



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

Testimony of
Hawaii State Aha Moku

Before the Senate Committee Water and Land

Wednesday, April 14, 2021
1:00 PM

**Support for Governor Message 683, Michelle Pescaia
Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission**

Aloha Chair Inouye, and Members of the Senate Water and Land Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer strong support for Governor Message 683, Michelle (Miki'ala) Pescaia. This message is submitted for consideration and confirmation to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission for a term to expire 06-30-2025. **Participants in the Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) supports this submittal.**

The vision of the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) is to restore the *Kino*, the physical manifestation of *Kanaloa*, the native Hawaiian traditional name for Kaho'olawe. This entails the restoration of a healthy land and ocean ecosystem which is the foundation of *Nā Po'e o Hawai'i*, the native people of Hawai'i who believe and recognize the lands and ocean of Kanaloa as a living spiritual entity – a *wahi pana*, a sacred place.

A member of KIRC must be a part of the veneration and spiritual belief of the native Hawaiian community, particularly of the generational and traditional descendants of Kanaloa. Per translations of ancient chants and generational knowledge of original descendants of Kanaloa, the island is in every way attached to the Honua lua Moku of Moku O Pi'ilani (Island of Maui). With the traditional understanding of the three moku of Kanaloa – Ko'olau, Kona and Molokini, the spiritual as well as the basic physical reestablishment of Kanaloa can be completed.

The kuleana of Miki'ala Pescaia is to preserve and perpetuate the language, culture, history, traditions and values of her Hawaiian ancestors and the people of Hawaii in the most relevant and responsible way; To steward the natural resources sustainably and wisely; to represent her community (and as a member of KIRC) to represent the lineal and generational people of Kanaloa; to act respectfully, responsibly with integrity; and to empower others to do the same.

Aha Moku supports this nomination and urges this Committee to confirm the nomination of GM 685.

Respectfully yours,

Manuel Kuloloio, Kahu Nui O Kanaloa, email: manuel.kuloloio@baesystems.com
Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, Ka Mea Ho'okumu, email: kahalelehua@outlook.com
Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i, email: Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov

Hawaii State Aha Moku

Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana
P.O. Box 39
Kaunakakai, Hawai'i 96748



February 18, 2021

State Boards & Commissions
Office of the Governor
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Kākou,

I am writing on behalf of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana ('Ohana) to recommend the reappointment of Michelle Miki'ala Pescaia (Ms. Pescaia) to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) for a full four-year term.

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 provided a list from which Ms. Pescaia was first appointed to the KIRC on July 1, 2019 to complete a two-year term that expires on June 30, 2021. As she has effectively fulfilled the responsibilities of Commissioner since her appointment, we would like to recommend that she be re-appointed so that she can serve a full four years.

Ms. Pescaia's deep, personal connection with Kaho'olawe began twenty-five years ago with her first huaka'i (access) and participant in our 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 that will be beneficial to service on the KIRC. Her resume is attached.

As we are asked to provide a list for Governor Ige to consider, our organization also includes Ms. Faith Kahale Saito and Mr. Jensen Kalama Chock for this nomination list. Their resumes are attached and they have submitted an online application to the State Boards and Commissions site. It is our hope that may be considered for any future openings and appointments.

Ms. Saito has a M.S. in Counseling Psychology and a B.S. in Family Resources from UH Mānoa. She is currently a Native Hawaiian Counselor at Honolulu Community College and formerly worked for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission as the Cultural Resources Project Coordinator. Ms. Saito is a Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana volunteer and kua leader.

Mr. Chock has a M.Ed. in Teaching majoring in Elementary Education and specializing in Hawaiian Immersion. He also has a Bachelor of Arts in Hawaiian Language and currently works for Kamehameha Schools as Kumu 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and a Cultural Specialist for Ho'okahua in the Community Education Department. Ms. Chock is a volunteer, kua access support and Mo'o Lono in Training for the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana.

Thank you for forwarding this nomination to Governor David Ige. I can be contacted at pko.huakai@gmail.com or 808-783-3281 for any questions or request for more information.

Aloha 'Āina,

Kylee Pomaika'i Mar
'Ohana Access Coordinator & KIRC Point-of-Contact for 'Ohana

cc: Michael Naho'opi'i, Executive Director, KIRC



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, April 14, 2021

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 683 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION OF
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE MICHELLE PESCAIA

Governor's Message No. 683 submits for consideration and confirmation, Ms. Michelle Pescaia to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in the seat reserved for the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO). On behalf of the KIRC, I wish to express my **strong support and recommendation** for her confirmation.

In her first few years 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 for the KIRC from the previous PKO representative to herself. Prior to her time on the KIRC, Commissioner Pescaia has been intimately involved in facilitating volunteer access for the PKO to Hakioawa for both work and spiritual/cultural accesses. Her familiarity with the coordinating and managing PKO volunteer groups is an 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.

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:54:12 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Pulver	Testifying for Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana	Support	No

Comments:

Michelle Pescaia is strong and appropriate choice for KIRC Commissioner. Her experience, knowledge, and skills will allow her to represent the 'Ohana in working towards the revitalization and restoration of Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe. I have the utmost faith that she will always do what is best for island.

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 10:03:00 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Keomailani Hanapi Hirata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Michelle Pescaia

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 10:55:08 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matt Hatakeyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senate Leaders,

Mahalo for your continues leadership in these tough times. We appreciate you.

Today I'm writitng in support of GM 683 the confirmation of Michelle Pescaia to Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission as Commissioner. From our days at Kamehameha Schools Kapalama Campus to her work with the National Parks to now, Michelle is and will always be Aloha Aina. Her experience, wealth of knowledge and willingness to find solutions for every problem, makes Michelle an assest to KIRC.

Mahalo,

Matt Hatakeyama

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 7:36:12 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anela Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and the Committee on Water and Land,

I would like to respectfully urge the Committee on Water and Land to support Governor Ige's nomination of Michelle Miki'ala Pescaia to serve a second term as a member of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

I had the honor and privilege of meeting Miki'ala when I visited Molokai in 2013. I was traveling with my mother and a hÄ• lau that we were assisting in their journey to the Hawai'i High School Hula Competition. Michelle Miki'ala graciously invited our group to Kalaupapa. While we were there, Michelle Miki'ala shared her extensive knowledge about Kalaupapa including the history and culture of the area. I was greatly impressed by her ability to help visitors foster a connection to Kalaupapa. Michelle Miki'ala carries this ability to her work for Kaho'olawe, as well. She and her family have facilitated many visits to Kaho'olawe for families from Michelle Miki'ala's home island of Molokai.

I believe that her knowledge and expertise gained from her many years of working on and for Kaho'olawe equipped Michelle Miki'ala to continue to carry out her duties as a commissioner for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Mahalo for your time and careful consideration.

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:21:57 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hokulani Holt-Padilla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the consideration and confirmation to the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHELLE PESCAIA, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

HÅ• kÅ«lani Holt-Padilla

GM-683

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 6:04:22 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the nomination of Michelle Pescaia. She has proven to be a leader of integrity, transparency, and of deep intelligence that stems from a profound sense of kuleana for our community, Kaho'olawe Kanaloa, and Hawaii. Mahalo nui!

GM-683

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 8:19:17 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Makani Gregg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha.

I support and recommend the reappointment of Michelle Miki'ala Pescaia to KIRC (Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission) for a full four year term. She is already serving and PKO (Protect Kahoolawe Ohana) has said that she has been effectively fulfilling the responsibilities of commissioner since her appointment in July 2019.

I have known Miki'ala since 2004 and so ever since I have known her she has actively participating in Kahoolawe activities and ceremonies for Kahoolawe. That is amazing that a hard working mother and active community member of Moloka'i still puts effort and heart into the prosperity of Kahoolawe. She is just amazing and so equipped for the Comissioner position. I have known her with her work down Kalaupapa, leading Makahiki games for Molokai, and while helping to conduct marine intertidal surveys of Opihi.

So I recommend her to continue with the great work she is already doing.

Mahalo nui.
Toni Makani Gregg

13-470 Pohoiki Road Pahoia 96778

GM-683

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 11:54:37 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faith Kahale Saito	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this nomination of Michelle Pescaia to continue as Commissioner for the Khao'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

GM-683

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 2:56:39 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine Wender	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support the appointment of 'Äēnela Evans and reappointment of Miki'ala Pescaia to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. I have participated in the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana for many years with both nominees, and have witnessed the commitment, competence, character, knowledge and skills which they both employ in service to the island. I am confident that they would serve with distinction on the Commission. We are fortunate that they are willing to take on this kuleana.

Elaine Wender



April 8, 2021

TESTIMONY OF DAVIANNA PŌMAIKA'I MCGREGOR IN SUPPORT OF GM
683 CONFIRMATION OF MICHELLE MIKIALA PESCAIA TO THE
KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

Chair Lorraine Inouye and members of the Committee on Water and Land, aloha kākou. My name is Dr. Davianna Pōmaika'i McGregor. I am a professor of Ethnic Studies and Director of the Center for Oral History at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa. I am also a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana. I am testifying in support of the confirmation of Michelle Mikiala Pescaia to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

Ms. Pescaia has a B.A. in Hawaiian language and currently works as an interpretive Park Ranger at the Kalaupapa National Historical Park. Prior to that, Ms. Pescaia was the Molokai Site Coordinator for Nā Pua No'eau on Molokai for 11 years. In her capacity, she educated a generation on Molokai in Hawaiian traditions and cultural practices, stewardship of wahi pana on Molokai and to accept the kuleana to perpetuate Moloka'i as a cultural kīpuka for Native Hawaiian culture as a whole.

Ms. Pescaia is a gifted Native Hawaiian educator, carrying on the legacy of her grandmother, Harriet Ne of Molokai and her 'ike/knowledge of Molokai wahi pana, history, cultural practices and the Makahiki. She and her 'ohana have been the piko (core) of the revival and perpetuation of the Makahiki on Molokai.

For the past 12 years Ms. Pescaia has brought her 'ohana, students and Molokai community members to Kaho'olawe, especially to open and close the Makahiki ceremonies. They have been a major force in the perpetuation of the Makahiki on Kanaloa Kaho'olawe and the associated rejuvenation of the island's natural resources with the seasonal rains that are called to the island through chants and offerings.

Foremost among her qualifications to serve as a commissioner on the KIRC is her culturally grounded leadership and team building skills.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I urge your committee to confirm the appointment of Michelle Mikiala Pescaia to the KIRC. Aloha 'āina.

GM-683

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 6:48:48 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Kaakua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

This testimony is in STRONG SUPPORT of Miki'ala MICHELLE PESCAIA's reappointment to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). I have served alongside Miki'ala as a fellow commissioner to KIRC and Miki'ala provides the service, guidance, and wisdom to navigate a better Kaho'olawe, Hawai'i, and community. Miki'ala has the full support of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana and takes her kuleana towards aina stewardship seriously. I recommend her reappointment without hesitation.

Joshua Kaakua

Chair, KIRC

Kua, Protect Kahoolawe Ohana

GM-683

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 6:50:13 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelvin Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

As an individual and also a 30 year member of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana I wish to fully support Michelle’s (Mikiala) confirmation as a commisoner for the KIRC. There is widespread support for her through out the islands.

Mahalo, Kelvin Ho

GM-683

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 8:13:03 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/14/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosanna Anolani Alegado	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Water and Land Committee,

I write to convey STRONG SUPPORT of Michelle Pescaia's nomination to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. I am from Kahalu'u, O'ahu but have been privileged to visit Kaho'olawe a number of times since the 1980s. The KIRC needs strong and committee leadership to continue the necessary work to continue to restore the island. Miki'ala has the commitment needed to help move forward the work and the experience needed through her position at the National Parks Service to understand the nature of the projects being undertaken.

Mahalo, Rosie Alegado