

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO- GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

APRIL 14, 2021

1:00 P.M.

Via VIDEOCONFERENCE

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 753

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE MOLOKA'I
IRRIGATION SYSTEM WATER USERS ADVISORY BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, FAITH TUIPULOTU, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2024.**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

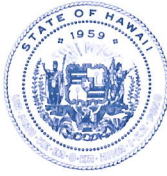
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 753 nominating Faith Tuipulotu to the Moloka'i Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board.

The department strongly supports her nomination. Ms. Tuipulotu earned Associates in Science degrees from the University of Hawaii Maui College, Kaunakakai. Since 2000, she has been employed by the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources (CTAHR) Cooperative Extension Service in Hoolehua. In addition, she previously worked as an agricultural technician for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, as well as a landscaper for Outrigger Hotels and Resorts. She is the current President of the Moloka'i Homestead Farmers Alliance and the Moloka'i Lanai Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

Ms. Tuipulotu has the professional experience and knowledge of the Molokai`i irrigation system and she will be a great asset to the board.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.





HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 13, 2021

Testimony on **GM 753**
Confirmation of **FAITH TUIPULOTU**
Moloka'i Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board
Representative Lynn DeCoite

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, April 14, 2021
1:00pm, Via Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members:

I respectfully request your full **support** in confirming the appointment of FAITH TUIPULOTU to serve on the Moloka'i Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board. A role she has been successfully serving in this past year.

Faith Tuipulotu, from the Island of Moloka'i, has dedicated herself to the betterment of Agriculture in Hawai'i, through her many accomplishments and contributions to farming, conventional and organic, on Moloka'i and across the entire State of Hawai'i.

Faith's diverse agriculture rich background also gives her a vast background in water, the use of water and the need to responsibly manage water for the benefit of all users. Faith knows "Water is Life", living this mantra every day as she tends to her duties as a CHTAR Agricultural Technician IV, works the land and crops on her families organic farm, and serves the organic farming community as a Certified Organic Inspector, she sets an example for all of us.

Faith's dedication to the success and betterment of agriculture and water use is matched only by her commitment to her community. Serving as the President of the Moloka'i Homestead Farmers Alliance and as the President of the Moloka'i Lanai Soil and Water Conservation District, Faith understands the need for communication within her community. Faith has seen what a lack of communication has done to the MIS Board and the community. Her desire to bridge this divide and serve on this board shows that she is proactive in problem solving and has already demonstrated a commitment to do the work to carry out the duties of this position.

For these reasons and so many more, I ask for your full **support** for the confirmation of **FAITH TUIPULOTU** to serve on the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Lynn DeCoite
State House of Representative
District 13

GM-753

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 1:50:46 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
SYBIL LOPEZ	Testifying for Kalama'ula Mauka Homestead Association	Support	No

Comments:

Kalama'ula Mauka Homestead Association strongly supports the confirmation of Mrs. Faith Tuipulotu to the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board as she is a Homestead Beneficiary of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

GM-753

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 10:02:05 AM

Testimony for AEN 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 Faith Tuipulotu

GM-753

Submitted on: 4/8/2021 8:16:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support

Mahalo

I am sending my supporting testimony directly to Chairperson Senator Gabbard because the website Capitol.Hawaii has issues with registering to send testimonies.

I support the nomination of Faith (Kuoha) Tuipulotu to the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board. She comes from a long line of family members that are farming on Hawaiian Homestead land. I've served as CTAHR's Extension Agent on Molokai for more than 35 years, since 1982; post-pineapple period, and played a role in helping farmers establish a diversified agriculture industry on the Molokai.

All through this period the Kuoha family farmed their Hoolehua Homestead land and were users of the Molokai Irrigation Systems, MIS. Today the second generation of the family members including Noah, John and Faith have established their own homestead farm in Hoolehua. Faith also is the Agriculture Technician at the CTAHR's Molokai Applied Research and Demonstration Farm. At the Demonstration Farm she implemented many field applied research and demonstration projects that have contributed to improving farm productivity on Molokai.

Faith Tuipulotu is a leader in the homestead agriculture community and served in a leadership role for many years with the Molokai Farmers Alliance Group. She is well respected by her working peers and community. She is a long-time user of the MIS and is well versed with the issues with the Irrigation System. She will serve the State Department of Agriculture well as an Advisor and will represent views of the homestead farmers on the Board. For these reasons I support Faith's nomination to MIS Users Advisory Board.

Senator Mike Gabbard

Chair, Senate on Agriculture and Environment Committee

sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha, Chair, Senator Gabbard and Committee Members,

Here are my responses to the following questions:

1. After serving your first year on the commission, please share one memorable highlight?

One highlight that sticks out, is the technology that's used to control the pumps that's behind the island, from the office. That technology has been there for years and needed to be updated but, what an awesome thing, "technology".

2. What are some of your strengths that have made you successful in this role?

I am a Homestead Organic Farmer and serve as the President on the Molokai Lanai Soil and Water Conservation District and the Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance. This Advisory Board position, the different organizations I belong to, and my place of employment has made me a very community oriented person. Water is Life and being part of this Advisory Board would complete the circle for me in Agriculture.

3. What was your biggest challenge and how did you overcome it?

Personally, I can't think of a challenge. The previous Board members and the Manager would explain anything that I didn't understand. I guess just learning about the Molokai Irrigation System and how it works.

The biggest challenge for the Board itself, is trying to recruit Board members.

4. What are the priorities you accomplished and what is your vision for the next term?

If I remember correctly, we had 3 or 4 meetings; we didn't have quorum in some of those meetings and then COVID hit.

My vision for the next term is to help fill the vacancies on the Board, help the department to reach their goals, and learn more about MIS so that questions that I hear from the community can be answered.

Thank you,

Faith Tuipulotu