

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 MAY 13, 2020 AT 3:00 PM IN CR 016

IN SUPPORT OF

GM624

for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, **RANDY AWO**,
for a term to expire 06-30-2023

May 13, 2020

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

It is an honor to provide this testimony in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Randy Awo to continue to serve on the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC). Mr. Awo has been serving on the Commission since August 2017.

Mr. Awo grew up in the homestead community of Waimanalo and in 2006, he was afforded the opportunity to return to Hawaiian Homestead Land in Waiehu Kou on Maui. He brings to the Commission his experiences growing up and living on Homestead Land; as well as his administrative skills from 26 years of service with the Department of Land and Natural Resources. His extensive background in forming community to government partnerships, through educational outreach to promote conduct that fosters mutual respect and trust, to achieve goals of common interest makes him the ideal candidate to serve on the HHC.

With his calm demeanor, he always gives thoughtful consideration to all beneficiaries and Commission matters. We respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination, and we thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

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

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

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, May 13, 2020
TIME: 3:00 p.m.

Support for:

GM 621 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL KALEIKINI, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

GM 622 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, ZACHARY HELM, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

GM 623 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, RUSSELL KAUPU, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

GM 624 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, RANDY AWO, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Dear Senator Shimabukuro, Chair
and Senator Kahele, Vice-Chair

I am Pauline Nakoolani Namuo, a current Hawaiian Homes Commissioner. I have had the privilege of serving with all of these individuals and I strongly support their nominations to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Their varied ages and backgrounds lend a diverse perspective to our conversations and I believe our discussions will be much more lively as we push to find action oriented solutions to our current economic situation. We need to have a stable and courageous Commission now, and we need to work with YOU to do that.

I humbly ask for your support in supporting these outstanding individuals.

Mahalo,

Pauline Nakoolani Namuo
Hawaiian Homes Commissioner

GM-624

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 1:36:41 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/7/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Another good man.

GM-624

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 2:47:41 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/7/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support Randy Awo to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. While I am not a beneficiary, I worked with Randy during the Department of Interior public hearings. I find him both competent and trustworthy.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.d.

GM-624

Submitted on: 3/13/2020 9:33:21 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/7/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doreen Gaspar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-624

Submitted on: 3/13/2020 9:41:04 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/7/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doreen Gaspar	Testifying for Napualei o Hina	Support	No

Comments:

GM-624

Submitted on: 3/16/2020 1:02:14 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/7/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

EVERETT R. DOWLING

March 16, 2020

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Chair
Hawaiian Affairs Committee
The Senate of the State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Gubernatorial Nominee to the Hawaiian Homes Commission

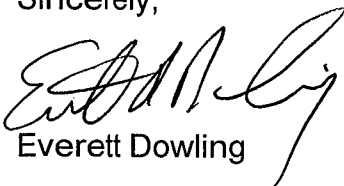
Dear Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs
Committee,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Mr. Randy Awo, to serve on the
Hawaiian Homes Commission. Mr. Awo shares a strong desire to serve the
beneficiaries of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. His experience will
enable him to offer valuable input and guidance to the director and staff of DHHL.

DHHL's beneficiaries and the State of Hawaii as a whole are fortunate that
Randy is willing to serve on the commission. I wholeheartedly support the
nomination of Mr. Randy Awo to serve on the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,



Everett Dowling

GM-624

Submitted on: 3/16/2020 2:41:42 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/7/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea M Buckman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I have had the pleasure of working with Randy Awo primarily through his involvement in the community-based forest restoration efforts at Kahikinui being conducted collaboratively by DHHL, Ka 'Ohana O Kahikinui, and the Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership. Randy has provided exceptional service and support to the beneficiaries, partners, and staff of DHHL, and been a valued advisor to these efforts. His continued appointment as Hawaiian Homes Commissioner would enable him to continue many important initiatives and projects that benefit Maui's DHHL communities. Please confirm him once again as Commissioner.

Mahalo,

Andrea Buckman

GM-624

Submitted on: 5/8/2020 12:51:27 PM

Testimony for HWN on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-624

Submitted on: 5/8/2020 12:58:19 PM

Testimony for HWN on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lon Paresa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Strong support of Randy Awo for Hawaiian Homes Commission. Mahalo.

GM-624

Submitted on: 5/8/2020 1:30:15 PM

Testimony for HWN on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesse K. Souki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

I support the nomination and confirmation of Mr. Awo.

I worked with Mr. Awo at the Department of Land and Natural Resources. He is smart, hard-working, and genuinely cares about the communities he serves. His years in public service and work in the community will help in the role of Commissioner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jesse K. Souki

GM-624

Submitted on: 5/8/2020 3:03:36 PM

Testimony for HWN on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

GM-624

Submitted on: 5/10/2020 11:32:39 AM

Testimony for HWN on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Mendoza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-624

Submitted on: 5/10/2020 1:40:38 PM

Testimony for HWN on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I write to you in support of Mr. Randy Awo to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Mr. Awo is a colleague who has worked with me in the past in regards to issues of community-based natural resource management in rural and Native Hawaiian communities. I believe Mr. Awo service will serve DHHL better as beneficiaries especially in rural communities grow in their desire and capacity to malama 'aina.

Pupukahi i holomua e ho'okanaka

Kevin Chang

GM-624

Submitted on: 5/10/2020 5:21:30 PM

Testimony for HWN on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support Randy Awo for re-appoint for Hawaiian Hmes Commission.

Mahalo nui, Kalamuala Molokai

GM-624

Submitted on: 5/10/2020 10:27:36 PM

Testimony for HWN on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George K. Lindsey, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support the confirmation of RANDY AWO to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. I have known RANDY AWO (Randy) since 1967. We graduated from St. Louis High School in 1970. During that time I came to know Randy as a calm and kind person with an advanced sense of humor. His demeanor made him a beacon of hope during the most trying of times. His capacity to lead in the most engaging way, made him well loved in our school.

Throughout the years, it became evident that Randy had developed his natural leadership talents to a very high level. A few years ago, I watched him skillfully lead his team at the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I have observed his testimony before the Board of Land and Natural resources and the legislature. Therein, he skillfully displayed his depth of his knowledge of and dedication to his job responsibilities. He was a courageous leader with the strength and character to demand integrity from those working under his supervision. He is honest, trustworthy, diligent, and reliable. He is articulate. More importantly, he speaks with kindness, and real aloha. A trait that is essential in addressing the issues facing the Department of Hawaiian Home- Lands and its beneficiaries. As one of those beneficiaries on the waiting list, I wholeheartedly support the confirmation of RANDY AWO to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ George K. Lindsey, Jr.

Attorney at Law, LLLC

GM-624

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 9:05:06 AM

Testimony for HWN on 5/13/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Kaapu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators- This is in support of GM624- the reappointment of Randy Awo for the Hawaiian Homes Commission. I have worked with Randy on the Commission for the past three years and Randy is very thoughtful and deliberative regarding any issues brought before the Commission and is an asset to the Commission and Department. Randy's years of experience with DLNR in law enforcement and management brings a unique and insightful perspective to our Commission and assists in addressing current enforcement issues on the homelands. In addition, Randy is a beneficiary living on the homestead and that further brings much needed mana'o to the Commission. I know that he spends much time listening to and trying to assist the beneficiaries of Maui and trying to make their lives better. I humbly request your support in considering Randy Awo's reappointment.

Mahalo

David Ka'apu

West Hawaii Commissioner, Hawaiian Homes Commission

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

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, May 13, 2020
TIME: 3:00 p.m.

Support for **GM 624** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, RANDY KALEI AWO.

Aloha Madame Chair and Senators of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I write to strongly support Randy Awo's nomination as the Gubernatorial Nominee for Commissioner to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

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

Randy takes his kuleana as a Commissioner seriously and tries his best to understand all sides to any task or situation. His dedication to homesteaders is not only advocating for them on the Commission, but in the community as well. He is very patient and empathetic, yet realistic and pragmatic when it comes to decisions that affect beneficiaries.

I strongly support the confirmation of Randy Kalei Awo to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Mahalo, Leah Burrows-Nuuanu
Beneficiary

From: [Keahi Renaud](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY - Awo, Randy 2020
Date: Saturday, May 9, 2020 10:11:41 PM
Attachments: [Randy_Awo_2020.docx](#)

From: Randy <randyawo@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2020 3:52 AM
To: Keahi Renaud <k.renaud@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Fwd: testimony

Aloha Keahi. I was asked to forward this to your office since it has not shown up as public testimony. Let me know if this works for your office. Mahalo - Randy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kili Namau'u <kili@ahapunanaleo.org>
Date: Sun, Apr 5, 2020, 6:50 PM
Subject: testimony
To: Randy Awo <randyawo@gmail.com>

Hi Randy,

I tried to submit supportive testimony for you. I know the legislature is on recess, but I was working with the original hearing date. I am not sure if the testimony was submitted properly or not. And I am unable to make any additional adjustments. I hope it went through. Anyways here is a copy of what I wrote. Hopefully it will get to them somehow. I am hoping that you can follow up.

Good luck with your confirmation whenever it happens.

much love and aloha,
kili

GM-624

Submitted on: 3/16/2020 8:20:08 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/7/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayne	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: