

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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, April 14, 2021  
1:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 686  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE KĀNE'ŌHE  
BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LETANI PELTIER, FOR  
A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2023**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 686 nominating Mr. Letani Peltier to the Kāne'ōhe Bay Regional Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2023.**

Pursuant to Section 200D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Kāne'ōhe Bay Regional Council was established to, among other things, facilitate the implementation of the Kāne'ōhe Bay Master Plan as it relates to ocean use activities and advise and make recommendations to the State and the County on matters regarding the use of Kāne'ōhe Bay by the general public, marine research programs, and commercial ocean use activities, including legislative matters. Membership on the Council includes government officials, area neighborhood board members, and individuals representing user groups of the Bay.

Mr. Peltier is a public policy advocate with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and has a background in native Hawaiian law and policy. The Department welcomes the expertise and perspective that Mr. Peltier will bring to the Kāne'ōhe Bay Regional Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support on the confirmation of Mr. Letani Peltier to serve on the Kāne'ōhe Bay Regional Council.

**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



**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 686, Letani Peltier**  
**Kane'ohe Bay Regional Council**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to offer strong support for Governor Message 686, Letani Peltier. This message is submitted for consideration and confirmation to the Kane'ohe Bay Regional Council for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

**Participants in the Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) of the Ko'olaupoko Moku, Kakuhihewa (Island of O'ahu) supports this submittal.**

Pursuant to Act 208, SLH 1990, the Legislature established the Kane'ohe Bay Master Plan with oversight of the Kane'ohe Bay Regional Council (KBRC). This Master Plan recognized the fundamental and deep-rooted value of Kane'ohe Bay, apart from its special natural resource to include the value of the cultural and traditional Hawaiian participation in the protection and preservation of the Bay.

To be a member of the Kane'ohe Bay Regional Council, one must be able to understand the relationship of nine of the eleven ahupua'a of Ko'olaupoko - Mokapu, Kane'ohe, He'eia, Kahalu'u, Waihe'e, Ka'alaea, Waihole, Waikane, Hakipu'u – that impact, and is impacted by the Kane'ohe Bay.

Letani Peltier is a generational and lineal descendant of He'eia Ahupua'a. He has been raised to know and love the waters of Kane'ohe Bay. He also knows the distinct characteristics of each ahupua'a and how, as they connect to the Kane'ohe Bay, they contribute to the irreplaceable qualities that make the Bay exceptional. Mr. Peltier will protect and preserve the distinctive ecosystem of Kane'ohe Bay for future generations.

Aha Moku supports Letani Peltier as a member of the Kane'ohe Bay Regional Council and urges this Committee to confirm Governor Message 686.

Respectfully yours,

Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, Ka Mea Ho'okumu, Email: [kahalelehua@outlook.com](mailto:kahalelehua@outlook.com)  
Rocky Kaluhiwa, Kahu Nui O Kakuhihewa, Email: [rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com](mailto:rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com),  
Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i, Email: [Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov](mailto:Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov)

Hawaii State Aha Moku

**GM-686**

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 11:39:04 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>
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and member of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I submit this testimony in strong support for the nomination of Letani Peltier as the OHA representative to the KÄ• ne'ohē Bay Regional Council.

I have know Mr. Peltier sometime now and feel he would be an excellent candidate not just because of the strengths he brings as an advocate for OHA but for his long time connections to KÄ• ne'ohē as a hoā'Ä• ina descendant and for his life spent growing up in the ahupua'a and moku. I have also seen Mr Peltier grow as an attorney and leader for his community and believe he would bring all these qualities to the forefront of this specific public service.

I strongly support his nomination and encourage you to do so as well.

Aloha Aina Momona

Kevin

**GM-686**

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 12:53:25 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>
Lu Ann Faborito	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Letani shows is passion, knowledge, and commitment to issues and matters relating to our aina and is a great resource.

  
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai  
Legislative Testimony

**GM686**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Kane‘ohe Bay Regional Council,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, LETANI PELTIER, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Wai a me ka ‘Āina  
Senate Committee on Water and Land

‘Apelila 14, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Lumi 229

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM686, which would confirm OHA public policy advocate Letani Peltier as the OHA representative on the Kāne‘ohe Bay Regional Council (KBRC). Mr. Peltier is highly qualified to serve on the KBRC because of his personal ties to Kāne‘ohe Bay, his familiarity with the relevant issues and stakeholders, and his background in law and public policy.

Mr. Peltier’s personal familiarity with Kāne‘ohe Bay stems from his deep lineal ties to He‘eia as well as several other ahupua‘a that abut the bay. Kāne‘ohe Bay has always been, and continues to be, an important region for his ‘ohana. Growing up in He‘eia, Mr. Peltier has gone swimming, fishing, diving, and boating in the Bay throughout his life. He is also familiar with the many issues that affect the Bay and that come up regularly in KBRC meetings such as illegal commercial operations, inappropriate activities on Ahu O Laka, poaching, and aquatic invasive species.

Mr. Peltier’s background in law and public policy will also be an asset to the KBRC. Because of his legal training, he understands the state’s fiduciary duty to protect public trust resources and he is familiar with the statutes and administrative laws that operate to protect Kāne‘ohe Bay as well as regulate fishing, boating, and commercial activities. Because of his background in public policy, he understands how to navigate the legislative and administrative processes to advocate for our natural and cultural resources, an essential component of the KBRC’s work.

OHA believes that Mr. Peltier’s personal and professional experiences will make him a valuable member to the KBRC. Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM686. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony.



# KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

April 5, 2021

To: Gov. David Ige  
& Members, Hawai`i State Legislature

Subject: Support for Letani Peltier – Kane`ohe Bay Regional Council Nominee

Aloha Governor Ige and Honorable Members of the Hawai`i State Legislature:

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club wishes to express their support for the appointment of Letani Peltier to serve on the Kane`ohe Bay Regional Council for the new term which begins July 1, 2021.

Letani is from He`eia, O`ahu, where he still lives with his `ohana – one that has very deep roots there going back many generations. His knowledge of the area is extremely broad, and he demonstrates his dedication to preserving its resources through his many volunteer activities. To those organizations he brings the knowledge and skills developed in his legal education at the John Richardson School of Law. For these reasons he would be a very valuable addition to the Council.

We urge you, and the members of the Legislature, to give positive consideration to his appointment to the Kane`ohe Bay Regional Council.

Mahalo piha,

Cheryl Prince, Secretary  
Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

[Prince.of.kailua@gmail.com](mailto:Prince.of.kailua@gmail.com)

*The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is one of the largest in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs nationwide. Ko`olaupoko HCC is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians and providing leadership and scholarships. Its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart."*

**GM-686**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 5:02:40 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>
Mo Radke	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Lentani Peltier is an excellent representative of issues and actions relating to Kaneohe Bay. I serve with Letani on the Kaneohe Neoghorhood Board and he is thoughtful, informative, and respectful in his dealings with the board and the community. Mr. Peltier is an outstanding candidate to serve in this capacity.

I support his appointment to the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council.

**GM-686**

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 12:36:50 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>
Olan Leimomi Fisher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Although I did not grow up in Kane'ohe, my papa's mom (my great-grandma) was from the Lulani area, as was her family before her since time immemorial, and my papa (and therefore my mom) grew up fishing and spending lots of time in the bay and surrounding ahupua'a. My sister also worked at Paepae o He'eia for a few years. As such, I still feel a strong connection & aloha for the Kane'oha area. I strongly support Letani Peltier's nomination to the Kane'ohe Bay Regional Council, considering his deep ancestral & personal ties to He'eia, professional legal background, and especially his commitment to ensuring the abundance of this place for future generations.

Me ka 'oia'i'o no,

Olan Leimomi Fisher (Mililani, O'ahu)



**GM-686**

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 7:28:04 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>
Leatrice Maluhia Kauahi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of Letani Peltier for a term to expire 06-30-2023 to the Kane'ohē Bay Regional Council, as a Gubernatorial Nominee. As Letani's resume discloses her deep ties to He'eia as well as several other ahupua'a that abut Kane'ohē Bay is a tremendous support and much-needed experience to serve on the council. Her qualification as an attorney that has focused primarily on issues relating to Native Hawaiian and environmental law and understands the state's fiduciary duty to protect public trust resources provides the PEOPLE of Kane'ohē and Hawai'i with a very qualified Native Hawaiian to serve and want to serve. You have an opportunity to do what is best for Kane'ohē Bay Regional Council. Mahalo.

**GM-686**

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 6:41:21 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>
Lilia Hao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of Nominee Letani Peltier. I know Letani personally and am confident he will represent our region of Kaneohe effectively and with honor. Please accept my vote of support for this handsome man, Letani.

Mahalo,

Lilia Hao

**GM-686**

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 9:02:54 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>
April L Kealoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

support for Letani Peltier a keiki o ka aina of Haiku, Kaneohe

-April kealoha

Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie, Esq.  
579 Kāne‘apu Place ♦ Kailua, Hawai‘i 96734

Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Chair, Lorraine R. Inouye  
Vice-Chair, Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran  
Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.

**Testimony in Support of GM 686 - Confirmation of Letani Peltier  
to Serve on the Kāne‘ohe Bay Regional Council**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I write to express my **strong support** for the confirmation of Letani Peltier to serve on the Kāne‘ohe Bay Regional Council (KBRC). I am the Founding Director of Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law and a Professor Emerita at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I have known Letani for almost six years, first as a student and then as a Legal Fellow with Ka Huli Ao.

Letani’s skills, ability, character, and contributions to both the Law School community and the greater Native Hawaiian community, show his commitment to service. In addition to being an outstanding student, he also found time to take on the responsibility as one of the alaka‘i of the ‘Ahaui o Hawai‘i, the law student organization advocating for Native Hawaiian justice. Letani was a member of the Law School’s Native American Moot Court team and became one of the team’s advisors as a Fellow at Ka Huli Ao. He also was instrumental in ensuring the success of Ka Huli Ao’s Law School Admission Test (LSAT) preparation program, targeted to help non-traditional students and students from underrepresented communities, succeed on the LSAT. Letani co-taught Federal Indian Law with me in 2019 and he was an excellent co-teacher. Since I had a relatively heavy workload during that semester, Letani was willing to step-up and take over the lead on some classes or to switch off classes to make it easier for me. He also is a very straightforward person, willing to talk through concerns about students and their work product, as well as be direct (but kind) with the students.

Most importantly, Letani has deep ties to He‘eia as well as several other ahupua‘a that abut Kāne‘ohe Bay. Letani grew up in He‘eia and is intimately familiar with Kāne‘ohe Bay and with the issues that affect the bay and that come up regularly in KBRC meetings. His ancestor, Nakuea, would perform hula on Ahu O Laka in honor of visiting ali‘i, and his great, great grandfather was the konohiki of He‘eia, helping to manage its resources, including Kāne‘ohe Bay, and overseeing disputes between users. Thus, his ‘ohana has always had a kuleana for responsible stewardship of our natural and cultural resources. He understands how the ahupua‘a functions as a whole and the importance of ensuring abundance for future generations. Finally, as an attorney focused primarily on issues relating to Native Hawaiian and environmental law, Letani understands the state’s fiduciary duty to safeguard public trust resources and the legal framework that operates to protect Kāne‘ohe Bay and regulate activities in the bay.

Letani is a young man of great ability and character with a strong work ethic. He is an articulate, capable, and accomplished young man and will bring his knowledge and experience to bear as a member of the KBRC. Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony in **strong support** of GM 686 to confirm Letani Peltier to sit on the Kāne‘ohe Bay Regional Council.

**GM-686**

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 11:01:17 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>
Melissa Pavlicek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Melissa Pavlicek. I am an attorney and small business owner in Honolulu. I am writing to support Letani Peltier's nomination to the Kane'ohe Bay Regional Council. Through work I am doing to promote ocean and environmental stewardship I have become familiar with Letani's deep knowledge, legal acumen, passion for community service, and dedication to making Hawaii a better place. His service would be an asset to the council. Please support his nomination.

**GM-686**

Submitted on: 4/12/2021 5:05:19 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>
jonna napuunoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I've known Letani Peltier for many years and have always admired his strong work ethics.

**GM-686**

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 8:30:50 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 Agouron and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to STRONGLY SUPPORT the confirmation to the Kane'ohē Bay Regional Council of, Gubernatorial Nominee, LETANI PELTIER. I am a resident of Kahalu'u on O'ahu and what happens to Kane'ohē Bay matters a lot to me and my family.

Mr. Peltier is comes from He'eia and is a lineal descendant of families from this area and ahupua'a that abut KĀ• ne'ohē Bay. Indeed, his great-great-grandfather, Ulysses Henry Jones, was the konohiki of He'eia; he was responsible for helping to manage its resources, including KĀ• ne'ohē Bay, and overseeing disputes between users. Thus, his 'ohana has always had a kuleana to ensure that our natural and cultural resources are properly stewarded and this will be the foundation upon which he will conduct himself in the Council.

Moreover, he is familiar with the contemporary issues that affect the bay and that come up regularly in KBRC meetings - illegal commercial operators, inappropriate activities on Ahu O Laka, feral cat colonies at the pier, poaching, etc. Mr. Peltier also has the expertise to understand legislative and administrative processes and advocate for our resources. As an attorney that has focused primarily on issues relating to Native Hawaiian and environmental law, I understand the state's fiduciary duty to protect public trust resources. I am also familiar with the legal framework that operates to protect KĀ• ne'ohē Bay and that regulates activities in the bay.

I am confident that he will do a good job.

Mahalo, Rosie Alegado





**GM-686**

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 9:07:16 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>
Michele McCoy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I submit strong support for this nominee.

Mr. Pettier is clearly well qualified for this seat and as a kama'aina of He'eia, he has a meaningful connection to the ahu'pua'a. He has already shown that he is well versed in issues the community faces, especially regarding the many environmental and cultural concerns for Kane'ohe Bay.

I ask that you confirm this skilled nominee and allow him to continue his meaningful contribution to his kulaiwi through the Kane'ohe Bay Regional Council.

Mahalo

**GM-686**

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 9:13:21 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>
Jen Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass GM686 to confirm Letani Peltier for Kane'ohē Bay Regional Council.

Mahalo,

Jen J.

**GM-686**

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 11:26:29 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>
Viliami Tauatevalu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Letani Peltier would be a great addition to the Kane'ohē Bay Regional Council. His kindness, yet fierce dedication for justice is what makes him a great leader. I know that he will be a great advocate for this community.

**GM-686**

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 12:18:34 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>
A. Uilani Tanigawa Lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kua,

I **strongly support** the nomination of Letani Peltier to serve on the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council. With deep ties to Ko'olaupoko, Letani offers a wealth of knowledge and is familiar with the issues that affect this community. He also intimately understands this ahupua'a and its operation as a shining example of ma uka to ma kai connectivity. In fact, his ohana has engaged in cultural practices in and around Kaneohe for generations. Importantly, as an experienced attorney, Letani is also familiar with navigating the legislative and administrative processes to help advocate for our resources. His service would be an asset to the Council, and ultimately, our larger community.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Letani Peltier.

Uilani Tanigawa Lum



Committee on Water and Land  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Pō‘akolu, ‘Apelila 14, 2021  
Via Leka  
Ke Kapikala Moku‘āina  
415 South Beretānia Street

GM 686 nominating Mr. Letani Peltier, Esq. for appointment to the Kāne‘ohe Bay Regional Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2023.

Aloha Luna Ho‘omalua Lorraine Inouye, Hope Luna Ho‘omalua Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

I write on behalf of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in wholehearted support of Governor's Message 686 nominating Mr. Letani Peltier, Esq. to the Kāne‘ohe Bay Regional Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2023. Mr. Peltier, a kama‘āina of He‘eia serves the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs as the president of the King Kamehameha Hawaiian Civic Club. Mr Peltier’s experience in community advocacy and as a member of the Kāne‘ohe Neighborhood Board will lend well to his role as a member of the Regional Council.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu; the Association was formally organized in April of 1959; and has grown to a confederation of sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai‘i and the United States. The Association is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

Mahalo for allowing us to share our mana‘o and to assert the Association support of the nomination of Mr. Letani Peltier for appointment to the Kāne‘ohe Bay Regional Council.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hailama VKK Farden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hailama VKK Farden  
Pelekikena