



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

Testimony of  
Leimana DaMate, Executive Director

Before the Senate Committee on  
Water and Land

Wednesday, May 13, 2020  
1:00 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In **SUPPORT** of  
**GM 759, Godfrey Akaka**  
**Relating to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee**

The Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC) stands in strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee, GM Godfrey Akaka for consideration and confirmation to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee, for a term to expire on June 30, 2024.

Godfrey Akaka is an honorable, well-known resident of Moloka'i Pule O'o (the traditional name for Moloka'i Island) who is a farmer, lawai'a (fisherman), mahi'ai (practices traditional agriculture), hunter, gatherer and cultural practitioner. He is a strong community leader who believes in the protection and perpetual sustainability of the natural and cultural resources of Moloka'i. Mr. Akaka works well with the Moloka'i Kupuna Council – a Council comprised of kupuna of each of the different moku on Moloka'i who bring life experiences and advice forward to benefit their people. He listens to the people and brings their voices forward to the government agencies that impact them. He is well-versed in current affairs, yet always looks to God and contributes common sense, honesty and practical application to whatever needs to be done. He is a traditional native Hawaiian living in contemporary times who is bridging the gap through honesty, compassion and strength. Godfrey Akaka is an asset to our people, and we urge this committee to support and confirm him to the Aha Moku Advisory Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure

Respectfully yours,

Leimana DaMate, Executive Director  
Hawaii State Aha Moku  
Phone: 808-640-1214  
Email: [Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov](mailto:Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov)



**GM758**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, GODFREY AKAKA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2020**

**GM759**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, GODFREY AKAKA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2024**

Senate Committee on Water and Land

May 13, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Room 229

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend to the Board of Trustees a position of **COMMENT** for GM758 and GM759, which appoint Godfrey Akaka to serve as a member of the ‘Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC).

As an initial matter, OHA emphasizes that it greatly appreciates the willingness of Mr. Akaka to serve his community and the State as a member of the AMAC. OHA also emphasizes that it takes no position on the merits of Mr. Akaka’s nomination, apart from the procedural concerns described below.

While OHA again commends Mr. Akaka’s willingness to volunteer as the Moloka‘i representative on the AMAC, OHA notes that it has received numerous concerns from its Moloka‘i beneficiaries, regarding whether or not the statutory process for selecting the Moloka‘i AMAC nominee has been followed. Specifically, OHA staff received questions and concerns from members of Ka ‘Aha Kiole o Moloka‘i, noting that none of the nominees that Ka ‘Aha Kiole o Moloka‘i provided to the Governor, in accordance with the statutory requirement in HRS § 171-4.5, were reflected in the slate of AMAC nominees submitted to the legislature.

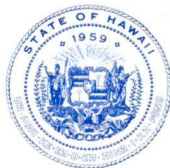
As background, OHA understands that Ka ‘Aha Kiole o Moloka‘i has, since 2008, been recognized by many as the traditional ‘Aha resource management “council” for the island of Moloka‘i. Its members have demonstrated a longstanding dedication to the management and stewardship of their respective ‘ahupua‘a and ‘āina, and regularly meet to share and collaborate on their respective and shared management concerns and priorities. OHA understands that Ka ‘Aha Kiole o Moloka‘i has also been long understood to represent the “aha moku council” of the island of Moloka‘i as described in HRS § 171-4.5(b), that is tasked with submitting a list of names for proposed AMAC membership, from which the Governor must

select his nominees. The questions and concerns received by OHA indicated that the Governor's selection for the Moloka'i seat did not, in fact, come from the list of names provided by Ka 'Aha Kiole o Moloka'i.

Despite reaching out to the Boards and Commissions Office director, Department of Land and Natural Resources administration, and the 'Aha Moku executive director, and even after extensive discussion with the latter, OHA staff have not been able to confirm that the Governor chose his nominee from a list of names submitted by any "aha moku council" for the island of Moloka'i, as set forth in statute. Thus, while OHA does not have a position on the substantive merits or qualifications of the current nominee to the Moloka'i AMAC seat, **OHA does have concerns that a potential failure to follow the AMAC nomination process may undermine the efforts of those who have demonstrated years of commitment to steward their 'āina and participate in the traditional 'Aha structure established on Moloka'i, and who have also faithfully participated the AMAC nomination process established by the State.** OHA notes that such an apparent failure could also strain the legitimacy of the AMAC's activities going forward, as it tries to reconstitute itself after years of relative inactivity; OHA defers to the Attorney General's office regarding any legal implications that may arise from potential noncompliance with AMAC's statutory nomination requirements.

**Accordingly, OHA respectfully but strongly recommends that the Committee seek to verify whether or not the AMAC nomination process was followed during its consideration of AMAC nominees, including in particular the nomination for the Moloka'i representative.**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

May 12, 2020

**LATE**

Testimony on **GM 758/ GM 759**  
Confirmation of **GODFREY AKAKA**  
Aha Moku Advisory Committee

Representative Lynn DeCoite

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, May 13, 2020  
1:00pm, Room 229

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and committee members:

I respectfully request your **support** in confirming the appointment of GODFREY AKAKA to serve on the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. Mr. Akaka, a retired Fire Captain with 27 years of experience, is a family-oriented individual who has proven his concern and support for preserving our natural and cultural resources.

The legislative intent behind the Aha Moku Advisory Committee was to provide an opportunity for Native Hawaiians to work together to exhibit that traditional Hawaiian values and customs could be applicable to modern governmental affairs.

Mr. Akaka has shown his dedication for the Moloka'i community over and over. He is known for fully researching and verifying facts before reaching opinions. He has also shown that he will have an open mind and listen to the concerns of the community.

It is no secret that the Aha Moku Advisory committee has been somewhat controversial due to many mixed opinions, emotions and mis-information. I truly feel that Mr. Akaka will do his part to be open and transparent, taking the communities concerns to heart as he advises and gives input on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community from Moloka'i and across the State of Hawai'i.

For these reasons and so many more, I ask for your full **support** in his confirmation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

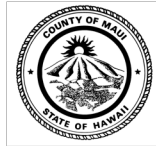
**Lynn DeCoite**  
State House of Representative  
District 13

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Riki Hokama  
Kelly Takaya King  
Michael J. Molina  
Tamara Paltin  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services  
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

May 12, 2020

TO: The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair  
The Honorable Gil Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair  
Honorable Committee Members  
Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Keani Rawlins-Fernandez  
Council Vice-Chair

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY REQUESTING DEFERRAL OF GM759**

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony on GM759, confirmation of the Molokai representative on the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee ("AMAC"). I was recently contacted by my constituents, as the Council Member holding the Molokai residency seat, and have been informed that relevant laws have not been followed in the selection of Mr. Godfrey Akaka. For that reason, I respectfully ask that you defer this matter today.

My review of Governor David Ige's letter to your committee is that he has followed the provisions of Article V, Section 6 of the Hawai'i State Constitution to nominate Mr. Akaka for the Senate's confirmation. His letter does not acknowledge that he followed Hawai'i Revised Statute §171-4.5(b), which provides additional guidance in selecting a nominee to serve on the AMAC for your consideration.

HRS §171-4.5(b) states: "**The [AMAC] committee shall consist of eight members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate from a list of nominations submitted by the 'aha moku councils of each island.**" My understanding is that Mr. Akaka's name was not on the list that was submitted to the Governor by the 'Aha Kiole o Molokai, our island's 'aha moku council.

Because HRS §171-4.5(b) was not followed, I respectfully request you defer GM759 until the proper process is followed. Mahalo for continuing your important work during these uncertain times.

Me ke aloha,

*Keani Rawlins-Fernandez*

KEANI RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ  
Council Vice-Chair  
Council Member, Molokai Residency

**From:** Mahealani Cypher <malamapono744@aim.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:37 PM  
**To:** Linda Menda <l.menda@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: WTL GMs

Aloha mai kakou!

We are re-submitting our support for the following nominees to boards and commissions, for the Wednesday, May 13, 2020, meeting:

GM550 - Dawn Chang, LUC - SUPPORT

GM584 - Wesley Yoon, BLNR - SUPPORT

GM670 - Jonathan Scheuer, LUC - SUPPORT

GM756/757 - Frances Kaluhiwa, `Aha Moku Advisory Committee - SUPPORT

**GM758/759 - Godfrey Akaka, `Aha Moku Advisory Committee - SUPPORT**

GM760/761 - Keith Robinson, `Aha Moku Advisory Committee - SUPPORT

GM762/763 - Lewellyn Kaohelaulii, `Aha Moku Advisory Committee - SUPPORT

GM 764/765 - Manuel Kuloloio, `Aha Moku Advisory Committee - SUPPORT

GM 766/767 - Robert Luuwai, `Aha Moku Advisory Committee - SUPPORT

GM776/777 - Cedric Bertelmann, Kane`ohe Bay Regional Council - SUPPORT

GM 778 - Frederick Reppun, Kane`ohe Bay Regional Council - SUPPORT

GM7808 - Angela Hiilei Kawelo, Natural Area Reserves System Commission - SUPPORT

We had neglected to include the following two nominees:

GM752/753 - Anthony Pacheco, `Aha Moku Advisory Commission - SUPPORT

GM754/755 - Charles Young, `Aha Moku Advisory Commission - SUPPORT

We have attached letters for some of these nominees which apparently did not show up during our attempts to submit our testimony earlier.

Mahalo for letting us know of the mistakes in our submittals today.

A hui hou,  
Mahealani Cypher, Chair  
Government Relations Committee  
Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

1:00 PM

**SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO GM759**

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on GM759, confirmation of Godfrey Akaka as the Molokai representative on the Department of Land and Natural Resources 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee ("AMAC").

I am in strong opposition to GM759 for the following reasons:

- 1) The legal process, as mandated by Hawaii Revised Statute §171-4.5(b), was not followed in submitting the name you have on GM759 (and GM758).
- 2) 'Aha Kiole o Molokai followed HRS §171-4.5(b) and submitted three names: Walter Ritte, Mac Poepoe, and Malia Akutagawa. All three were properly vetted by the island council and are qualified to hold the AMAC seat to represent Molokai.
- 3) The appointee has not met/demonstrated the qualifications outlined in the Rules and Practices of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee HRS §171-2.2(a) (b) (f) (g) (h) and (i)

**HRS §171-4.5(b) states, in pertinent part: "The committee shall consist of eight members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate from a list of nominations submitted by the 'aha moku councils of each island."**

'Aha Kiole o Moloka'i was neither involved in the process of selecting Mr. Akaka, consulted about this beforehand, nor informed that confirmation for the AMAC seat was imminent. 'Aha Kiole o Molokai submitted three names to the Governor's Office, and Mr. Akaka was not on the list submitted. **Please ask DNLN Chair Suzanne Case to explain how Mr. Akaka was selected, since his name was not on the list that was submitted by the island council?**

'Aha Kiole o Moloka'i has been recognized as the legitimate 'Aha Moku Island Council since the establishment HRS §171-4.5 and has served in this capacity for over 20 years, such as:

- Advising DLNR on a wide range of resource management issues
- Advising Maui County on resource management and the Molokai Community Plan
- Representing Moloka'i in all 12 of the statewide Pūwalu gatherings of the 'Aha Moku Councils of Hawai'i

- Advocating and facilitating state, private agencies, and community members, regarding resource care and protection
- Partnering with other island 'Aha Moku Councils
- Providing education and advocacy at community events, such as Kula'ia Canoe Festivals, workshops with UH Law school, and Sustainable Moloka'i events
- Hosting DLNR community presentations and stakeholder meetings
- Natural and cultural resource advocates, Po'o, in each moku of Moloka'i

This is the second attempt to bypass the legal process of candidate selection for the AMAC (see Exhibit A and Exhibit B). The AMAC executive director is responsible for ensuring the process is done correctly (HRS §171-4.5), which creates a quandary, because that position was unfunded, therefore there is currently no ED. Please ask who is now responsible for this kuleana.

**For these reasons, I humbly ask that you deny appointment of Godfrey Akaka and to urge DLNR to follow the statutorily mandated process in selection and confirmation of the AMAC representative.**

Me ka ha'a ha'a,

Lori Buchanan  
'Aha Kiole o Moloka'i  
Pala'au Moku Po'o

cc:

Honorable Governor David Ige  
Chair Suzanne Case, Department of Land and Natural Resources



**GM-759**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 3:28:15 PM

Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Poepoe	Testifying for 'Aha Kiole o Moloka'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

This process is ILLEGAL.

The submittal of this name for consideration and confirmation to the AMAC has not gone through the proper process and procedure as required by statute, see Act 288. The bill specifically states that names for nominees for the AMAC are to be submitted by the Aha Moku Councils of each island. The 'Aha Kiole o Moloka'i, recognized as the island council by all 'Aha Moku councils, OHA, as well as the DLNR, has been neither given any information about the submittal of this name, nor has it been made aware or had an opportunity to exercise its lawful duty as the legal entity through which names are submitted. This procedure is understood by the DLNR executive director, yet she persists in trying to forward personal choices without consulting with the island council.

As the former confirmed AMAC member for Moloka'i, please follow the process correctly and review the Letters to the Governor for the official names submitted by the Aha Moku Councils of each island.

Mahalo.

**GM-759**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 5:27:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Louella Albino	Testifying for Aha Kiole o Moloka'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

**GM-759**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 1:29:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Desiree U'ILANI Kiaha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support.

GM 759 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, GODFREY AKAKA.

**GM-759**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 8:43:34 AM

Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:



**From:** [Ikaika Mahoe](#) on behalf of [Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele](#)  
**To:** [Linda Menda](#); [Ikaika Mahoe](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Aha Moku Representative  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:32:17 PM

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

**From:** Caroline Kaholoaa <carolinek1949@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:21 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele <senkkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** Aha Moku Representative

Sent from my iPhone

To whom this may concern regarding GM758, I William G. Kaholoaa Sr. am a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.

To whom this may concern regarding GM759, I William G. Kaholoaa Sr. am a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.

**LATE**

**From:** [Ikaika Mahoe](#) on behalf of [Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele](#)  
**To:** [Linda Menda](#); [Ikaika Mahoe](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Aha Moku Representative  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:30:30 PM

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

**From:** Caroline Kaholoaa <carolinek1949@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:19 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele <senkkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** Aha Moku Representative

Sent from my iPhone

To whom this may concern regarding GM758, I Caroline Kaholoaa am a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.

To whom this may concern regarding GM759, I Caroline Kaholoaa am a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.



**From:** [Ikaika Mahoe](#) on behalf of [Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele](#)  
**To:** [Ikaika Mahoe](#); [Linda Menda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Aha Moku Representative  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:32:32 PM

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

**From:** Caroline Kaholoaa <carolinek1949@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:25 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele <senkkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** Aha Moku Representative

Sent from my iPhone

To whom this may concern regarding GM758, I Steven B.K. Kaholoaa am a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.

To whom this may concern regarding GM759, I Steven B. K. Kaholoaa am a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.

**From:** [Ikaika Mahoe](#) on behalf of [Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele](#)  
**To:** [Linda Menda](#); [Ikaika Mahoe](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Aha Moku Representative  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:32:53 PM

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

**From:** Caroline Kaholoaa <carolinek1949@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:31 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele <senkkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** Aha Moku Representative

Sent from my iPhone

To whom this may concern regarding GM758, I Shailyn M. Kaholoaa am a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.

To whom this may concern regarding GM759, I Shailyn M. Kaholoaa am a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.



**From:** [Ikaika Mahoe](#) on behalf of [Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele](#)  
**To:** [Linda Menda](#); [Ikaika Mahoe](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Aha Moku Representative  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:38:48 PM

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

**From:** Caroline Kaholoaa <carolinek1949@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:36 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele <senkkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** Aha Moku Representative

Sent from my iPhone

To whom this may concern regarding GM758, I Shandalyn Kaholoaa am a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.

To whom this may concern regarding GM759, I Shandalyn Kaholoaa am a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.



**From:** [Ikaika Mahoe](#) on behalf of [Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele](#)  
**To:** [Linda Menda](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Aha Moku Representative  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:32:42 PM

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

**From:** Caroline Kaholoaa <carolinek1949@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:28 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele <senkkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** Aha Moku Representative

Sent from my iPhone

To whom this may concern regarding GM758, I Nephi Kaholoaa am a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.

To whom this may concern regarding GM759, I Nephi Kaholoaa am a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.

**GM-759**

Submitted on: 5/13/2020 6:45:34 AM

Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**Rebecca Crall**

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**From:** Hiilei Barrows <hiilei\_b@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:30 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn DeCoite; senkkahele@hcmcapitol.hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** GM759

To whom it may concern regarding GM759,

I, Hi'ilei Akaka, a Ho'olehua homesteader on the island of Molokai, support Godfrey Akaka in his appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.

Mahalo,  
Hi'ilei Akaka

**LATE**

**From:** [Ikaika Mahoe](#) on behalf of [Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele](#)  
**To:** [Linda Menda](#); [Ikaika Mahoe](#)  
**Subject:** FW: GM 759  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:28:56 PM

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**From:** jodean akaka <jodean69@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:09 PM  
**To:** Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele <senkkahele@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** GM 759

To whom this may concern regarding GM759,  
I JoDean Akaka a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the  
appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.

Mahalo

JoDean Akaka

**LATE**

**Rebecca Crall**

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**From:** Irene Kaahanui <maile.michiko43@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:59 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn DeCoite  
**Subject:** Testimony for Godfrey Akaka for Aha Moku Representative Molokai

I am Charles Kaahanui from Hoolehua, Molokai. I am a Kupuna and want to say it straight that I feel that we need to have Godfrey Akaka, the younger generation to be our Molokai Aha Moku Representative. Now I not good with words, but Godfrey has been helping for a cause very close to my heart that is Moomomi.

If anyone I want to support that's the guy who walks his talk Godfrey Akaka.  
Thank you and I hope we get different people in there cause where's the meetings, who are they and you know what, they don't talk for us Hawaiians on Molokai. If people good examples okay, but if not and only for themselves, no share information...we need new guys. Thank you.

Charles Kaahanui  
Retiree airlines/Kupuna on Hawaiian Homes Land

Sent from my iPad

**LATE**

Rebecca Crall

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**From:** Rep. Lynn DeCoite  
**Subject:** FW: TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF GODFREY AKAKA IN THE APPOINTMENT OF AHA MOKU REPRESENTATIVE FOR MOLOKAI GM759

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Irene Kaahanui <[maile.michiko43@gmail.com](mailto:maile.michiko43@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** May 13, 2020 at 12:26:04 AM HST  
**To:** [senkkaheke@capital.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkkaheke@capital.hawaii.gov)  
**Cc:** [repdecoite@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repdecoite@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**Subject:** Fwd: TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF GODFREY AKAKA IN THE APPOINTMENT OF AHA MOKU REPRESENTATIVE FOR MOLOKAI GM759

SORRY THIS WENT TO WRONG EMAIL ADDRESS.....

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Irene Kaahanui <[maile.michiko43@gmail.com](mailto:maile.michiko43@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** May 12, 2020 at 11:20:46 PM HST  
**To:** [senkkahele@hcmcapital.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkkahele@hcmcapital.hawaii.gov)  
**Cc:** [repdecoite@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repdecoite@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF GODFREY AKAKA IN THE APPOINTMENT OF AHA MOKU REPRESENTATIVE FOR MOLOKAI GM759

Aloha Senator Kahele,

My name is Irene Kaahanui, a Veteran, a third generation Hoolehua Homesteader, a Retiree from OHA Molokai and I am in Support of the appointment for Godfrey Akaka regarding GM759.

I have known Godfrey as an advocator for our community, as he has the heartbeat of our people and the many concerns which affects us. I have served on Godfreys committees and have observed his diligence and integrity on issues in the forefront for the betterment of our people, as Our Beloved Prince Kuhio's Legacy has been left back for our younger generation to perpetuate. I am a retiree from The Office of Hawaiian Affairs, whose mission is in Hawaiian issues and values for the betterment of our beneficiaries. This qualifies me to humbly submit my choice to carry out this journey and that is Godfrey Akaka. He is the Advocator and Public Servant true blue to the cause at hand, which I and many beneficiaries have been waiting for.

Mahalo Ke Akua,  
Irene Kaahanui, Kupuna  
Native Hawaiian Gathering Rights Association  
Molokai

Sent from my iPad



**LATE**

**Rebecca Crall**

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**From:** Nelson Rapanot <rapanotconstruction@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 8:04 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn DeCoite  
**Subject:** Operation Kaihikina

Aloha,

My name is Nelson Rapanot Sr, born and raised on Molokai. I am a US army veteran and have worked as a General Contractor on Molokai for 30 years. I am currently serving on the Game Management Advisory Board, representing the hunters of Molokai at the state level. I have been big game hunting & fishing all over the world my whole life and seen how different cultures managed their natural resources.

This letter is in regard to GM758 & 759. I am in full support of the appointment of Godfrey Akaka to the Aha Moku board. Godfrey is an upstanding member of the community and will be a powerful voice representing our interests and concerns over the stewardship of the aina.

Nelson Rapanot Sr

**LATE**

**Rebecca Crall**

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**From:** John Kaalekahi <rum3220@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 8:32 AM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn DeCoite; Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele  
**Subject:** GM759

Aloha,

I am writing in regards to GM759 and the appointment of Godfrey Akaka Jr. as the Aha Moku Representative for Molokai. I was born and raised on the Island of Molokai and am currently a Hoolehua Homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support the appointment of Godfrey Akaka Jr. as the Aha Moku Rep as previously mentioned.

Thank you very much!

John Kaalekahi Jr.

**LATE**

**Rebecca Crall**

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**From:** Layson Hoewaa <hoewaalayson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 4:46 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn DeCoite

To whom this may concern regarding GM759,

I, Layson K. Hoewa'a, am a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.

Mahalo,  
Layson Hoewa'a

[repdecoite@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repdecoite@capitol.hawaii.gov)

[senkkahele@hcmcapitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkkahele@hcmcapitol.hawaii.gov)

**LATE**

**Rebecca Crall**

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**From:** Kaulanarose Akaka <rose\_akaka@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn DeCoite  
**Subject:** GM759

To whom this may concern regarding GM759,

I, Kaulanarose Hoewa'a, am a Hoolehua homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka in the appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.

Mahalo,  
Kaulanarose Hoewa'a

**LATE**

**Rebecca Crall**

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**From:** Jessica Akaka <jessicaallison8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 6:22 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn DeCoite  
**Subject:** GM759

To whom this may concern regarding GM759,  
I Jessica Akaka a Maunaloa homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support Godfrey Akaka In the appointment of Aha Moku  
Representative for Molokai.

Mahalo

Jessica Akaka

**LATE**

**Rebecca Crall**

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**From:** akakajason808 <akakajason808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:22 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn DeCoite; Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele  
**Subject:** GM759

To whom it may concern regarding GM759,

I, Jason Nalu Akaka, a Ho'olehua homesteader on the island of Molokai, support Godfrey Akaka in his appointment of Aha Moku Representative for Molokai.

Mahalo,  
Jason Nalu Akaka

**LATE**

**Rebecca Crall**

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**From:** Jona Lindo <jonalindo@live.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 6:14 PM  
**To:** Rep. Lynn DeCoite; Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele  
**Subject:** GM 758 - GM 759

My name is Jonathan Lindo, I am a Hawaiian Homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support and nominate Godfrey Akaka to represent me and my Ohana for Aha Moku on Molokai.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [John Kaalekahi](#)  
**To:** [Rep. Lynn DeCoite](#); [Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele](#)  
**Subject:** GM759  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 8:32:07 AM

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**LATE**

Aloha,

I am writing in regards to GM759 and the appointment of Godfrey Akaka Jr. as the Aha Moku Representative for Molokai. I was born and raised on the Island of Molokai and am currently a Hoolehua Homesteader on the island of Molokai. I support the appointment of Godfrey Akaka Jr. as the Aha Moku Rep as previously mentioned.

Thank you very much!

John Kaalekahi Jr.



5/13/2020

**LATE**

Senator, Kai Kahele

REF#: GM759

Aloha!

My name is Judy Caparida from the island of Molokai. I am in support of Mr. Grodfrey Akaka to represent Molokai as Moku. He brings integrity, transparency, great skills, and ALWAYS putting the people first. That's the kind of person we need to represent us, the Kamaka maoli and non-Hawaiians.

I oppose Malia Akutagawa, Walter Ritte, and Mac Poepoe.

Mahalo,

Judy Lokelani Naki Caparida  
808 646-1230 or 808 558-8558

**LATE**

5/12/2020

House Representative, Mrs. Lyn DeCoite

RE: #GM759

I am testifying in support of Mr. Grodfrey Akaka to be appointed to represent the people of Molokai as the "Po'o." He provided opportunity for the people from different districts to learn and bring clarity to what, how, and who the "Moku" is about as indicated by law.

He has spent advocating for the people to obtain clarity by inviting state representative to explain programs or laws...he encouraged the people to voice their concerns and not to be intimidated by others, groups or organization. On Molokai there are too many organizations that wants to monopolize the island and its people. Mr. Grodfrey will see that all the people are given an opportunity to be heard and seen.

Aha Kiole in the past has played a big role however during the past 10 years Aha Kiole has been inactive. Aha Kiole would only resurface when a hot topic the last being the "sale of Molokai Ranch (tour ship, Pule O'o, windmills, and La'au point) . To represent Molokai it's not a fade, or annual celebration, or only when the "camera" is on, or a "spotlight" platform or when there's grant money BUT a life style... it is ALWAYS looking out for the people. Mr. Grodfrey has put himself out there for the people.

I am in opposition to the below names:

Walter Ritte- Where there is grant money, you will find Mr. Ritte. He can be very effective however unless there's any grant tied to his endeavor the people are never his priority.

Malia Akutagawa- Malia is born and raised from Molokai however, she resides on Oahu. While living on Oahu she has pretty much written the Molokai Island Plan without community input and meetings.

I have testified in chamber against Malia involved acting to the Maui Council however they too were part of the problem (political clout) as Maui County implementation of general plan expectation was violated (people rights).

Mac Poepoe- He is known for his great study on Hawaiian resources management sustainability. He mapped the different ocean species spawn time frame to maintain balance in the eco-system. In the process of his project on Molokai, he gated and fenced preventing people from his own district from having beach access to Moomomi beach (gathering rights). He is a participant in Aha Kiole among other members like; Walter and Malia which really represent the land but not the people of Molokai.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 808-646-0051 to clarify any of my above statements.

Mahalo,

Cora Schnackenberg

**From:** [Pat Tamashiro](#)  
**To:** [Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele](#)  
**Subject:** GM758 AND GM759  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 8:06:53 AM

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please strongly consider godfrey akaka to represent molokai. he may be much more, representing more of the molokai community .ALOHA

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**LATE**

To whom this may concern  
regarding GM 759

We, Walter and Lorraine Rawlin  
Homesteaders at Hoolehua, on the  
island of MOLOKAI.

Do fully support GODFREY K.  
AKAKA in the appointment of  
AAHA MOKU Representative for  
MOLOKAI.

Thank you,  
Walter & Lorraine  
Rawlin

## **Committee on Water and Land**

Chair Senator Kaiali'i Kahele

Vice-Chair Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at 1:00p.m.

Conference Room 229

Re: Testimony in **Opposition** to **GM 759**, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, GODFREY AKAKA, for a term to expire 06-30-2024

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** to GM 759.

HRS § 171-4.5 states, in part, that the Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC) "shall consist of eight members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate from a list of nominations submitted by the aha moku councils of each island." I oppose this nomination because Mr. Akaka was not nominated by the 'Aha Kiole o Moloka'i. The 'Aha Kiole is a longstanding community organization that serves as the "council" that interfaces with the AMAC Molokai representative. As such, the 'Aha Kiole is the appropriate entity to submit a nomination for consideration.

Please recall the last time AMAC nominations were up for consideration just a few years ago in 2017. The 'Aha Kiole submitted 3 names that were properly vetted and agreed upon by each moku (district) on Molokai. However, none of those candidates were ultimately selected for consideration. As a result of the lack of transparency, the entire process ground to a halt.

Although I am not a resident of Molokai, I have worked closely with the 'Aha Kiole o Moloka'i in the past. I know that they meet regularly, provide public notice of upcoming meetings, and provide community members the opportunity to share mana'o on various matters. The 'Aha Kiole is a transparent organization.

I have no doubt that Mr. Akaka is a valuable member of the community. However, he was not nominated by the entity that serves as Molokai's "aha moku council," and as such his nomination was not appropriately vetted. As such, I must oppose his nomination. **Furthermore, I urge the Senate Committee on Water and Land to inquire into the process through which he was nominated.**

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui,  
-Letani Peltier

**GM-759**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 9:21:41 AM

Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahele and committee members,

I am OPPOSED to the nomination and appointment of Mr. Akaka to the AMAC for multiple reasons. The most important being that the process or lack thereof utilized to select Mr. Akaka was and is ILLEGAL.

The LAW requires that the governors nominees SHALL be selected from a list of individuals SUBMITTED BY THE AHA MOKU COUNCILS OF EACH ISLAND. Aha Kiole o Molokai IS the Aha Moku council for MOLOKAI. The name before you for consideration, Mr. Akaka, WAS NOT submitted or vetted through the process that is REQUIRED by law.

Aha Kiole o Molokai was not informed by the AMAC Exec. Director Ms. DaMate that any such nomination and hearing would be taking place. And this is not the first time that this has happened. I would also like you to consider an operational audit of the AMAC and the fitness of Ms. DaMate to continue serving in her role as these actions clearly demonstrate a consistent neglect to follow and uphold the laws that govern her position.

Mahalo, Mahina Poepoe

Molokai Resident, Aha Kiole o Molokai member, active and engaged in community issues, registered voter.



**GM-759**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 11:43:45 AM

Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keomailani Hanapi Hirata	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I am OPPOSED to the nomination and appointment of Mr. Akaka to the Molokai AMAC

To become an Aha Moku Po'o or representative of a whole island, it is important that the person being submitted for nomination be vetted by the islands current Aha Moku council and the community. Mr. Akaka has never come before our island's community, Molokai, to say he would like to be nominated to be our islands Aha Moku Po'o/representative. In all my years of being very active within my islands community I have NEVER seen Mr. Akaka attend any of islands community meetings, in any district outside of his current district in Ho'olehua. Mr. Akaka has NO idea what the current issues and concerns are that every district and ahupua'a on our island is facing; from Mauka to Makai, from East to West, North to South, Mr. Akaka does NOT know enough to be our Molokai AMAC Po'o.

Also, to be clear, the LAW requires that the Governors nominees shall be selected from a list of individuals SUBMITTED BY THE AHA MOKU COUNCILS OF EACH ISLAND. Aha Kiole o Molokai currently is the Aha Moku council for our island of Molokai.

The name before you for consideration, Mr. Godfrey Akaka, was NOT submitted or vetted through the process as REQUIRED by law.

Mahalo,

Keomailani Hanapi Hirata

Molokai resident and Kuleana & Lineal Descendent, Ahupua'a O Ahaino, Mana'e (east Molokai)

**LATE**

**GM-759**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 5:22:48 PM

Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua DeMello	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

My comments on this nomination is not directed at the nominee but rather at the process for which nominations were provided to the legislature.

The Aha Moku Advisory Committee Final Rules of Practice and Procedure adopted by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, effective October 20, 2016, provides for the process for nominations. Part 1, section 1-2 states:

" The committee shall consist of eight members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate **from a list of nominations submitted by the 'aha moku councils of each island**. Oversight of the committee shall be by the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources. The committee members shall vote for the committee chairperson and vice-chairperson from among its members."

My question is, did the Governor provide his list of nominees from a list submitted by the Aha Moku Councils? If not, these nominations cannot be supported by the legislature based on procedure alone.

This will be a comment that I repeat for each nominee under each GM number.