



**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 684, Anela Evans**  
**Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Governor Message 684, Anela Evans submitted for consideration and confirmation to the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission for a term to expire 06-30-2024. **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 Kahoolawe. 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 have a broad knowledge of Hawaiian history, cultural and natural resources particularly as it pertains to Kanaloa. Ms. Evans has experience in culturally centered community groups and has been active with the Protect Kahoolawe 'Ohana. She has familiarity with land and cultural resource management and has been trained in various cultural protocols.

Per translations of ancient chants and generational knowledge of original descendants of Kanaloa, the island is in every way attached to the Honuaia 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 physical restoration can begin. We believe that because of her understanding of native Hawaiian cultural protocols, Ms. Evans can be an asset to the KIRC.

Aha Moku supports this nomination and urges this Committee to confirm GM 684.

Respectfully yours,

Manuel Kuloloio, Aha Moku, Kahu Nui O Kanaloa, email: [manuel.kuloloio@baesystems.com](mailto:manuel.kuloloio@baesystems.com)

Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, Ka Mea Ho'okumu, email: [kahalelehua@outlook.com](mailto:kahalelehua@outlook.com)

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i, email: [Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov](mailto:Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov)

**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) with regard to the nomination of a replacement for Dr. Jonathan Ching on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) who completed two consecutive 4-year terms on the KIRC on June 30, 2020.

**HRS Chapter 6K Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Section 5. Commission provides that "Two members shall be appointed by the governor from a list provided by the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana." The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana would like to nominate 'Ānela Evans (Ms. Evans) to serve on the KIRC beginning July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025.** I have attached her resume and she has submitted an online application to serve on the Commission.

Born and raised on Lāna'i, she has a deep knowledge of that island's history and cultural heritage Ms. Evans is currently employed as a Lāna'i Cultural Practitioner with the Four Seasons Resort on Lāna'i. She is also a lecturer in elementary Hawaiian language at UH Maui College – Lāna'i Education Center. She has previously worked as an assistant manager for cultural resources at Pūlama Lāna'i and volunteers at the Lāna'i Culture and Heritage Center.

Ms. Evans has been an active member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana for the past 13 years as a kua, or leader who takes responsibility for providing safe and meaningful cultural huaka'i for community, student and family participants. She helps to plan and coordinate the community group huaka'i. She is also trained as an Access Guide in the identification and avoidance of unexploded ordnance. Ms. Evans sustains the website for the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, continuing to update it with information about the restoration activities on the island and also initiating online fundraising.

From September 2013 to September 2015, Ms. Evans served as the volunteer coordinator for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. In this position she coordinated and managed access to Kaho'olawe for volunteer work groups. She conducted education about the natural and cultural resources of the island and engaged in field work, including the operation of weed eaters and chainsaws. She also served as crew on the KIRC vessel, *Ohua*.

Ms. Evans has a B.A. in Hawaiian Studies, with a Certificate in Ethnic Studies. She also has an M.A. in Hawaiian Studies from UH-Mānoa, with a concentration in Mālama 'Āina and Mo'olelo 'Āina. In 2017, Ms. Evans participated in the First Nations' Futures Fellowship Program, Kamehameha Schools & Stanford University Woods Institute for the Environment.

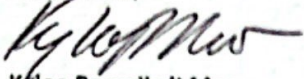
As we are asked to provide a list for Governor Ige to consider, our organization also includes Ms. Faith Kahale Saito and Mr. Jensen Kalama Chock for this nomination list. Their resumes are attached and they have submitted an online application to the State Boards and Commissions site. It is our hope that they 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](mailto: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 684 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND  
CONFIRMATION TO THE KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION OF  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE `ĀNELA EVANS**

Governor's Message No. 684 submits for consideration and confirmation, Ms. `Ānela Evans 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.

Ms. Evans has a deep connection to Kaho`olawe as a long-time PKO member and a former KIRC employee. As a PKO member, she had led numerous community groups to Kaho`olawe for both cultural and work-related projects. She had also planned and coordinated several PKO trips to Kaho`olawe ensuring the safe and meaningful use of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve. As a former KIRC employee, she worked as the KIRC Volunteer Coordinator where she recruited volunteers and facilitated their work trips to Kaho`olawe with the KIRC. While at the KIRC, she was also trained in unexploded ordnance avoidance procedures, emergency safety procedures and boat operations. She was a highly skilled and reliable member of the KIRC staff.

Ms. Evans' academic background includes a graduate degree in Hawaiian Studies and professionally she is employed as a Lāna`i Cultural Practitioner with the Four Season Resort on Lāna`i. Previously she worked as the assistant manager for cultural resources at Pūlama Lāna`i under the direction of Kepa Maly. Her education, experience and training will be a great asset for the KIRC as she has tangible and relevant firsthand experience on Kaho`olawe and is familiar with the difficulties and challenges the KIRC must regularly overcome in order to implement its vision for the long-term restoration of island.

The KIRC will be truly fortunate to have the support and advice of Ms. `Ānela Evans on the commission and strongly supports her confirmation.

**GM-684**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:56:53 AM

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

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

Comments:

Anela Evans 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-684**

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 11:45:33 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matt Hatakeyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senate Leadership,

I'm submitting written testimony today in support of GM 684 the confirmation of Anela Evans to Commissioner for the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission. Anela's work throughout the years as a cultural practioner provides a unique view of the world and the perpetuation of all things Lanai, Maui Nui and the greater state of Hawaii. KIRC would be honored to have such a talent working for Kanaloa.

Mahalo,

Matt Hatakeyama

**GM-684**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 8:42:29 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hans Wilhelm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

My name is Keoni Wilhelm and I wish to submit testimony in support for Anela Evans to become a KIRC commissioner. I have worked along side Anela as a PKO kua, KIRC volunteer, and as a friend. Anela has supported me in bringing student volunteers to Kahoolawe over the past 15 years. She has helped to keep my student groups safe and has shared her aloha, mo'olelo, and 'ike of Kanaloa for as long as I have known her. I appreciate her support of Kamehameha Schools for which she is a graduate. The last time I saw Anela she helped me guide a volunteer group of students to study Stars at Moa'ula iki. Anela spent the whole night with us and helped me watch over our kids. It was a beautiful night under the stars that would have never happened without her support and that of the KIRC team.

As a KIRC access guide I have learned so much from Anela about Kaho'olawe from our restoration work together. She leads with a servants heart and is always open to sharing her 'ike of Kaho'olawe. With Anela, you will have a leader who is not afraid to get dirty and do the work that is necessary. She does things the right way and pays attention to details while understanding the big picture in a practical way. My hope is that Anela is confirmed to continue to restore the island and continue the restoration work and protection of this critical, and sacred resource. She comes with my highest respect, praise, and recommendation.

Me ke aloha a me ka ha'aha'a ,

Hans Keoni Wilhelm

Kumu 'Ā• Ielo Hawai'i, E.d.D, JD.

**GM-684**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 9:23:07 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hokulani Holt-Padilla	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support for consideration and confirmation to the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, ANELA EVANS, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

HÅ• kÅ«lani Holt-Padilla



**GM-684**

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 6:05:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/14/2021 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:

Aloha,

I support the nomination of Anela Evans for KIRC commissioner. She is a leader, an aloha aina, and a great advocate for Kanaloa Kahoolawe. Mahalo nui.

**GM-684**

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 8:32:36 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Toni Gregg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha.

I recommend and support the appointment of Angela Evans to serve on the KIRC as PKO 'ohana member starting July 2021 to June 2025. I support PKO's decision to nominate her as she has lots of dedicated experience through her years on LÄ• na'i and Kahoolawe. She was been the volunteer coordinator for 2 years at KIRC.

mahalo.

Toni Gregg

13-470 Pohoiki Road Pahoa 96778

**GM-684**

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 11:55:50 AM

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

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

Comments:

I support this nomination of Anela Evans as Commissioner for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

**GM-684**

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 2:57:50 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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

**GM-684**

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 6:03:59 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tammy Dupont	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known Ms. Evans for approximately 18 years. During that time, I have observed her dedication to family, Hawaiian culture and traditions, as well as the well being of our islands. I write in strong support of her confirmation to the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission. I am confident that Ms. Evans will serve KIRC and our island communities well. Thank you for your time and kind consideration.

**GM-684**

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 6:54:31 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelvin Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

As an individual and 30 year memeber of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana I am writing to fully support Anela Evans for the position of KIRC Commisioner. The values she lives by will guide her making wise choices and offering culturally grounded input for the commision. She has the full support of the PKO and across allthe islands.

Mahalo

Kelvin Ho

**GM-684**

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 7:06:23 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joshua Kaakua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

This testimony is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of nominee ANELA EVANS for confirmation to the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). Pursuant to HRS Chapter 6K- (Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission), this nominee was appointed by the Governor from a list provided by the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana (Ohana). The Ohana recently completed a thorough process to determine and forward a commissioner recommendation that we felt had the knowledge, integrity, and advocacy skills to be a voice for the Ohana towards a better Kaho‘olawe. Ms Anela Evans was the highest vote getter by all measures of selection (which can be uncommon for a diverse, multi-generational, and broad hui like the Ohana). Anela has my support and I believe she will provide the State with intentional and self-less service to navigate challenges that the KIRC may face. She is a part of the next generation well-equipped towards practice and perpetuation of Aloha Aina.

Josh

*Chair, KIRC*

*Kua, PKO*

**GM-684**

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 7:28:19 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joshua Kaakua	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

This testimony is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of nominee BENTON KEALII PANG for confirmation to the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). Dr. Pang has the natural resources management expertise and record of community-building to have a positive and lasting impact on the island. As a current member of the commission and member of the Protect Kahoolawe Ohana, I welcome and fully support his confirmation.

Josh Kaakua