

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

**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
WATER AND LAND**

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

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 780
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE NATURAL
AREA RESERVES SYSTEM COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
ANGELA HIILEI KAWELO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2024**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's
Message 780, nominating Angela Hi'ilei Kawelo to the Natural Area Reserves System
Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2024.**

Pursuant to Section 195-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Natural Area Reserves System Commission (Commission) shall: (1) Establish criteria to be used in determining whether an area is suitable for inclusion with the reserves system; (2) Conduct studies of areas for possible inclusion within the reserves system; (3) Recommend to the Governor and the Department areas suitable for inclusion within the reserves system; (4) Establish policies and criteria regarding the management, protection, and permitted uses of areas which are part of the reserves system; (5) Advise the Governor and the Department on any matter relating to the preservation of Hawaii's unique natural resources; (6) Develop ways and means of extending and strengthening presently established preserves, sanctuaries, and refuges within the State; (7) Advise the Department and other public agencies managing state-owned land or natural resources regarding areas under their respective jurisdictions which are or may be appropriate for designation as natural area reserves; and (8) In carrying out the above duties, consult the most comprehensive up-to-date compilation of scientific data on the communities of natural flora and fauna of Hawaii.

Ms. Angela "Hi'ilei" Kawelo has extensive background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. She is the Executive Director of Paepae o He'eia, a non-profit dedicated to

caring for He'eia fishpond. She graduated from Punahou School and received a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology and a Marine Options Program Certificate from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. In addition to leading Paepae o He'eia, she has shared her knowledge as a lecturer of Hawaiian Studies 353 – Mālama Lokoī'a at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Ms. Kawelo's professional and educational background makes her a valued addition to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.



**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 780, Angela Kawelo
Relating to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission

The Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC) stands in strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee, GM Angela Hi'ilei Kawelo for consideration and confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission (NARS), for a term to expire on June 30, 2024.

A native Hawaiian, Angela Kawelo, more commonly known as Hi'ilei is an accomplished lecturer, historian and cultural practitioner. She is the Executive Director of Paepae o He'eia, one of the most renowned *loko ia* (Hawaiian Fishpond) on O'ahu, and in the State of Hawaii. Located in He'eia in windward O'ahu, this *loko 'ia* encloses 88 acres and embodies and carries on the values and practices of traditional Hawaii – hard work, conservation and sustainability. This is the mandate of the NARS as well – “to preserve in perpetuity land and water areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as possible, of the natural flora and fauna, as well as geological sites of Hawaii”. Hi'ilei Kawelo has already fulfilled this mandate as she has managed He'eia Fishpond as its Executive Director since 2007. Under her direction, she teaches ancient and proven ways to feed the communities of Ko'olaupoko even as she consistently regenerates conservation and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure. We believe Angela Hi'ilei Kawelo is meant to be on the Natural Area Reserves System where she can share her expertise and cultural history with others.

Respectfully yours,

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



GM780

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE NATURAL AREA RESERVES
SYSTEM COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ANGELA HIILEI KAWELO, FOR A TERM TO
EXPIRE 6-30-2024**

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 **SUPPORT** for GM780, which nominates Angela Hi'ilei Kawelo to continue her role as a member of the Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) Commission.

The NARS Program carries out vital parts of the state's responsibilities to conserve, protect, and manage our natural and cultural resources, and specifically works to preserve representative samples of Hawai'i's diverse biological systems for study and appreciation by Hawai'i's residents, including Native Hawaiians. Among other activities, the NARS Commission provides recommendations on the selection and treatment of areas to be included in the NARS program.

The NARS Commission has historically included experts in various fields of environmental science, as well as representatives from the hiking and hunting communities; since 2013, the NARS Commission has also required one member to have demonstrated experience, education, or expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. OHA supported the inclusion of this latter membership requirement, in order to provide the Commission with insight as to the cultural value and significance of existing and potential future natural area reserves, as well as the many cultural resources and sites they may contain – insight which is particularly important given the responsibilities of all state agencies to protect and enforce the rights of Native Hawaiians, and to fulfill the state's interest in perpetuating Native Hawaiian culture and values.

Ms. Kawelo has demonstrated expertise and experience not only in the traditional and customary restoration, management, and protection of loko i'a, but also possesses an extensive personal and familial background in the stewardship of the natural and cultural resources and sites of He'eia, Kahalu'u, and adjacent ahupua'a in the moku of Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu. She has also demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the protection and perpetuation of native species, cultural resources, cultural sites, and Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices throughout the islands, as reflected in her numerous awards and recognitions, as well as her service on various government and nonprofit groups such as Kua'āina Ulu 'Auao, Sea Grant

Hawai'i, Papahana Kuaola, Hui Ulu Mea 'Ai, Mana Maoli, and the Kāne'ōhe Marine Life Advisory Council.

Ms. Kawelo's continued membership on the NARS Commission will accordingly enable her to continue fulfilling the vision underlying the establishment of a seat for a Native Hawaiian cultural expert, in informing the Commission with respect to the cultural value and significance of existing and future reserves, and ensuring that NARS Commission decisionmaking can accommodate or even perpetuate Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices consistent with the state's legal and moral obligations to Native Hawaiians and the public trust.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM780. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LATE

GM-780

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 1:04:16 PM
Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mahealani Cypher	Testifying for Koolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments:

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club strongly supports the nomination of Angela Hi`ilei Kawelo to serve on the Natural Area Reserve System Commission, for a term ending 6-30-2024.

We urge the Senate Water & Land Committee to approve her nomination and forward her name to the full Senate for confirmation.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer our mana`o.

GM-780

Submitted on: 5/13/2020 9:04:14 AM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aulii Dudoit	Testifying for KEY Project	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senator Kahele,

The Administration of KEY Project strongly SUPPORTS Angela Hi'ilei Kawelo for confirmation to the Natural Area Reserve System Commission.

The mission of KEY Project is to nurture and promote the cultural, environmental, social, economic and recreational well-being of the Kualoa-He'eia area by providing a vital grassroots civic resource that effectively serves the needs of our diverse multi-cultural community.

Ms. Kawelo's professional work experience and leadership as the Executive Director of Paepae o He'eia that aims to restore and revitalize abundance in our community gives her the unique mix of experience that will make a her an asset to the commission.

Please consider supporting her nomination to the commission..

Sincerely,

'Auli'i K. Dudoit

Executive Director

KEY Project

GM-780

Submitted on: 5/10/2020 4:17:00 PM

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

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

Comments:

Senate Committee on Water and Land State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

I strongly support the nomination of Angela Hi'ilei Kawelo to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

I have known Hi'ilei for almost two decades as leader and member of my community in Kahalu'u, Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu, as a friend and member of an 'ohana that has and continues to give back to our community and state in regard to how we care for and live in our environment.

Hi'ilei's primary qualification for returning as a member of NERS are grounded in who she is and how she chooses to live. I could also say it is grounded in her career, education, and experience as a mahi i'a, lawai'a, lecturer and traditional aquaculture practitioner. But I think the heart of her qualifications starts with her family.

Hi'ilei also serves as the chair and founding board member of an organization I help guide. I have seen her manage board meetings with us and other organizations with aplomb. She continues to build on her work at Paepae o He'eia that once started with her as a young member of a now not-so-young vanguard of people who look to build a better economy that respects that the foundations of all we have rely on a better symbiosis between people and environment for future generations.

I strongly support your vote in favor of Hi'ilei's confirmation to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

PÅ«pÅ«kahi i holomua e ho'okanaka

Kevin Chang

GM-780

Submitted on: 5/12/2020 10:12:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Cody	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The best candidate for the position

GM-780

Submitted on: 5/13/2020 11:56:04 AM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Leialoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

GM-780

Submitted on: 5/13/2020 12:40:59 PM
Testimony for WTL on 5/13/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John L. Reppun	Individual	Support	No

Comments: