current Hawaiian Home Commission, the executive board of the DHHL “APPOINTS” another young Hawaiian to represent East Hawaii who has been without an East Hawaii Commissioner and I’m assuming we would have to go through this process again to have Mike Kaleikini approved by the Senate for him to serve. We were never given any OPPORTUNITY to vet anyone of these individuals who will play an integral part into the lives of the Beneficiaries of the HHCA, 1920 going forward.

This is the type of actions by State actors that makes it hard for VOTERS especially native Hawaiian voters to participate in a system of government our na Alii implored the people to participate in and yet we see we are being treated DIFFERENTLY IN THIS STATE AND ON OUR LANDS.

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* that were never refuted or argued by the State Attorney General in its APEAL to the Supreme Court 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 ...”

***“E hana pono... mai pono hana”***  
***‘Do what is right...Do not just do it’***

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*

*“...To better the conditions of all native Hawaiians as defined HHCA, 1920...”*

**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: Thursday, January 23, 2020**

**TIME: 1:15 p.m.**

Support for **GM 507** Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER IOKEPA GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

I strongly support Tyler Iokepa Gomes's nomination as the Gubernatorial Nominee for Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

As a new member of the Commission, I have been impressed with Tyler's work ethic, his confidence, and asserting himself as a young legal mind which infuses innovative thinking into our discussions for solutions for problems we are attempting to resolve.

We face difficult situations at times and Tyler has been dependable, responsible, and always there when needed.

Tyler's experience as a Deputy Public Defender and his work as a consultant in the community helps him to work with lessees in understanding their plights and also be able to offer solutions in the community.

His ability to speak the Hawaiian language is an absolutely helpful asset in establishing relationships in our community to help our people.

I strongly support the confirmation of Tyler Iokepa Gomes for Deputy to the Chairperson of Hawaiian Home Lands.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 10:17:46 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaleo Cullen	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Kahikinui	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senate President and Members of the Senate,

I support the Confirmation of Deputy Tyler Gomes, who like Aila has been pivotal in moving our community forward to Economic Independence and assisting Ka Ohana in our reforestation efforts! He and his staff has been great in helping Ka Ohana deal with illegal squatters in Kahua and has been less challenging for us since! Please consider the confirmation of Tyler Gomes!

Mahalo Nui,

Kaleo Cullen (President)

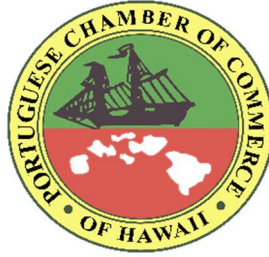
Ka Ohana O Kahikinui

PRESIDENT  
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam

VICE PRESIDENT  
Laura Figueira

TREASURER  
Tom Cabrinha

SECRETARY  
Makana McClellan



PO Box 1381  
Honolulu, HI 96807

BOARD MEMBERS  
Terrance Derby  
Cynthia Farias  
Fred Hemmings  
Kekoa McClellan  
Tay Perry  
Leonard Peters  
Brandon Souza  
Tyler Iokepa Gomes  
Russell Valente  
Keith DeMello

January 21, 2020

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**RE: Strong Support for GM507**

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members:

We are extremely pleased to submit this **letter of strong support for GM507**, which submits for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

As one of our Chamber's board members, Mr. Gomes has shown a commitment to the local Portuguese community. Last year, he was a co-chair of our signature fundraising event, and will be playing a vital role in supporting our upcoming community exhibition this coming summer.

Beyond being of service to our local Portuguese community, Mr. Gomes is also firmly committed to the Native Hawaiian lāhui. He has served as Interim Deputy to the Chairperson since September, and over these past several months he has sought out ways to increase engagement with beneficiaries, improve the department's communication efforts, and establish productive partnerships with willing entities all across the islands.

Should he be given the opportunity to continue in this role for the next three years, I am confident that he will make both the local Portuguese community and Native Hawaiian lāhui extremely proud.

Muito Obrigado & Mahalo Nui Loa,

Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, President  
Portuguese Chamber of Commerce of Hawai'i



Honolulu  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

January 22, 2020

**Executive Committee:**

**Judy Mohr Peterson, President**  
*State of Hawai'i - Medicaid*

**Paige Heckathorn Choy,**  
**Vice-President**  
*Healthcare Association of Hawai'i*

**Directors:**

**Ku'uwehi Hiraishi**  
*Hawai'i Public Radio*

**Chris Hong**  
*English Hong Design*

**Robert Kroeger**  
*Central Pacific Bank*

**Rufino Dan Magliba**  
*Alaka'ina Foundation*

**Scott Nojiri**  
*First Hawaiian Bank*

**Teal Takayama**  
*State of Hawai'i*

**Alexa Tim**  
*Island Pacific Distributors, Inc.*

**Tim von Herrmann**  
*TPH Consulting*

922 Austin Lane #C-1 Honolulu,  
HI 96817  
(808) 538-7070 Tel  
(808) 538-7171 Fax  
[www.honoluluhabitat.org](http://www.honoluluhabitat.org)

To Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Re: Support of GM507

I am writing today to express my support of GM507, the nomination of Tyler Gomes to serve as Deputy Chairman of DHHL.

Over 80% of the homes built by Honolulu Habitat for Humanity in our 30 year history have been on Hawaiian Home Lands. To that end, we do not have a partner more important to us than DHHL. From the development of new subdivisions to the preservation of existing houses, our relationship with DHHL allows us to build and maintain affordable housing for the native Hawaiian communities on Oahu.

DHHL needs refreshed vision, creativity, compassion for the community it serves and understanding of the impact of today's decisions will have on tomorrow's families. I believe Tyler Gomes to enthusiastically interested in providing systemic, lasting and positive change in DHHL's interaction in the communities.

We currently have almost 20 families whose homes are either under construction or in the planning phase. All of them on DHHL land and all because of the partnership between our two agencies.

With Tyler Gomes' leadership, I am confident our ability to serve more and support DHHL goals will be even greater.

Mahalo,

Jim Murphy  
Executive Director  
808-538-7373



**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/23/2020 5:16:24 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rachel Conner	Testifying for Ho'omana Pono, LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a beneficiary of D.H.H.L., I have to idea about this candidate for deputy is? Is he just a position filler? We deserve the best service from those being appointed into this important department of our State of Hawaii.



Testimony of the  
OAHU ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD (OEDB)  
**In Support of GM 507**  
**Relating to the Appointment of**  
**Tyler I. Gomes**  
**Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands**

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Thursday, January 23, 2020  
1:15 P.M.  
Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and Committee Members,

I submit this letter of support for Tyler Iokepa Gomes. Young, educated, savvy, despised of the status quo, deeply inquisitive, less materialistic than their elder siblings, and seeking sincere and authentic mentorship are to me the characteristics of what I term the Rebounders Generation. I believe this term is clearly a greater testament of what others call Millennials.

Tyler fits the description and I believe a Rebounder of the best kind. We need our rising young adults to do many things and public service is a column needing our best.

Tyler considers me an advisor and I make myself available to him.

Please approve this nomination.

Mahalo,

Pono Shim  
President & CEO



**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 10:46:05 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephen MacKinnon	Testifying for Maui Humane Society	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Committe on Hawaiian Affairs -

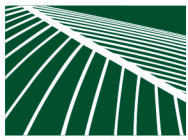
The Maui Humane Society supports the consideration of appointment of Mr. Gomes to Deputy Chair. Both he and the candidate for Chair, Mr. Aila, have been very responsive to our needs and have displayed a willingness to work with our organization as it applies to Hawaiian Home Lands-related issues. We would look forward to and anticipate developing an excellent working relationship with them if they are appointed to these prestigious and responsible positions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stephen MacKinnon

Chief Executive Officer

Maui Humane Society



# PBR HAWAII

& ASSOCIATES, INC.

**Testimony of PBR HAWAII & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
to the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs (HWN)  
in Support of Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES,  
for Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands  
(GM 507)**

**January 22, 2020**

THOMAS S. WITTEN, FASLA  
*Chairman / Principal*

R. STAN DUNCAN, ASLA  
*President / Principal*

RUSSELL Y. J. CHUNG, FASLA, LEED® AP BD+C  
*Executive Vice-President / Principal*

VINCENT SHIGEKUNI  
*Senior Vice-President / Principal*

GRANT T. MURAKAMI, AICP, LEED® AP BD+C  
*Vice-President / Principal*

TOM SCHNELL, AICP  
*Principal*

KIMI MIKAMI YUEN, LEED® AP BD+C  
*Principal*

W. FRANK BRANDT, FASLA  
*Chairman Emeritus*

ANN MIKIKO BOUSLOG, PhD  
*Project Director*

RAMSAY R. M. TAUM  
*Cultural Sustainability Planner*

RAYMOND T. HIGA, ASLA  
*Senior Associate*

CATIE CULLISON, AICP  
*Senior Associate*

MARC SHIMATSU, ASLA  
*Senior Associate*

DACHENG DONG, LEED® AP  
*Senior Associate*

MICAH McMILLEN, ASLA, LEED® AP  
*Associate*

NATHALIE RAZO  
*Associate*

GRACE ZHENG, ASLA, LEED® GA, SITES® AP  
*Associate*

BRIAN WOLF, ASLA, LEED® AP  
*Associate*

BLAINE ONISHI, ASLA  
*Associate*

HONOLULU OFFICE  
1001 Bishop Street, Suite 650  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-3484  
Tel: (808) 521-5631  
Fax: (808) 523-1402  
E-mail: sysadmin@pbrhawaii.com

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

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Mr. Tyler I. Gomes and the confirmation of his appointment to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

PBR HAWAII & Associates, Inc., based in Hawai'i for 50 years, is active in all aspects of Land Planning, Landscape Architecture, Environmental Studies, Entitlements, and Graphic Design. PBR HAWAII has a long relationship with the DHHL including working with Mr. Gomes in his current capacity as the Deputy to the Chairman of DHHL.

Specifically as consultants supporting the State of Hawai'i Office of Planning Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program in its update of the statewide Ocean Resource Management Plan (ORMP), we enjoyed interacting with Mr. Gomes as a representative of DHHL to the plan update.

In recent ORMP council meetings, Mr. Gomes has expressed enthusiasm for the CZM Program's collaborative approach in addressing coastal zone issues that challenge our state and the importance for DHHL to be engaged in this conversation. Mr. Gomes further demonstrated vision in recognition of the need to prepare DHHL's assets and beneficiary housing for the projected impacts of climate change and sea level rise.

We believe that Mr. Gomes' grounding in the law, and experiences in the public defender's office and with a business accelerator will help to strengthen the leadership and innovation of DHHL, enabling it to better serve its beneficiaries. PBR HAWAII is honored to submit this testimony in strong support of Mr. Tyler I. Gomes, and we ask your committee to confirm his appointment as Deputy Director of DHHL. Mahalo nui loa.

Sincerely,

PBR HAWAII & Associates, Inc.

Russell Chung, FASLA, LEED AP BD+C  
Executive Vice President

Vincent Shigekuni  
Senior Vice President

*printed on recycled paper*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

GM 507 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES

January 23, 2020

TESTIMONY OF JOBIE MASAGATANI

IN **STRONG SUPPORT** OF THE CONFIRMATION OF TYLER GOMES TO THE POSITION OF DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the confirmation of Mr. Tyler Gomes to the position of Deputy to the Chairman, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

In the short time that I have had to work with Tyler in his capacity as Deputy to the Chairman, Tyler has demonstrated the skills and strengths that he brings to this position. He is an extremely smart, articulate, ethical man with a keen insight and a quick mind. While many notice (and comment) on his youth, I see the energy that he has brought to DHHL along with a wicked sense of humor. He is not afraid of hard work, and undeterred by the challenges DHHL faces.

Through his work at Elemental he has gained experience in working with a variety of stakeholders, both public and private. This experience has prepared him well for this leadership position at DHHL, given the multitude of stakeholders that DHHL works with including beneficiaries, community, government, private, non-profit, and business.

Unexpectedly, I have learned that his experience at the Office of the Public Defender has also prepared him well for DHHL. That office, like DHHL, faces daunting challenges with extremely limited resources. It's apparent to me that Tyler has "grit" and perseverance. I believe these were gifts he was born with, that were refined during his time at the Office of the Public Defender.

In Tyler, I see the next generation of leaders for the Lahui. I respectfully ask your support in confirming his nomination.

Testimony of Susan L. Arnett  
to the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

January 22, 2020

RE: Governor's Message 507  
Nomination of TYLER IOKEPA GOMES as Deputy Director of the  
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Senator Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of the nomination of TYLER IOKEPA GOMES as Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I've known Tyler for almost ten years. Professionally, I've known him as a law clerk to Judge Dexter Del Rosario and as a respected colleague in the State Office of the Public Defender. I was impressed with his diligence and his commitment to his clients. He has a keen mind and demonstrated an ability to focus on the most important aspects of a case. He related easily with his clients who were from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Tyler is an energetic member of our community who has continually worked to make things better for those who need assistance in a variety of ways. I believe he will continue to be a strong asset to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I strongly support and urge your approval of Tyler's confirmation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this nomination.

Testimony of Jamila Jarmon  
IN SUPPORT

GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,

TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 23, 2020

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

My name is Jamila Jarmon. I have served on the Young Lawyers' Division of the Hawai'i State Bar Association in various roles, O'ahu Director, Vice President, and President and currently serve on the Board of The Pōpolo Project. I am also currently In-House Counsel at Elemental Excelerator.

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler Iokepa Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I have known Mr. Gomes in a professional and personal capacity. I met him when we were both in law school at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I was in my last year and he was just starting. If you've attended law school, by your third year your eye is on the door and much less on student life in law school. Mr. Gomes was one of the few first year students who came and commanded attention. He's simply a dynamic individual and upon our first meeting I knew he was someone who would be great leader in Hawai'i. While at Richardson, Mr. Gomes participated in one of its premier moot court teams, the Native American Moot Court team, winning Best Oralist, First Place, and Best Advocate. He successfully, on a national level, was able to communicate about the rights of indigenous people with excellence. On top of that, he was the Student Bar Association President, being a leader steering student life at Richardson. Law school is an intellectual challenge. Mr. Gomes went beyond this, excelled in extra-curricular activity rooted in people, and successful led his peers.

Professionally, Mr. Gomes has excelled. Mr. Gomes has experience working in our legislature and our judiciary. It's seems fitting that he'd now work in our executive branch. Mr. Gomes experience as a Public Defender honed his natural skill in communication and solidified his work in and for our most vulnerable communities. In serving his community, Mr. Gomes also had the opportunity to, successfully, argue a case in front of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. I have had the recent experience working with Mr. Gomes in his role as a Partnership Manager at Elemental Excelerator. All of the skills bore from years of advocacy, proved valuable in his work within our business community helping Hawai'i move closer to our clean energy goals, but making sure that through our work we continued to center Hawai'i's diverse community. Most specifically, looking to Hawaiians as our beacon and instilling the values of our place in everything that we do.

I support Mr. Gomes' nomination because is a leader. He's proved himself as an expert communicator and advocate for our most vulnerable. Most importantly, he is a strong advocate for Hawaiians who continue to struggle in their homeland. Mr. Gomes has the natural and learned skills necessary to excel in his role as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

  
Jamila Jarmon, Esq.



Testimony of Oriana Leao  
To the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs (HWN)  
In support of Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER IOKEPA GOMES For Deputy to the Chairperson  
of the Department of Hawaiian Home lands (GM 507)

January 23, 2020  
1:15pm

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

I am writing in support of Governor's Message 507, and I ask that you confirm Tyler Iokepa Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

As secretary to the Deputy of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, I know how the job of Deputy to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands can suck the life out of the best and the brightest, but I also know that the right Deputy can bring and breathe life into the job, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Prince Jonah Kūhiō's Trust, and the beneficiaries *to* the Trust and I am confident that Tyler Iokepa Gomes can and will do that and more.

Gomes's academic background and work experience at the Office of the Public Defender, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and other public and private sectors reflects his ability and adaptability to quickly gain necessary skill sets from a certain position then transition and develop into a different role. His passion for Hawaiian language utilization and 'āina revitalization demonstrates that he is grounded in his identity and kuleana (role, responsibility) as a Native Hawaiian and a person who serves Hawai'i as his home and ancestor.

Tyler Gomes is dutiful and his wise, old soul would make it fraudulent to write him off as just another millennial. Gomes has the intellect and innovative spirit to find alternative solutions to old problems and the intuition to see beyond colorful words that are sometimes used to cloud the true intent of non-beneficial proposals and requests. He encourages me to find creative tech solutions to old processes and then imagine and reimagine a future for the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, for Prince Kūhiō's Trust, and for the beneficiaries *to* the Trust - where each part can thrive in conjunction with one another.

Mahalo,

Oriana A. Leao

**TRISHA Y. NAKAMURA**  
P.O. Box 61619 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96839  
(808) 741-3502 • trishanakamura@gmail.com

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

Date: January 22, 2020

Hrg: January 23, 2020

Re: GM 507; Strong Support for the Nomination of Tyler I. Gomes as Deputy Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

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Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Mr. Tyler Gomes's nomination as Deputy Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I have known Tyler Gomes for more than six years, having first worked with him at the Office of the Public Defender where we were colleagues. After the work at the Public Defender's Office, I also worked with Tyler in the community. From both of the places, I saw common themes that make him well-suited for the work as the Deputy Director of Hawaiian Homelands.

#### COURAGEOUS LEADER

When I reflect on Tyler's abilities, leadership is a theme and one of his strongest skillsets. As a Deputy Public Defender, he represented hundreds (if not thousands) of clients—each one requiring an attorney who could lead them through a challenging stressful situation. Tyler was that person: skilled in his legal abilities and; confident in his ability to advise; and empathic in assessing his client's situation and goals for their case. In addition to being able to help the most underserved people find their voice in court and navigate the court system, Tyler also led-up, consistently keeping his supervisors informed of the day-to-day work of a Deputy Public Defender and led-across, gaining buy-in from his colleagues and partnering with other deputies to work collectively to help clients.

#### PRINCIPLED ADVOCATE

In his work as a Deputy Public Defender and as a campaign treasurer and manager, Tyler was ethical and principled, always aware and mindful of what the law called for and demanded. Tyler was not driven by passion alone; he was driven to advocate for his clients within the bounds of the law. While Tyler frequently had his own opinions as to how a case or work should proceed, he definitively understood that key decisions had to come from his clients. The commitment to principles and the rule of law are important now for our state and for our governmental leaders.

#### CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVER

Tyler's numerous intelligences and skills as well as love for problem-solving will benefit our state. Our State is at a critical point: past harms that must be addressed and redressed. These harms include those suffered by Native Hawaiian people and also the land itself. We need someone who has fresh energy and unique ways to assess problems and identify solutions in ways that are bold and action-oriented. Tyler is that person.

In sum, Tyler Gomes is someone who will draw from all of his perspectives to work for the State and its people. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong support of the nomination of Tyler Iokepa Gomes to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands as its Deputy Chair

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 1:15pm  
Conference Room 016

RE: Testimony of Rebecca Justine 'Iolani Soon in **SUPPORT**  
GM 507 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the  
Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial  
Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022

Aloha nui e Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on  
Hawaiian Affairs:

I write today in strong support of GM 507, providing for the confirmation of Tyler Iokepa Gomes  
as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Mr. Gomes offers  
strong legal and communication skills, a tremendous work ethic, and a deep rooting in the  
Hawaiian community that will well serve the significant kuleana envisioned by Prince Kūhiō.

I have known Mr. Gomes for 20 years as a classmate, colleague, consultant, community advocate,  
and friend. Throughout that time, he has consistently been put forward as a leader among his peers.  
He is an extremely hard worker, passionate about community, and naturally empowers those  
around him to fulfill their potential. In working with Mr. Gomes through important community  
challenges, I have witnessed his approach to take the time required to thoroughly understand the  
issues, engage meaningfully with stakeholders, understand multiple and potentially competing  
perspectives, and find collaborative pathways.

Mr. Gomes' hard work and skill sets have earned him positions in both the public and private  
sector that demonstrate his commitment to public service. Mr. Gomes is respected among his  
peers as having a unique blend of compassion and tenacity rooted in knowledge and lived out  
through a Native Hawaiian lens. These qualities are essential to addressing the needs of the  
Department, its beneficiaries, and key stakeholders.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide mana'ō in support of this measure. If given the opportunity,  
I believe Mr. Gomes will be a tremendous asset to carry the kuleana this position carries towards  
building critical opportunities for native Hawaiian communities.

Me ka ha'aha'a,



Rebecca Justine 'Iolani Soon

Testimony of Elena K. Farden  
IN SUPPORT  
GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
January 23, 2020

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

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony. I am pleased to be writing this letter in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you **confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.**

I support Mr. Gomes' nomination for his servant leadership in upholding community and mission as priority in his work, his commitment toward collective achievement as a team member, and courage in being flexible and open to change in times of challenge.

Mr. Gomes and I are successful former colleagues where he served as the Hawai'i Partnerships Manager for our local business network of non-profit, educational and philanthropic organizations and I managed our STEM education initiatives. Our work in business and education often overlapped. It provided a wealth of opportunities to collaborate on projects where I saw first-hand Mr. Gomes' ability to build positive working relationships within the community and admire his follow-through to carry forward the weight of the work like a true collaborator.

During this time working with Mr. Gomes, I have had the opportunity to observe his interpersonal style – he is dedicated, shares credit with his team, and is an accomplished multitasker with a great penchant for meeting deadlines and ensured efficacy on many projects.

Mr. Gomes' work motto is: Challenge Accepted.

As our Native Hawaiian community and State continue to face long-standing challenges of our Hawaiian Homelands, I am assured Mr. Gomes' leadership and experience will support all of us in forging a way forward that fulfills Prince Kūhiō's vision. Mr. Gomes' work in our judiciary system, our Hawai'i business leadership and innovation economy is designed to lift the work needed for leases and housing development for Hawaiians (Section 207), community pastures (Section 211), loan programs (Section 214), general assistance to leasees (Section 219), and economic prosperity (Section 227 Enterprise Zones).

I urge this Committee to support Mr. Gomes' nomination and confirm his appointment as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

Me ka mahalo ha'aha'a,

  
Elena K. Farden



**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 10:01:00 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jonathan Ching	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha 'auinalä• e Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of GM507,

Tyler is one of the most honest, forthright, dependable, intelligent, diligent and honorable persons that I know. He cares deeply about Hawaii, the people of Hawaii, including kanaka maoli and DHHL beneficiaries, Hawaii's institutions, laws and procedures. He is very knowledgeable on the kinds of issues the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and Hawaiian Homes Commission faces and he has been a tremendous asset to the Department.

I have known Tyler for over a decade since we were students at the William S. Richardson School of Law. He was well-liked and respected by his peers. I was not surprised when I heard last year that Governor Ige appointed him to serve as Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. He is able to find consensus and work with all parties, sometimes when there is lots of hard feelings or mistrust involved.

I support Tyler's nomination and urge the Committee to Advise and Consent on GM507.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/17/2020 12:44:07 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Puni Kekauoha	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/20/2020 5:08:04 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Germaine Meyers	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:



Testimony of Teri M. Wright  
IN SUPPORT  
GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 23, 2020

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

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I've had the privilege to walk alongside Mr. Gomes in various capacities since 2011, when he selected me as his moot court partner while attending William S. Richardson School of Law. We bonded over our values and aspirations to uplift and assist the Native Hawaiian community. Mr. Gomes was pursuing his Certificate in Native Hawaiian Law at the time. While partnering with Mr. Gomes, he truly took me under his wing. He spent endless hours coaching and supporting me. He exemplified the characteristics of a selfless leader. I found my advocate voice under his tutelage. And in doing so, I believe that Mr. Gomes ultimately shifted the trajectory of my life path. I followed his lead, first by clerking at Circuit Court and subsequently to the Office of the Public Defender.

As colleagues at the Office of the Public Defender, I watched Mr. Gomes excel in bench trials, jury trials, and oral argument at the Hawaii Supreme Court. Whatever challenge was put before him, Mr. Gomes conquered and executed with zest and sophistication. Mr. Gomes is hardworking, intelligent, and does not shirk away from a challenge. In his role as Deputy Public Defender, Mr. Gomes was also able to live out some of the goals and aspirations that we talked about during law school -- uplifting and assisting the Native Hawaiian Community. Native Hawaiians are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. Mr. Gomes used his position to champion the rights of his clients, no matter how hard or unpopular his clients' position may have been. As such, I am confident that he will always do and advocate for the best interest of the beneficiaries of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

The experiences I've had with Mr. Gomes are not in isolation. Mr. Gomes leaves a lasting impact on the hearts of the people he touches. I support Mr. Gomes' nomination. I know no one better fit for the position.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

Teri M. Wright

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/17/2020 1:22:46 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Juanito Garcia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge the committee to confirm Tyler I. Gomes as the Deputy to the Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/17/2020 5:25:27 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janice Javar	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support the nomination of Tyler I Gomes as Deputy to the Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I do not believe that he has the necessary qualifications to make mindful decisions that would benefit the Native Hawaiian community.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/17/2020 6:09:26 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tammi Gumban	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I OPPOSE GM 507 Submitting for confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022

Mahalo

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/18/2020 5:12:52 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Debra M Javar	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**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

Subject: **GM 507** Consideration and Confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire 12-05-2022 Scheduled for Hearing Pō'ahā, Ianuali 23, 2020 @ 1:15 p.m

Aloha nō kākou,

I submit this testimony of my own free will in SUPPORT of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee TYLER I GOMES as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for a term to expire 12-05-2022.

While employed at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in 2019 as a Water Resource Management Specialist, I had the opportunity to interact with gubernatorial nominee Tyler I. Gomes in his capacity as the Interim Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I found Mr Gomes to be highly intelligent and highly motivated to undertake the enormous duties and responsibilities of implementing the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA). His background as a former Public Defender provides the necessary legal training and the necessary compassion for the plight of those less fortunate. This resulted in in depth conversations and directions to staff in how to improve the implementation of the HHCA. His collegiate degree in Hawaiian language also affords him insight into important Hawaiian values including aloha i kekahi i kekahi that support effective decision-making. He will be a fine Deputy to the Chairperson and perhaps serving as Chairperson himself at some point in time. I unequivocally support the confirmation of Tyler I. Gomes. In a word, he is genuine.

Ke aloha nō,

Edward Halealoha Ayau  
622 Wainaku Street Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 646-9015

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/19/2020 8:53:20 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gordon B. Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the reappointment of Tyler Gomes due to; mismanagement of his position.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/19/2020 11:09:37 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gail Noeau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Gail Noeau respectfully submit, my "Opposition" regarding consideration & confirmation of Tyler Gomes as "deputy" to the chairman of the Dept. of Hawaiian HomeLands Division.. I Strongly oppose this nominee.

As well, I STRONGLY OPPOSE MR W. AILA !



**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/19/2020 11:51:22 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keith Castaneda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/20/2020 12:40:51 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Public Testimony of  
Allen K. Hoe

Before the Senate Committee on  
Hawaiian Affairs

Thursday, January 23, 2020  
1:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Rm. 016

In Consideration of  
Governor's Message, 507

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-22.

Aloha e Luna Ho`omalu Shimabukuro ame Hope Luna Ho`omalu Kahele.

I am very pleased to support the Governor's nomination of Tyler Iokepa Gomes as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Tyler is a special keiki o ka aina. His personal and professional achievements in public service, business developments and his professional accomplishments as an esteemed member of the Hawaii Bar and an alumnus of the William S. Richardson School of Law has clearly proven that.

A review of his biography will show his commitment to serving his community at all levels with a special interest in promoting educational opportunities at all levels from our youth to our Kupuna.

I am comfortable that he will be an incredible asset to both the Chair and the Members of the Commission as they move forward in fulfill their duties and responsibilities.

Mahalo,

Allen K. Hoe  
(808) 521-6927  
ahoe@pixi.com

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/20/2020 9:22:07 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ericka Lehuanani Murry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a wait lister I strongly oppose Mr. Tyler Gomes being considered as a deputy to the chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian homelands. In a matter of speaking the governor should not be the one to elect a position official as this. The Hawaiian community should be the only one to say who can be elected and why they can be elected. Respectfully submitted. Mahalo.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/20/2020 11:10:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joyce N Johansen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a current lessee on Hawaiian Homelands, I OPPOSE the governors selection of Tyler Gomes to the position of Assistants to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, for the mere fact the governor has no right to make any selection to Department of Hawaiian Homelands position because I feel the LESSEES, the SUCESSORS and the BENEFICIARIES, are the ones who should make this decision. WE ARE NOT INVISIBLE, as you all hope we should all be!

Again I OPPOSE the governors selection of Tyler Gomes to the position of assistant to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Respectfully,

Joyce N Johansen

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 8:24:00 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in FULL support for the nomination of Tyler I. Gomes for Deputy to the Chairman of Hawaiian Home Lands

January 21, 2020

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: GM 507, Support for the Nomination of Tyler Gomes, 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. I have had the opportunity to interact with Tyler Gomes since his appointment to DHHL. 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.

In my interactions with him in the time he has been at DHHL, I have seen him bring his considerable intelligence and intuition to bear on complex issues. This is complimented by his calm and engaging demeanor, which is a great asset in dealing with this precious trust and obligation held by the people of Hawai'i.

I 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.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 8:37:56 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Erman Tancayo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha I am in FULL support of the Gubernatorial Nominee of Tyler I Gomes for the term of Deputy to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands, for term to expire 12-31-2022

Mahalo



**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 8:40:27 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ivan Pauole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

## shimabukuro2 - Richard

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**From:** Sen. Maile Shimabukuro  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2020 8:28 AM  
**To:** Mele Hanohano  
**Cc:** shimabukuro2 - Richard  
**Subject:** Re: Testimony on Confirmation of DHHL Director Appointment 1/20/2020

Mahalo for your testimony, I am cc-ing my Committee Clerk.

Aloha 🌺,

Senator Maile Shimabukuro  
District 21  
(Kalaeloa, Honokai Hale, Ko Olina, Nanakuli, Ma`ili, Wai`anae, Makaha, Makua)  
State Capitol, Room 222  
[415 South Beretania Street](#)  
[Honolulu, HI 96813](#)  
[808-586-7793](#) phone  
[808-586-7797](#) facsimile  
[maileshimabukuro@yahoo.com](mailto:maileshimabukuro@yahoo.com)  
Facebook: [Like Me](#)  
Twitter: [@SenMaile](#)  
Blog: <http://21maile.com>  
Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 20, 2020, at 7:49 PM, Mele Hanohano <[melehanohano74@gmail.com](mailto:melehanohano74@gmail.com)> wrote:

Senators on the Committee (Shimabukuro, Kahele, Fevella, Ihara and Keohokalole) As well as my own Representative of District 13, Lynn DeCoite. And all 25 Senators in the Legislature. Aloha. My name is Mele Hanohano and I'm a citizen of Hawai'i, a voter. I am also a Beneficiary to Homestead here in Ho'olehua on the island of Moloka'i.

I request that the Senate do its Constitutional duty of taking far more serious the review of the appointments of a Governor than in the past and in the case of William J. Aila, to vote NO on this appointment.

As Senators, I ask that you expect more. There are so many talented professionals that would put their lives on hold serve. So many names come to mind with actual experience, with actual HHCA knowledge that can build a team at DHHL.

Vote NO, require Governor David Ige to call for applications, to do interviews, to do something unprecedented because the times we are in, the suffering we are in requires it. Again, your NO vote, guides Governor David Ige to return to the drawing board. We deserve your higher expectations of Governor David Ige to open the door to talent in Hawai'i, to the problem solvers that can take on DHHL and bring different results than we have seen in just the last 5 years.

In closing, DHHL can be successful and efficient for another 100 more years. It requires change and reform, starting with Senate expectations of appointments.

Thank you Senators for hearing my concerns and hope and pray things move forward in a positive manner.

Mahalo Keakua,  
Mele Hanohano

Homesteader & Beneficiary  
Ho'olehua, Moloka'i

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 10:06:54 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michelle Hizeman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 12:59:08 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nadine Pomroy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 3:53:25 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Taffi Wise	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 5:24:00 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ekekela Aiona	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 5:59:27 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Chinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 10:56:12 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hokulei Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/21/2020 11:56:41 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Allison Carkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of Allison M. Carkin

IN SUPPORT OF GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 23, 2020

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

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor’s Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I emphatically support Mr. Gomes’ nomination. I have known Tyler over 10 years after we met at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I firmly believe he will be an excellent addition to Hawaii’s government and will be an outstanding advocate for the Hawaiian people and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Tyler has all the qualities you would want in a Deputy Director. He’s intelligent, articulate, a quick learner, an extremely effective communicator, empathetic,

compassionate, charming, and gracious. He was raised with good values that were instilled from his family which has guided him both professionally and personally.

When we were in law school, I watched Tyler collaborate with the student body and faculty as the Student Bar Association President to support student's needs and to unify the class. Additionally, he has always showed an interest in Native Hawaiian Law as well as an attentiveness to how to advance the needs of the Native Hawaiian people.

Next, when Tyler and I law clerked together at the First Circuit Court, I watched him work with ambition and integrity, attempting to learn as much as he could so he could succeed as a Public Defender. Finally, when we were attorneys at the Office of the Public Defender, I watched Tyler fight for the people of Hawaii—ensuring that the laws were upheld, that justice was done, and that Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens were protected.

When Tyler moved on to working as a political consultant, he gained immense experience and knowledge engaging within our local government and with community leaders. He likewise was able to work with various businesses, local organizations, and community partners while at Elemental Excelerator to develop and fund companies that help positively impact Hawaii.

I am confident that Tyler's unique legal background, ingenuity, and ability to connect with anyone will help him to navigate the complex issues surrounding the Native Hawaiian community and the Department of Hawaiian Homelands as well as aid him in crafting creative and new solutions to inspire improvement and development. Tyler's work experience and community involvement clearly show his commitment to serving Hawaii. Please join me in my support of Tyler Iokepa Gomes.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony,

Allison M. Carkin

Deputy Public Defender



**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 6:20:07 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rodney Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of Cynthia Quinn  
IN SUPPORT

GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 23, 2020

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

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I support Mr. Gomes' nomination because as you can see from his record he is a very dedicated and devoted public servant and leader for Hawaii's community and especially the native Hawaiian community. He is deserving of this position and the Hawaiian community and the entire state would be best served with Tyler as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 8:37:56 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kamaile Maldonado	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write in SUPPORT of Tyler Iokepa Gomes for confirmation as the DHHL Deputy Director. Tyler is the right blend of youthful, bold, strategically-minded, and deliberate to help bring a new, much-needed, vision and direction to DHHL. Please PASS GM507.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Testimony of Kainui Michael Smith  
IN SUPPORT  
GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 23, 2020

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

My name is Kainui M. Smith and I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I support Mr. Gomes' nomination without reservation or hesitation. I have known Mr. Gomes for over twenty (20) years and have witnessed first-hand his intelligence, compassion, professional skills, and dedication to the Hawaiian community and culture.

Mr. Gomes and I were classmates at Kamehameha Schools where we both participated in Speech and Debate. Mr. Gomes displayed a natural affinity for crafting logical, concise arguments which he was able to present persuasively and passionately.

We were classmates at the University of Hawaii at Manoa studying Hawaiian language. Mr. Gomes was an active participant in the vibrant Hawaiian language community at UH and sought opportunities beyond the classroom to further develop his language skills while gaining a deeper understanding of the Hawaiian community.

Again, we were classmates at the William S. Richardson School of Law. Mr. Gomes was the Student Bar Association President and one-half of the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Native American Moot Court National team (Mr. Gomes was also Best Oralist). Mr. Gomes graduated with a certificate in Native Hawaiian Law and provided community outreach to Native Hawaiians through the Native Hawaiian Law Clinic related to Quiet Title and Partition Law in Hawaii.

Mr. Gomes continued to develop not only his professional skills but also his civic and community engagement after law school as a Law Clerk, Deputy Public Defender, and Partnerships Manager.

Beyond his considerable resume, I am happy to call Tyler one of my best friends. He is remarkably quick-witted, bright, and dependable. I know that those traits will serve him well as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. More importantly, those same traits will make him an invaluable asset to the Department, its staff, and the Native Hawaiian community. Mr. Gomes is the perfect choice for this position.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony. Me ka haahaa.



Testimony Titiimaea N. Ta'ase

IN SUPPORT

GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 23, 2020

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

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I support Mr. Gomes' nomination because I believe he possesses the requisite skills and attitude necessary to further the goals of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I have known Mr. Gomes for over 10 years and we worked together at The Office of the Public Defender for many of those years. In our time together as Deputy Public Defenders, he worked effectively to serve the interests of our clients. His advocacy on behalf of them was second to none. Whether it be trial practice, motions practice, or arguing cases before the Supreme Court, Mr. Gomes approached his duties with professionalism and diligence. He was always prepared. He was always knowledgeable. These attributes garnered him the respect of his fellow attorneys, judges, and court staff.

He is a proud Hawaiian man who cares deeply for his people and the issues that they face today. He educated me a great deal about Hawaiian cultural values and how those values are preserved in our laws. I firmly believe that he will be, as he always has been, of great service to the people of Hawai'i. I believe that because I know of his great compassion and empathy. He listened to people who were often ignored. He helped those who sought help. He was always treated people with the respect and dignity that all people are entitled to. I have a great deal of professional and personal respect and admiration for him and I ask you to vote in support of his appointment.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 9:29:17 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamana`opono M. Crabbe, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Private Citizen of Ke `Aupuni Hawai`i

TESTIMONY OF

KAMANA`OPONO M. CRABBE, Ph.D.

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Thursday, January 23, 2020

1:15pm

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In consideration of

**GM 507**

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

I submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the confirmation and appointment for **Tyler I. Gomes, as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.** I have known Mr. Gomes over ten years as a personal acquaintance and colleague entailing similar pathways and relationships in academia, advocacy for Hawaiian communities, and cultural preservation of natural resources and assets.

He is a warm, empathic, intelligible, and passionate individual who demonstrates the tremendous respect and dignity for the welfare of others. He exhibits good listening skills in addition to critical thinking that are essential to addressing complex challenges of the 21st century.

Mr. Gomes has proven exceptional competency of systemic socio-political and cultural issues that continue to impact Native Hawaiians. His ability to assess such matters and implement actions through collaborative relationships and programs is a unique quality of character. He is an emerging leader within the Native Hawaiian community and familiar with controversial issues of land tenure, water rights, and the affordable housing crisis given his legal background and professional experience

One of several reasons for applying as **Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands** is his determination to set quality policies that will ensure perpetual stewardship of trust assets and resources as well as to achieve progressive change for Native Hawaiian families and communities as homeowners. Given his exceptional skills and background combined with a commitment to achieve the organization's vision and mission, I am confident that Mr. Gomes would be a contributing member of the commission and organization that achieves the fiduciary responsibilities necessary to continue the legacy of Prince Jonah Kalaniana`ole Kuhio.

For these reasons, I encourage the committee to consider his confirmation for the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 9:42:55 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marla Wain	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 9:58:19 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Helen N. Wai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 10:01:21 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Anuheia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Anuheia and I oppose to the nomination of Tyler Gomes and would like consider that the people of Hawaii should have a say in nomination of these positions.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 10:20:36 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaleo Manuel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Testimony of Marvin Kaleo Manuel**

**IN SUPPORT**

**GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**January 23, 2020**

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

**I am writing in SUPPORT of Governor’s Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.**

**I support Mr. Gomes’ nomination because I feel he will bring fresh, new, and innovative ideas to the Department. As a young Hawaiian attorney, he has a passion to serve his people and I believe he will continue to do so in this new capacity at DHHL.**

**As the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust will mark its centennial existence in this administration, this is a great opportunity to do so with leaders like Mr. Gomes.**

**Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.**

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 10:28:51 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and Distinguished Board Members of the HWN Affairs Committee, I humbly ask for your Support and Consideration in the Confirmation of Tyler Gomes as Deputy to the Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands. It is refreshing to see a young Hawaiian who is anxious and willing to Serve the native Hawaiian people in the capacity as Deputy. Tyler brings with him his Experience in Law, coupled with his Cultural background to Compliment the DHHL Administration. Please Support Tyler, We need to Build our Future!

Mahalo for the opportunity to give testimony,

Gene Ross K Davis



Testimony of **KIRSHA K.M. DURANTE**  
IN SUPPORT

GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 23, 2020

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

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I support Mr. Gomes' nomination because he is a bright, innovative, and passionate individual who possesses skills that would be an asset to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

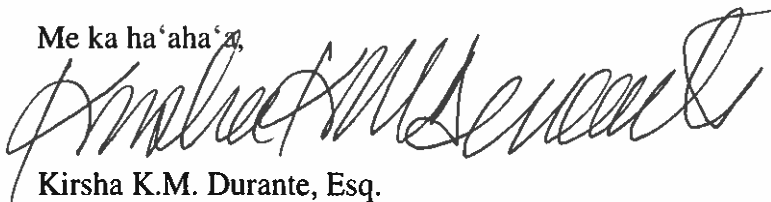
I first met Mr. Gomes when he was working as a law clerk to the Honorable Dexter D. Del Rosario. The position of a law clerk requires interpersonal and organizational skills. Mr. Gomes not only exhibited these qualities during his tenure as a law clerk, but he excelled in this position. While some law clerks would get overwhelmed with the duties expected of them, Mr. Gomes handled the stress of the position effortlessly.

After his clerkship, Mr. Gomes became my colleague working as an attorney at the Office of the Public Defender. The position of Deputy Public Defender is demanding and often requires long hours of preparation outside of the courtroom. As a trial attorney, Mr. Gomes was also tasked with the duty of zealously advocating on behalf of his clients while simultaneously maintaining a level of respect and professionalism towards the Court and towards opposing counsel. The stress of being a Deputy Public Defender is not one that everyone can manage successfully. However, Mr. Gomes navigated all of the commitments and responsibilities of this position graciously.

Lastly, I have been able to develop a personal relationship with Mr. Gomes as a friend. Through our friendship, I have been able to observe his generous and kind nature. Mr. Gomes has a very supportive 'ohana which clearly impacted the type of person he has become. I can also attest to his commitment to our culture and to serving the lāhui.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

Me ka ha'aha'a,



Kirsha K.M. Durante, Esq.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 10:43:22 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ross Kapeliela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of Craig W. Jerome  
IN SUPPORT

GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 23, 2020

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

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I support Mr. Gomes' nomination wholeheartedly. I first met Mr. Gomes in 2012 when he was serving as a law clerk to the Honorable Dexter D. Del Rosario. I then worked with Mr. Gomes at the Office of the Public Defender when we were both serving as Deputy Public Defenders. Mr. Gomes is diligent, thorough, and passionate in his work. He also possesses a quick wit and the ability to effectively communicate with people from all backgrounds. I know that Mr. Gomes will effectively serve the people of the State of Hawaii in this position, and I am proud and happy to support his confirmation.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of my testimony.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 10:52:21 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kamalani Keliikuli	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Testimony  
IN SUPPORT

GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 22, 2020

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

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Mr. Gomes is committed to the mission of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and I believe he will continue to be dedicated, hard-working and a positive voice for the Hawaiian community in the Department. I have had the honor of working with him during his time at the Office of the Public Defender and can speak to his strong work ethic, his passion for social justice, his effective advocacy skills, and his sincere desire to service the Hawaiian community.

Thank you,  
Darcia Forester  
Deputy Public Defender  
State of Hawaii

Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie, Esq.  
melodykmackenzie@gmail.com

**Testimony in Support of GM 507**

**TYLER I. GOMES**

**Confirmation as Deputy to the Chairperson of the  
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands**

**Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Hearing on Thursday, January 23, 2020, at 1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 016

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in **support** of GM 507, nominating Tyler Iokepa Gomes as Deputy Director to the Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I am a professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law and the founding director of Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law. I submit this testimony, however, in my personal capacity as a private citizen and as one who has known Tyler Gomes as an outstanding student, member of the Law School's Native American Moot Court Team, and Law School alumni. More recently Tyler and I have both served as board members of the Native Hawaiian Bar Association. Thus, I feel I can speak to Tyler's character as well as his commitment to the Native Hawaiian community.

Tyler was an excellent student and, more importantly, a valued member of the William S. Richardson School of Law's community. As a law student, he was on the Native American Moot Court team and, in the national competition, placed first for best oralist and, with his partner, placed first as best advocates. This shows his dedication and perseverance as well as his desire to excel in every endeavor he undertakes. He also served as president of the Student Bar Association and subsequently served as president of the Richardson Alumni Association. As president of the Alumni Association, he helped to revitalize and stabilize it, and started new initiatives including an alumni mentoring program. I also know Tyler's work as a board member of the Native Hawaiian Bar Association where he has played an important role in the NHBA's outreach to new attorneys.

Tyler is young, but has excellent experiences as an attorney and advocate and in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. He will bring a fresh perspective to DHHL and with his skill-set be able to address some of the legal and systemic issues that have plagued the department. He also will work collaboratively with the executive and legislature to ensure sufficient funding and resources so that the DHHL can fulfill its trust responsibilities to its beneficiaries. I believe that Tyler's strong commitment to the Native Hawaiian community and his work ethic as well as his intellectual abilities makes him an exceptional choice to help lead the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands into this next decade.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony in **support** of GM 507.

Aloha Mai Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jocelyn Leialoha M. Doane and I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM507, which would confirm Tyler Gomes as the Deputy to the Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Confirmation of Mr. Gomes would provide the Department with new energy, and a leader with important legal and professional skills as well as an unwavering commitment to fulfill the vision of Prince Kūhiō Kalanianaʻole and the mission of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA).

Under the HHCA, the United States and the State of Hawaiʻi are entrusted with the solemn duty to administer the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust 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 Hawaiians, 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, I support the confirmation of Tyler Gomes to continue as Deputy to the DHHL Chairperson.

Mr. Gomes 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, he oversees DHHL's various divisions, including Homestead Services, Land Development, Land Management, Planning, Fiscal, ASO, and the Office of the Chairperson. He has already started planning and dialogue related to innovative and unique solutions to address the DHHL waitlist, including through partnering with private and governmental entities; compensation for past and ongoing inappropriate uncompensated use of trust lands; and the expansion of utility services for rural and other Homestead communities. I am confident that allowing Mr. Gomes to continue on as DHHL's Deputy Director will serve the department and its beneficiaries well.

As his record demonstrates, Mr. Gomes has dedicated his career and his considerable talents to public service. Born and raised in Maunawili, Mr. Gomes graduated from the Kamehameha Schools-Kāpalama Campus and the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa for both his undergraduate degree (B.A. in ʻōlelo Hawaiʻi) and his law degree (William S. Richardson School of Law). Upon graduation, Mr. Gomes endeavored to "give back" to the community, which started with a clerkship with Judge Del Rosario and continued with his work at the Office of the Public Defender. During his four years at the Public Defender's Office, he worked with Hawaiʻi's indigent population, significantly and substantially comprised of Native Hawaiians, which provided him with an even deeper understanding of and sensitivity to the socioeconomic dynamics faced by Hawaiʻi's disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.

Combined with his demonstrated commitment to public service, Mr. Gomes' personal and professional skills would also serve the department well. He has valuable public policy and legal experience, including through the review and analysis of policy proposals that directly impact OHA and DHHL beneficiaries, and through his complex litigation background. These skills will be of great value to the important and critical work of DHHL's land development, land

management, and planning divisions, which often times involve the understanding and navigation of complex legal issues and policies. Mr. Gomes has also interacted and presented numerous times before state boards and commissions, including before the Hawaiian Homes Commission, and has substantial experience interacting with legislators, community stakeholders, and media groups; such familiarity with the unique nature of government and public affairs work will be particularly critical to the Department's successful access to resources and execution of partnerships, and will enable him to help improve the department's relations with homestead associations and waitlist stakeholders. Relatedly, Mr. Gomes also has experience with state procurement processes; combined with his legal background, such experience will be invaluable to his oversight of DHHL's massive procurement kuleana.

In summary, Mr. Gomes' substantial experience working with and for the Native Hawaiian community is demonstrative to his personal commitment and ability to serve DHHL's beneficiaries. He is deeply rooted in the Hawaiian community—he and his father are cultural practitioners, and he is a fluent Hawaiian language speaker. He has been and continues to be a vigorous and effective advocate for protecting and furthering Native Hawaiian interests. Accordingly, I believe his confirmation by the Senate will be of great value and service to DHHL as well as its beneficiaries.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Mr. Gomes' nomination.

Jocelyn Leialoha M. Doane



**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 11:11:31 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lianne Aoki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Testimony of Lianne Aoki**

**IN SUPPORT**

**GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**January 23, 2020**

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

**I am writing in SUPPORT of Governor’s Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.**

**I support Mr. Gomes’ nomination and am confident that he will continue to serve our community where it is needed most. I had the opportunity to work with Mr.**

**Gomes in the past. I have first-hand knowledge that he is an asset to any work place with his intelligence, passion, and creativity.**

**Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.**

SENATE

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 23, 2020

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Kahele, members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. I come before you to strongly recommend the confirmation of Tyler Iokepa Gomes as Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I have gotten to know Tyler over the last year working on a project together. Very impressive. He is smart, well educated, hard-working, totally committed to the homestead community. Since his appointment as the acting Deputy Director, he has proven to be the perfect complement to William's leadership as Director. His legal background provides a valuable lens, especially in understanding the complexities of the Act and the programs of the Department. Tyler's youth and nose-to-the grindstone discipline play well with William's big picture, visionary approach honed over many years of experience. They make a great combination.

The native Hawaiian community is evolving, and many young Hawaiians are stepping up to leadership positions. It is time they stepped forward, and it is time we make room for them at the table. Tyler has developed experience in the public and private sector and especially around community advocacy that will inform his leadership and navigation of the challenges the Department faces. We are fortunate to attract one of the brightest stars from their generation. Let us not lose this opportunity.

Please look favorably on Tyler Iokepa Gomes confirmation as Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Ray Soon  
Former Chair of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, 1998-2002

Testimony of HAYLEY Y.C. CHENG  
IN SUPPORT

GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 23, 2020

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

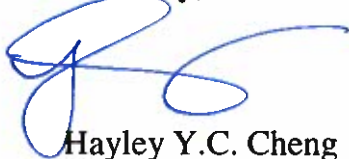
I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor’s Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I fully support Mr. Gomes’ nomination. I have known Mr. Gomes for several years both personally and professionally and believe he is incredibly qualified for the position he has been nominated for. I had the opportunity to work side by side with Mr. Gomes when he served as a Deputy Public Defender. He consistently demonstrated a tireless work ethic, an unwavering commitment to his profession, and the ability to effectively work alongside every employee in the office, regardless of their position.

Mr. Gomes has always been passionate about his work. He is the type of person that pours his whole heart into whatever he does, and I have no doubt he will bring that same passion to this position. I have personally had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Gomes about this position and his nomination. I can see how committed he is and how eager he is at this opportunity to serve. He is incredibly organized, diligent and thoughtful – all qualities that will serve the Department well.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,



Hayley Y.C. Cheng

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 11:37:49 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tara Rojas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

NO, ABSOLUTELY NO.

This position requires one who cares about, understands, and works FOR Hawaiians in Hawai'i...and will do what it takes to get Hawaiians on Hawaiian land. Period. DEPT. OF "HAWAIIAN" HOMELANDS.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 11:46:57 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Olu Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I know and have worked with nominee Tyler Gomes in both personal and professional settings. Through his intelligence, experience, and personability, he exhibits the high-capacity, community-driven leadership that the Department of Hawaiian Homelands needs. I strongly SUPPORT his confirmation.

Mahalo,

'Olu Campbell

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 11:48:14 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Debbie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support to confirm Tyler Gomes to Deputy to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 11:54:29 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James S. Williston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Shimabukuro and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I am testifying in my personal capacity in support of the confirmation of Tyler I. Gomes to the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I have worked with Tyler for the past seven years on the Board of the Richardson School of Law Alumni Association. Tyler has always been willing to take a leadership role and carried through whenever he has committed to a task. He is well organized, works well with others, is a creative problem solver, and has great energy.

I believe Tyler will be able to move the Department forward with its mission of helping Native Hawaiians gain access to the lands that have been set aside for them.

Sincerely Jim Williston



**KIM COCO IWAMOTO, ESQ.**

PO Box 235191  
Honolulu, HI 96823  
[kimcoco@kimcoco.com](mailto:kimcoco@kimcoco.com)

Committee of Hawaiian Affairs  
Thursday, January 23, 2020, 1:15pm  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016

**Re GM 507: Testimony in Support of Tyler I. Gomes**

Dear Committee Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Kahele & Members of the Committee,

Let me start by urging this Committee to defer to the testimony of beneficiaries of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands as primary sources for all matters regarding DHHL operations.

As a settler, whose ancestors came from Japan and unwittingly participated in the colonization of Hawaii, destruction of her natural resources through industrialized mono-cropping then tourism, and dilution of the political power of kanaka maoli, I humbly offer my testimony for consideration only in the absence of substantive testimony by DHHL beneficiaries.

I have known DHHL Deputy Tyler I. Gomes for more than 10 years, first as community activists, then friends, and more recently, we have worked together professionally. I have observed the following attributes of Deputy Gomes first hand:

- he is a good judge of character
- he is a quick study: hits the ground running, adapts to complex rules
- he is committed to serving the public good
- he is not afraid to speak-up when he feels his team, including team leaders, are not living-up to their responsibilities or the high standards he holds for himself

I am unable to provide testimony in person, but please do not hesitate to call me if I can provide clarification regarding my statements above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kim Coco Iwamoto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Testimony of Stacy Takekawa

**IN SUPPORT**

**GM 507** – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee,

TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 22, 2020

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

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor’s Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I support Mr. Gomes’ nomination for this position because he has the experience, the fortitude, the determination, and the acumen to serve the State of Hawaii and its Native Hawaiian residents. Tyler’s educational background and his work and life experience demonstrate his commitment to the people and communities of Hawaii, especially the Native Hawaiian community. I met Tyler in law school and served with him in student government and on the law school’s alumni board, and we both clerked for First Circuit Court judges at the same time. I would say that I know Tyler well and have had the opportunity to see him “in action” for many years. Tyler is an excellent leader and motivator, and he does it all with grace and humility, with a side of his own unique style.

I strongly believe that Mr. Gomes’ character, passion, intelligence, and drive allow him to be successful in whatever goal he chooses to pursue. The State of Hawaii will only benefit from having Tyler in a position where he is able to truly make a difference in the lives of its people.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Stacy Takekawa, Esq.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 12:36:36 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pohai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I support Mr. Gomes' nomination for many reasons. His educational background, including his vast experience involving Hawaiian culture and language and the legal field, combined with his native Hawaiian roots, identity, and passion to serve the IĀ• hui, provide him with the skillset necessary to succeed as Deputy Director to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Additionally, his exceptional work ethic serves as a foundation to advance the needs of the native Hawaiian community and community as a whole. Mr. Gomes has proven that he thrives in environments which require him to work both independently and collaboratively with colleagues, peers, and fellow community members alike. He is a consummate professional and is a wonderful candidate for this position. His appointment would be of great service to our community and I strongly support his nomination.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

Pohai Nu'uhiwa Campbell

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 1:15 PM

by  
Amy M Luke  
Individual  
WRITTEN ONLY

GM507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of Governor's Message 507 and the appointment of Mr. Tyler I. Gomes, J.D., to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for the State of Hawai'i.

I have known Mr. Gomes for three years and worked in close partnership with him in various community and state projects within his role as Partnerships Manager for the Elemental Excelerator and through his volunteer efforts in our community. Throughout this short time, Mr. Gomes has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to communicate and empathize, without being condescending, and relate to all who find themselves in difficult situations regardless of their socioeconomic status. As his background details, Mr. Gomes is a true and tested voice for those unable to be their own advocates and I can assure you that he is an excellent, dedicated and respected leader, and would continue as such if confirmed as the Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for the State of Hawai'i.

While there are numerous reasons to write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Gomes, my recommendation is based on Mr. Gomes's competence, his unrestricted and dedicated desire to achieve above and beyond, his experience, and his true interest in helping others. Mr. Gomes understands and continuously demonstrates how government has a responsibility to its people, and I am confident that he would work diligently for the collective good of all Native Hawaiian residents as the Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the vast range of social and health disparities that Native Hawaiians face.

For these reasons and so many more, I believe that Mr. Tyler I. Gomes would be an asset to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and only help to uplift and bring unity to the State of Hawai'i. I thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Governor's Message 507 and I respectfully urge you to consent to Mr. Tyler I. Gomes's nomination to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 12:55:11 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paula MacCutcheon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mr. Gomes has a diverse background and experience that will contribute greatly to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. In the time that I have known and worked with him in a professional or volunteer capacity, Mr. Gomes has proven to be a person who puts in the work that is needed to finish a project or accomplish a goal. His diverse work background has afforded him the opportunity to work with a plethora of people and personalities. I believe the skills and experiences he has acquired will allow him to best serve the native Hawaiian community.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 1:15pm  
Conference Room 016

RE: Testimony of Matthew Weyer in **SUPPORT** GM 507 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing in strong **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, providing for the confirmation of Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

As a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law, I witnessed Mr. Gomes' commitment to Hawai'i's legal community first-hand as he continued to invest his time and knowledge into our Native American Moot Court Team even after he had already graduated from law school. This dedication helped empower and shape many of the legal minds now serving across our state, and his willingness to commit his time to lifting up others speaks to how seriously he takes the responsibility of serving the community.

While serving as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, I also had the unique opportunity of seeing Mr. Gomes fulfill his role as a Deputy Public Defender. Mr. Gomes' ability to both understand and be able to effectively communicate the nuances of the law are skill sets that transcend the courtroom and would lend themselves to his success as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Moreover, he continually demonstrated humility and a high ethical standard while simultaneously advocating effectively for his clients.

I therefore request that this Committee advance GM 507 and support the confirmation of Mr. Gomes as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Weyer', written over a horizontal line.

Matthew Weyer

Testimony of **JESSICA R. DOMINGO**  
IN SUPPORT

GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 23, 2020

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

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I have had the privilege of knowing Tyler for the past 16 years. We first met at Kamehameha High School where Tyler was an active member of the Speech and Debate Team. After we both obtained our undergraduate degrees, our paths crossed again while we attended the William S. Richardson School of Law. It was there that I really got to know Tyler and we quickly became close friends. Tyler is trustworthy, hardworking, and intelligent. Tyler is always the first to volunteer if anyone needs help and is always thinking of ways to find solutions to the challenges he may face.

In 2014, I joined Tyler at the Office of the Public Defender. It was there that I saw him flourish and become a superb advocate for those who are underserved. The professional manner in which he addressed the court and opposing counsel and the patience and understanding he showed for his clients conveyed the respect he had for everyone. Working at the Office of the Public Defender is a tireless job and you always feel like there is more you need to do. Tyler would put in long hours and spend time with each of his clients to make sure they were getting the best representation. He was also a valuable asset to his coworkers and would brainstorm our cases with us to make sure we were prepared. As a Deputy Public Defender, Tyler showed empathy, compassion, and eloquence in all that he did.

I could not think of a better candidate to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. His skills as a trial attorney and an advocate for his clients will allow him to participate thoughtfully and respectfully in discussions and decision making. Being born and raised in Hawai'i and working for and with the people of Hawai'i have given Tyler the values and abilities to be able to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson and to support the Native Hawaiian people. Tyler has always been passionate about helping the people of Hawai'i because he truly cares for the people of Hawai'i. The knowledge and background experience that Tyler will bring to this position would be a tremendous asset to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Jessica R. Domingo, Esq.

January 23, 2020

The Honorable Maile Shimabukuro, Chair  
and the Committee On Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawaii State Senate  
415 S. Beretania St., #016  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

RE: GM 507 Consideration and Confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, Tyler I. Gomes for a term to expire 12-05-2022

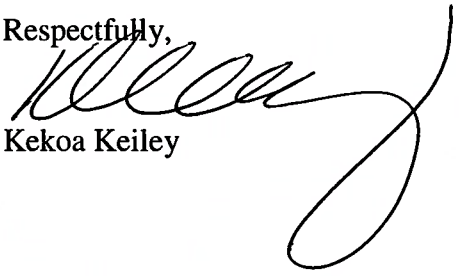
I am testifying in full support of Gubernatorial Nominee Tyler Iokepa Gomes for the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I have known Mr. Gomes for over ten (10) years after first meeting him while we both attended the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law, and I am familiar with his aptitude and integrity. Mr. Gomes is a native speaker of 'olelo Hawai'i, a deft advocate for the underserved and experienced in working with varied community groups, and I believe he possesses the skills, aptitude and integrity necessary to competently serve the many beneficiaries of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I strongly urge you to support the nomination of Tyler Iokepa Gomes as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

  
Kekoa Keiley



Testimony of Craig S. Nagamine

IN SUPPORT

GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,

TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 22, 2020

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

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I am a part native Hawaiian attorney and I support Mr. Gomes' nomination. I have had the pleasure of working with Tyler at the Public Defender's Office and believe that he has both the character and skills to further serve the Hawaiian community in the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I know that as a Public Defender, Tyler worked hard to serve his community, working to keep Hawaiians out of jail. As you know, native Hawaiians are disproportionately represented in criminal justice system and Tyler approached his job with diligence, compassion and Aloha. I urge you to confirm Tyler and hope that you will allow him to continue to serve our community.

Mahalo and Aloha,

/S/ Craig S. Nagamine

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 1:50:06 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gabriel Papa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 1:50:48 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rayne	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I've been attending Hawaiian Homestead Community meetings for over 50 years and have never heard or known of a position Deputy of the Chair of Hawaiian Homes Commission again another wasted funds that should be going to Land Infrastructure. Hiring Tyler Iokepa Gomes A'ole.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 2:33:36 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Randy Awo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele and Committee Members

I am a DHHL leasee residing at Waiehukou on the island of Maui. I am writing in support of the Governor's Message 507 to consider and confirm Tyler I. Gomes to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Tyler Gomes has the personal, educational and professional background that clearly demonstrates his interest and commitment in connecting and deepening his understanding of his native Hawaiian culture and traditions. As a result, his professional and community experiences provide him with the skills to effectively administer the intent, purpose and spirit of the Hawaiian Homes Act. In short, as a beneficiary of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, I believe Mr. Gomes's appointment will have a positive impact in advancing and implementing the vision of Prince Jonah Kuhio.

Mahalo - Randy Awo

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 2:57:43 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie Lauifi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of Minda Yamaga  
IN SUPPORT

GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the  
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,  
Gubernatorial Nominee,  
TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 23, 2020

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

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I support Mr. Gomes' nomination for a multitude of obvious reasons and a few more subtle ones. First, Mr. Gomes possesses the skills, knowledge, and passion to capably serve as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Additionally, as a former colleague, I can attest to his work ethic and professionalism. Moreover, his desire to continuously challenge himself and to improve on the status quo will provide a great benefit to the beneficiaries of the DHHL. To round out the long laundry lists of apparent reasons he should be confirmed, is his ingenuity. Mr. Gomes approaches issues and problems in novel ways resulting in unexpected and creative solutions.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not comment on Mr. Gomes' sense of humor and highlight how his amazing wit and comedic timing will serve him well role in this role. Mr. Gomes can interject appropriate levity into situations that would otherwise be grueling. Bringing this attitude to the difficult tasks of the job will afford him added successes.

I fully support Mr. Gomes and am confident he is the right pick for this position.

Thank you,  
Minda Yamaga

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 3:59:18 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia A Sing	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the confirmation of Tyler I. Gomes as the Deputy of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 5:05:45 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melanie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in **STRONG** support of the senate confirmation of Tyler Gomes as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I have known Tyler for over 10 years. In 2009, we began our study of law at the William S. Richardson School of Law at UH Manoa. In law school, Tyler was a natural leader. He worked hard to promote the interests of the students to the school administration and represented our class well. He served in many capacities including a term as President of the Student Bar Association. Tyler was very committed to serving his community and would often volunteer in school-sponsored events that focused on community service work and social issues. As a student, it was clear that Tyler had the potential and motivation to succeed in whatever he set out to do.

A few years later, we worked as law clerks to respected judges in the circuit court, and then as deputy public defenders for the state of Hawaii. As a public defender, Tyler worked hard to represent his clients in court. He showed great compassion, understanding, and humility in his work. His dedication to public service has been evident in all that Tyler has set out to do. As his classmate, colleague, and friend, I know that Tyler will continue to represent our State well. He has the heart, the skill, and the grit to get things done. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Melanie L. Veltri



**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 5:17:51 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Danicole Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I am writing in SUPPORT of Governor's Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I worked with Tyler Gomes for one year at Elemental Excelerator, a non-profit startup accelerator for cleantech. Tyler and I were part of the policy and community team, helping to bridge communities with access to innovation and sustainability.

I support Mr. Gomes' nomination because I have experienced firsthand Tyler's work ethic, energy, and passion. Mr. Gomes is a doer. He is a competent leader who can handle various tasks while remaining attuned to the needs of the community. His upbringing, experience as a public defender, and business partnerships manager make him well-equipped to handle the nuances of the department to assure it serves all Hawaiians.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Danicole Ramos

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 6:33:06 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Derek Kimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 8:35:41 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Duane DeSoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of Duane DeSoto

IN SUPPORT

GM 507 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, TYLER I. GOMES, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 23, 2020

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

On behalf of myself, I am writing in **SUPPORT** of Governor’s Message 507, and ask that you confirm Mr. Tyler I. Gomes to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I support Mr. Gomes’ nomination.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 9:27:24 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ernesta Masagatani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 10:08:52 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalbert Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I support the nomination of Mr. Tyler Gomes for the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Mr. Gomes has the requisite professional experience and background to make him successful as the Deputy for the Department. As an attorney and public defender, Mr. Gomes has already demonstrated his commitment to public service and the State of Hawaii. He is energetic and has the right view on working for Hawaii and the people of Hawaii.

I urge the Committee and the Senate to confirm Mr. Tyler Gomes as Deputy for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kalbert K. Young

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/22/2020 10:53:27 PM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jane Pascual	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please vote to confirm Tyler I. Gomes as Deputy Chair for the State Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo!

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/23/2020 1:25:37 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Beverly Pauole Moore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Ms Maile Shimabukuro

Hawaiiia Affairs Committee Members

RE: GM 507 Tyler I Gomes

I am in support of Tyler I Gomes as Deputy Chair for Hawaiian Homes.

Our family are long time Hoolehua Hawaii Homesteaders. My grandfather

Mitchell Pauole was awarded 40 acres, 5 residential and 35 agriculture.

Our family has grown and they continue to be homesteaders which we

now have 6 generations.

I support Mr. Tyler I Gomes as Deputy Chair.

Aloha

Beverly Pauole-Moore

PO Box 88

Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748





**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/23/2020 9:55:24 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerald Taber	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a waitlister and descendant of the first Homesteaders on Ho'olehua Moloka'i, who were absolutely instrumental in the approval of the HHCA almost 100 years ago. My great grandmother, Julia (Kulia) Makaole Makaiwi was one of those original homesteaders who toiled the land alongside her ohana, raising her children on Moloka'i and seeing the fruitfulness of their labor when the program was approved because of their hard work to show that Kanaka can return to the land and be sustainable. THIS is the kind of wahine that I descend from. So you couldn't possibly imagine my absolute disdain and thorough disappointment when the now "Yet to be Appointed" DHHL Chair William Aila supported Mayor Harry Kim's "peace plan" for Mauna Kea by "expediting" Tiny Homes, Subdivisions etc on the premise that Hawaiian Beneficiaries support Mayor Kim's plan and the building of the TMT on Mauna Kea. It is an absolute INSULT to every beneficiary that has died on the list, waiting on the list, or those that wish they could be on the list only to have their homestead award be HELD HOSTAGE unless they ACQUIESCE to further subjugation by supporting the TMT on Mauna Kea! PLEASE DO NOT APPOINT WILLIAM AILA AS DHHL CHAIR. The Commissioners and the Chair should be APPOINTED BY THE BENEFICIARIES and the Commissioners should be compensated for their time considering the Chair is to work on their behalf, NOT the other way around. I've also been ostracized publicly at a recent DHHL meeting that took place in HILO by an appointed commissioner, which was quite uncalled for considering it had nothing to do with the subject or question at hand. It's these kinds of behaviors and public admonishments of Beneficiaries that leads ALL BENEFICIARIES to believe that a THOROUGH FEDERAL INVESTIGATION should be in order. Over 100 years, the DHHL waitlist has now become the Shindler's list for Hawaiian Beneficiaries, PLEASE DO NOT CONFIRM AILA FOR DHHL CHAIR... LET THE BENEFICIARIES GIVE CONSIDERATION... ALSO DEMAND a FULL INVESTIGATION ON THE TRANSACTION REGARDING ACT 14 for MAUNA KEA ACCESS ROAD and ALL DHHL Transactions... NO TRANSFER NO FUNDS EXCHANGED UNTIL A FULL BENEFICIARY CONSULTATION HAS TAKEN PLACE. AS A BENEFICIARY, I AM WILLING TO SUPPORT A CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT IF THE "TRANSACTION" IS COMPLETELY WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THOSE THAT ARE BENEFICIARIES TO THOSE ASSETS WHICH IS MAUNA KEA ACCESS ROAD... PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING AND CHANGE THE FUTURE OF HAWAIIANS IN A POSITIVE WAY, allow Beneficiaries the dignity of CHOICE and

ADVOCACY in their Leadership... Mahalo nui THERESA KEOHUNANI TABER ,  
waitlister, Beneficiary, descendant of first original homesteaders on Molokai'i

**GM-507**

Submitted on: 1/23/2020 10:13:51 AM

Testimony for HWN on 1/23/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Louise Yee Hoy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: