



*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*  
**KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

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**Testimony of  
MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPT'I  
Executive Director**

**Before the Senate Committee on**

**WATER & LAND**

**Wednesday, May 13, 2020**

**1:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 774 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND  
CONFIRMATION TO THE KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION OF  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE MICHELLE PESCAIA**

Governor's Message No. 774 submits for consideration and confirmation, Michelle Pescaia to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in the seat reserved for a representative of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO). On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express my **strong support** and **recommend** her confirmation.

In her first year on the KIRC, Commissioner Pescaia has quickly indoctrinated herself into the operational and policy workings of the KIRC and has participated in many KIRC activities including completing certification as a KIRC Access Guide and representing the KIRC at the annual KIRC-PKO stewardship meeting. Commissioner Pescaia has provided a smooth transition from the previous PKO representative to herself. Prior to her time on the KIRC, Commissioner Pescaia has been involved in facilitating volunteer access for the PKO to Kaho'olawe for both work and spiritual/cultural accesses. Her familiarity with the coordination and facilitation of PKO volunteer groups is a valuable asset for the KIRC.

Ms. Pescaia was raised on Moloka'i and graduated from Kamehameha Schools Kāpalama. She later graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a bachelor's degree in Hawaiian Language. Prior to her current position as Interpretive Park Ranger at the Kalaupapa National Historic Park, Miki'ala was a director for a Moloka'i summer school program and Moloka'i site coordinator for Nā Pua Noeau, University of Hawai'i Hilo. She has also served as a cultural education specialist at the Bishop Museum, an instructor at the Moloka'i extension of UH Maui College, and taught in the Punana Leo o Moloka'i Hawaiian Immersion Preschool.

The KIRC is truly fortunate to have the support and advice of Commissioner Pescaia on the commission and strongly supports her confirmation.



**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 774, Michelle Pescaia**  
**Relating to the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC)**

The Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC) stands in strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee, GM Michelle Pescaia for consideration and confirmation to the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC), for a term to expire on June 30, 2021.

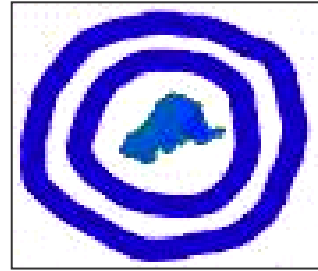
Raised in a traditional native Hawaiian household by her grandmother, Michelle “Miki’ala” Pescaia grew up and lived the Hawaiian essence of unity, peacemaking, harmony, connection and embracing diversity. These traits of Lokahi serve her well as part of the KIRC. Meant to return to the native Hawaiian people eventually, the island can only be used for native Hawaiian cultural, spiritual, and subsistence purposes. Ms. Pescaia is uniquely qualified, as a native Hawaiian raised in traditional values to uphold the mandates of Kahoolawe.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure. We urge you to approve the nomination of Michelle Pescaia to the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission.

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)

**PROTECT KAHO‘OLAWE ‘OHANA  
P.O. Box 39  
Kaunakakai, Hawai‘i 96748**



May 12, 2020

The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President  
And Members of the Senate  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
Hawai‘i State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

**SUPPORT: Michelle Miki‘ala Pescaia to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Kākou,

I am writing on behalf of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (‘Ohana) to support Michelle Miki‘ala Pescaia to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). **HRS Chapter 6K Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Section 5. Commission** provides that "(2) Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a list provided by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana." The Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana nominated Michelle Miki‘ala Pescaia (Ms. Pescaia) and she began her service to the KIRC on July 1, 2019.

Ms. Pescaia’s deep, personal connection with Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe began before she was born when her grandmother, Aunty Harriet Ne mentored the founding members of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana who were from Moloka‘i. Aunty Harriet also traveled to the island to share her knowledge of the cultural sites on the island and their uses by her ‘ohana and others from Moloka‘i. In 1991, Ms. Pescaia participated in her first huaka‘i (access) to the island as a participant in the annual Makahiki ceremonies. Since then she has returned many times as a restoration volunteer and to participate in cultural and religious ceremony. She has brought her family, students and fellow community members to Kaho‘olawe to join-in the history and the generational work needed to restore this most sacred island. Ms. Pescaia is also actively involved in ‘Ohana islands-wide meetings and continues to provide a unique, grounded perspective in all discussions.

Ms. Pescaia has served a full five year term on the Molokai Planning Commission, with one year as chair as well as several terms on the Molokai Island Burial Council. Through this service, she has developed a strong understanding of land use and management, historic preservation, cultural resource management, conservation, and politics. Serving on boards of several non-profits, she understands the components of business plans and management, volunteer programs, education and outreach, asset building, networking and liability. These are all assets needed on the KIRC.

Ms. Pescaia has served as a cultural education specialist at Bishop Museum; she has been an instructor at the Moloka‘i extension of the Maui College; taught in the Pūnana Leo o Moloka‘i Hawaiian Immersion Preschool; and coordinated educational programs on Moloka‘i of Nā Pua No‘eau, University of Hawai‘i-Hilo. Currently, Ms. Pescaia is an interpretive Park Ranger at the Kalaupapa National Historic Park.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the ‘Ohana’s testimony in **SUPPORT of Ms. Pescaia** to the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Aloha ‘Āina,  
Kylee Pōmaika‘i Mar  
‘Ohana Access Coordinator & KIRC Point-of-Contact for ‘Ohana



Young Progressives Demanding Action  
P.O. Box 11105  
Honolulu, HI 96828

May 13, 2020  
1:00 PM

**TO: Senate Committee on Water & Land (WTL)**  
**RE: Testimony in Support of GM 670**

Aloha Chair Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Members of the Senate Committee on Water & Land,

My name is Jun Shin, I am a Sophomore at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and currently serve as the Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair for the Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA). YPDA advocates for public policies that reflect the values of young people throughout the State of Hawai'i. One of those values is that our public lands need to be taken care of and held to the highest standard for the benefit of the public. YPDA is in **Support of Governor's Message 670**, the consideration and confirmation of Mr. Jonathan Likeke Scheuer for the Land Use Commission (LUC) for a term to expire on 06/30/2004.

Our members have had the opportunity to advocate alongside Mr. Scheuer in his capacity as a private citizen in preserving the District Boundary Amendment authority of the LUC this legislative session. We respect the candor, knowledge, and dedication to the LUC's mission that he showed in his testimony. Knowledge built on educational, professional, and volunteer experience in public trust, Native Hawaiian, and environmental issues. Experience that is very valuable when considering whether petitions to change land designation (Conservation, Agricultural, Rural, Urban) is the best use of our lands and resources. His dedication to the LUC is seen in his effectiveness, as well as his fair and balanced approach on the commission, with his fellow commissioners electing him as Vice Chair in 2015 and later Chair in 2018.

Young Progressives Demanding Action is in **Support** of **GM 670** and want to give our best wishes to Mr. Scheuer. We respectfully ask for you to pass this nomination through your committee to be voted on by the full Senate.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,  
Environmental Justice Action Committee Chair  
Young Progressives Demanding Action (YPDA)  
Cell: 808-255-6663  
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com  
CC: action@ypdahawaii.org

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 1:17:12 PM

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



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noa Emmett Aluli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D., in Support of the Appointment of Michelle Mikiala Ayau Pescaia to the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Chair Kahele and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land, aloha. My name is Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli and I am testifying in support of the confirmation of Michelle Mikiala Ayau Pescaia to serve on the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. I know Mikiala personally as I have provided primary health care to three generations of her extended `ohana on Molokai, and we both live on Pu`ukapele Avenue, Hawaiian Home Lands in Ho`olehua.

sMs. Pescaia's deep, personal connection - a family legacy with Kanaloa Kaho`olawe beginning with her paternal grandmother, Auntie Harriet Ne, who not only mentored the founding members of the Protect Kaho`olawe `Ohana who were from Moloka'i, but one of a couple dozen kupuna who travelled with the Protect Kaho`olawe `Ohana on our first legal access . She and other kÅ«puna shared their expertise about Kaho`olawe place names and archeological sites, mana`o of the island's history and cultural significance, and potential uses and management in the future.

Ms. Pescaia follows in her grandmother's footsteps: she speaks Hawaiian, is a chanter and hula dancer, translates for kupuna, is deeply loved by the Keiki, abd is a teacher and community activist.

Ms. Pescaia knows public policy and parliamentary procedures as she has served a full five year term on the Molokai Planning Commission, with one year as chair, as well as several terms on the Molokai Island Burial Council. Through this service, she has developed a strong understanding of land use and management, historic preservation, cultural resource management, conservation, and politics. Serving on boards of several non-profits, she understands the components of business plans and management, volunteer programs, education and outreach, asset building, networking and liability. These are all assets needed on the KIRC.

In closing, I urge your committee to vote in favor of confirmation of the appointment of Michelle Mikiala Ayau Pescaia to the KIRC. Mahalo and Aloha

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/9/2020 3:17:38 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>
Kyle Kajihiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/9/2020 3:23:10 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>
Robert Cole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Michelle is the right person for thsi job.

Aloha,

Robert



**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/9/2020 3:26:02 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>
Anela Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/9/2020 4:54:03 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>
Andrew Fox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/9/2020 4:59:19 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>
kalani fukumoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill/measure and any other ones that benefits KIRC

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/9/2020 8:11:47 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>
johann winkler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Kaho'olawe Commissioner Support

Aloha Chairs and Committee Members,

I support the nomination of Joshua Kaakua, Jonathan Ching, Michelle Miki'ala Pescaia, Saumalu Mataafa , Suzanne Case, Hokulani Holt, Carmen Hulu Lindsey, and Michael K. Noaho'opi'i for appointment of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Thank you for your time to consider my opinion,

Sincerely,

Pamela Zirker

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 7:27:12 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>
Cassandra L. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 7:44:37 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>
Dean Tokishi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and committee members, I support the nomination of (Commissioner's Name) for appointment to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 8:38:51 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>
James Bruch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 9:04:28 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>
Lopaka White	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 10:04:13 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>
Marlene Kamuela Purdy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 10:14:14 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>
Nicole Cody	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe Mikiala is one of the few that will represent the 'ohana with integrity, honesty, and passion for the longevity of Kaho'olawe. Mahalo.

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 11:20:22 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>
Carol Marie Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice-Chair Agaran and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation of Michelle Pescaia as commissioner on the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. She brings a strong cultural perspective and a "new set of eyes" to the commission. Though she is rooted in the native culture, her experiences will help staff in its plans to accomplish the goals set in the 2020 I Ola Kanaloa plan.

Kukulu ke ea a Kanaloa!

Me ka ha`aha`a,

Ka`onohi Lee

Retired KIRC Staff

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 11:37:39 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>
Lori Buchanan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT GM774 Michelle Pescaia

Mahalo,

Lori Buchanan - Molokai

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/8/2020 1:56:21 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>
Tenaiya Brookfield	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

I support Jonathan Scheuer's nomination to the Land Use Commission. I have worked directly with him on various Sierra Club issues and found him to be organized, fair, knowledgeable and most importantly, caring about our natural resources.

Please vote in favor of Jonathan's confirmation to the Land Use Commission.

Mahalo,

Tenaiya Brookfield

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/8/2020 4:29:05 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>
Jennifer Mather	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

My name is Jen Mather, a resident of West Maui, and I strongly support Jonathan Scheuer's nomination to the Land Use Commission.

Mr. Scheuer is an amazingly adept, experienced member of the LUC and his skill set has demonstrably helped resolve many longstanding conflicts during his tenure as member, Vice Chair, and most recently, Chair of the commission.

Please support the confirmation of Mr. Scheuer to the Land Use Commission.

Mahalo,  
Jen Mather

**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/8/2020 6:15:19 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>
Kecia Joy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

I DO support Jonathan Likeke Scheuer's nomination to the Land Use Commission.

I have known Jonathan for almost 20 years and have been impressed with his professionalism, dedication, and experience in not only standing for the environment but also for the Hawaiian culture.

I support Jonathan's nomination because he has the absolute experience necessary to be an effective member of the Land Use Commission. He has been incredible and integral in resolving long standing conflicts in Hawai'i. This is very important to me! This has included playing a significant role on resolving conflicts over water and as a marine biologist of 30 years, this is also very important to me. He showed excellent leadership in every position he has held and I am especially impressed with his three years serving on the O`ahu Island Burial Council. He is an excellent advocate of public trust interests in land and water, but also has a fair and balanced approach to his duties on the Land Use Commission.

As the first Vice Chair of the Commission in 2015, and as Chair in 2018, he has shown himself to be an effective member of the Commission.

Please, I ask you to vote in favor of Jonathan's confirmation to the Land Use Commission.

Mahalo,

Kecia Joy



**GM-774**

Submitted on: 5/9/2020 11:23:57 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>
Barbara Kaaumoana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I have known this nominee for two decades. We have worked together in community based resource efforts in many communities around Hawaii. Jonathan is an intelligent, thoughtful and committed professional who enjoys a reputation as a good listener and skilled thinker. His work has facilitated many valuable efforts in Hawaii and he is a respected member of our community.

Mahalo for your support for his nomination. Please confirm him for service on the Land Use Commission.