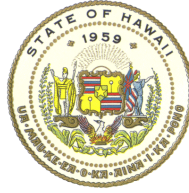


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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**

**Monday, March 21, 2022
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 229

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 683
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
AIMEE KELI'I BARNES FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2025**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 683 nominating Aimee Keli'i Barnes to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) for a term to expire on June 30, 2025.

Ms. Barnes brings nearly 20 years of experience working at the intersection of climate, energy and environmental issues in California, Hawai'i and internationally. Her educational background, business and entrepreneurial knowledge will serve the Board well as it faces the challenges of managing Hawai'i's land and natural resources amidst global climate change resulting in locally rising seas, warming oceans and coral bleaching, storms, fire, and drought.

Barnes is currently the principal of Hua Nani Partners, a small, woman-owned consulting practice that provides policy and strategy advice to nonprofit and philanthropic organizations focusing on climate change. She also serves as the Director of the Policy Lab at Elemental Excelsior, a nonprofit that supports equitable climate innovation founded in Hawai'i in 2009.

Barnes is a nationally recognized expert on climate change. Previously, she was appointed by former California Gov. Jerry Brown as a member of his senior staff, leading implementation of his climate and environmental policy agenda. In this role she was responsible for California's carbon neutrality executive order, described as "history's most ambitious climate target" at its launch.

Barnes earned her B.A. in Environmental Studies from Dartmouth College, where she was awarded a Mellon-Mays Fellowship to study Hawaiian environmentalism and cultural identity.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

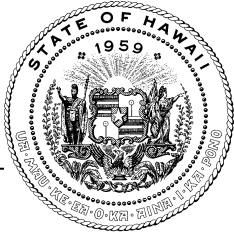
M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

She received her MPA in Environmental Science and Policy from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

Ms. Barnes will fill the O‘ahu seat and meets the qualification for expertise in Conservation and Natural Resources. She joined the board in January as an interim appointee.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department’s strong support of Governor’s Message 683, nominating Aimee Keli‘i Barnes to a seat on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:
Web:

(808) 587-3807
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Monday, March 21, 2022
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

SUPPORT
**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 683, AIMEE BARNES
TO THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
(Written Testimony Only)**

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, I am writing in support of the appointment of Ms. Barnes to serve on the Board of the Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

Ms. Barnes, as evidenced by her resume, brings a globally recognized expertise to conservation, natural resource management, and climate change that can benefit Hawaii greatly. I have had the honor and pleasure to work with her over the past five years through her work with California Governor Jerry Brown, the U.S. Climate Alliance, the Global Climate Action Summit, the Under2 Coalition, and the U.N. Conference of Parties climate negotiations. Given the important role that the BLNR has in climate change mitigation and adaptation, her own expertise and her ability to draw on global experience will assist the Department and the State in navigating the climate crisis while upholding the Department's public trust obligations and various duties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**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 on Water and Land

Friday, March 21, 2022
1:00 P.M.

Support for Governor Message 683, Aimee Barnes
Board of Land and Natural Resources

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

Thank you for the opportunity to offer strong support for Governor Message 683, Aimee Barnes. This message is submitted for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for a term to expire on June 30, 2025.

Participants in the Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) supports this submittal.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku works with participants of all of the main Hawaiian Islands – Moku O Keawe (Hawai'i), Moku O Pi'ilani (Maui), Moku O Kanaloa (Kaho'olawe), Nana'i Kaula (Lana'i), Moloka'i Pule O'o (Moloka'i), Moku O Kakuhihewa (O'ahu), Manokalanipo (Kaua'i) and Ka 'Aina O Kawelonakala (Ni'ihau). We strive to bring the voices of the communities of each island, including native Hawaiian generational families of the Ahupua'a encompassed within these islands. Our foundation is based on Mahalo Ke Akua (Trust in and honor God); Mahalo I Ka'Aina (Sustain and support the lands including watersheds and ocean); and, Mahalo Na 'Iwi Hanau O Ka'Aina (Honor and Support the people born of the land).

The Aha Moku is attached administratively to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) via Act 288, SLH 2012. As such, we work closely with the divisions within DLNR on issues of natural and cultural resources. Mostly collaborative and sometimes where we must "agree to disagree", Aha Moku brings the voices of the people forward in issues that impact their cultural practices on natural resources which by law are protected. Because Aha Moku is mandated to bring these issues forward to the Chairperson of the Land Board, and to the Land Board itself, it is critically important that the Land Board is objective, fair and can honestly listen to the people.

We believe that Ms. Barnes fits the criteria needed to be a sound member of the Land Board and ask that this Committee Advise and Consent to Governor Message 683.

Respectfully yours,

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

Hawaii State Aha Moku
808-640-1214



Barnes BLNR Support Letter –

13 March 2022

The Honorable Chair Lorraine R. Inouye
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 4
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 5
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221
senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov

To the Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Aimee Barnes to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, representing the 3rd Land District.

I am the founder and Executive Director of Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN), an international membership network of 1400+ professionals and women's associations from 114 countries. Established in 2004, our goal is to advance the role of women and gender in agricultural and natural resource management. Like Ms. Barnes, I am based in Kailua Kona, where I am engaged in supporting climate resilience and agricultural innovation for women farmers of Hawai'i County in addition to leading gender equality and climate work around the globe.

Aimee is a nationally recognized climate expert who brings nearly 20 years' experience working on climate and sustainability issues across the public, private and non-profit sectors. She understands the imperative to act on climate, and the important role BLNR has to play in helping the state meet its ambitious climate goals, including through conservation of our natural and working lands, which serve as a significant carbon sink.

She is a collaborative leader who sees Hawaii as a beacon of climate and sustainability leadership for the world. She is able to tackle complex challenges, build strong relationships, respect and trust, and is committed to ensuring that all stakeholders have an equal voice and seat at the table.

Climate Expertise – Aimee’s professional experience makes her well prepared to serve on the Land Board. She currently serves as Director of the Policy Lab at Elemental Excelerator and runs a small consulting practice, Hua Nani Partners. Previously, as senior advisor on climate change to California Governor Jerry Brown, she built coalitions to advance climate ambition, including helping to launch the US Climate Alliance – a bipartisan group of 25 states committed to the Paris Agreement. Aimee was also responsible for the Executive Order committing California to carbon neutrality by 2045 – one of the most ambitious targets of its kind, which was inspired by Hawai’i’s Executive Order to achieve negative emissions by 2045. From this experience she has developed a deep understanding of effective climate policy, as well as the capacity to work with diverse communities to find common ground even on issues rife with challenges and conflict.

Background in Public Service - In addition to Aimee’s climate policy experience, she has a strong background in public policy and public service more broadly – from the local to national level. She has served on and managed boards and commissions and understands board procedures and requirements for transparency, impartiality, and the importance of being able to impartially represent the public interest. Her work has spanned from city level Commissions, to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) committee work, to national organizations. Currently she serves on the board of Dartmouth’s Irving Institute and Independent Diplomat. A cancer survivor, Aimee also founded and runs a non-profit, Bright Spot Network, which supports young families facing cancer while raising small children.

Understanding of climate-related economic development and diversification opportunities – Aimee currently serves as the Director of Elemental Excelerator’s Policy Lab and runs a small consulting practice, Hua Nani Partners. In both roles, she has built a solid understanding of what it takes to build a strong and sustainable economy, not only at the policy level, but also in practice. Aimee also founded Powerwomen, which supports getting more women into the climate workforce, and she works with FoundHer, a mentorship program for women entrepreneurs in Hawai’i, where she is partnered with Polipoli Farms, a Hawaiian-run farm in the Waiehu foothills of Maui.

Rooted in Hawai’i – Aimee’s commitment to improving our environment and the human condition is rooted in her Native Hawaiian culture. Born and raised in California, she was called home to serve the people of Hawaii and our ‘āina. She and her husband are raising their children, ages 3 and 7, in Kailua.

Ms. Barnes understands the critical role agriculture and natural resource management plays in the State. Her experience demonstrates a strong understanding of the contributions of natural and working lands to addressing the climate crisis in Hawai’i. Likewise, she understands the importance of lifting up, engaging, and convening with diverse stakeholders including those representing agriculture, conservation, women and gender issues, environmental justice, native Hawaiian issues, and others.

As a Native Hawaiian woman, Ms. Barnes brings the lived experience of Hawai’i’s environment to her work. In both a personal and professional context, she is deeply engaged in the community here. She will bring a critical perspective to help the BLNR more effectively serve the needs of all

communities, including and especially minority and historically underserved communities, women, and those working in agriculture and natural resource management.

I believe that Aimee's experience, deep climate expertise, commitment to Hawai'i, and values will position her to be a great fit to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I strongly recommend Ms. Barnes to the Board of BLNR and hope you will fully support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeannette D. Gurung". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Jeannette Gurung, PhD
Founder and Executive Director
Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)
77-6412 Kepano Place, Kailua Kona, HI 96740
www.wocan.org

Cc:

The Honorable David Ige, Governor of Hawai'i
The Honorable Suzanne Case, Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources
Ms. Aimee Barnes, Board of Land and Natural Resources Nominee

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 4:48:08 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/21/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Kealoha	Testifying for Hawaii Energy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Brian Kealoha and I am the Executive Director of Hawaii Energy. Hawaii Energy is in full support of Aimee Barnes to serve on the State Board of Land and Natural Resources. Aimee's experience in climate, energy and sustainability, spanning the state, federal and international levels, and the public, private, and non-profit sectors will be of significant value to the BLNR. Her extensive experience working as a senior advisor to California Governor Brown led to the launch of the US Climate Alliance which Hawaii is now a part of. Aimee's leadership will only enhance the BLNR and provide a valuable perspective to preserve Hawaii's natural resources. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

18 March 2022

The Honorable Chair Lorraine R. Inouye
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 4
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 5
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221
senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov

To the Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Aimee Barnes to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, representing the 3rd Land District.

In addition to my role as CEO of Alexander & Baldwin, I serve on the advisory board of The Nature Conservancy Hawaii Program, having formerly served as TNC's Board chair, and currently chair the Climate Change Task Force of the Hawaii Executive Collaborative.

Having worked with Aimee in the context of the climate change task force, I admire her expertise in and commitment to matters related to climate and sustainability. Her nearly 20 years of experience working on climate and sustainability issues across the public, private and non-profit sectors give her important perspective for the role BLNR must play in helping the state meet its ambitious climate goals, including through conservation of our natural and working lands, which serve as a significant carbon sink.

Aimee is a collaborative leader who sees Hawaii as a beacon of climate and sustainability leadership for the world. She can tackle complex challenges, build strong relationships, respect and trust, and is committed to ensuring that all stakeholders have an equal voice and seat at the table.

I believe that Aimee's experience, deep climate expertise, commitment to Hawai'i, and values will position her to be a great fit to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I/we hope you will fully support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Benjamin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Benjamin
President & CEO, Alexander & Baldwin, Inc.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

March 21, 2022, 1:00 P.M.

Conference Room 229 & Video Conference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 683

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee members:

I'm writing in **support of the nomination of Aimee Barnes to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.**

As the climate crisis becomes increasingly stark, we need strong and collaborative leaders to guide our state toward a sustainable and equitable future. Aimee is a recognized leader on climate policy and has a long history of building relationships and tackling complex challenges with respect and trust. This can be seen in her current work as the Director of the Policy Lab at Elemental Excelsior and in her consulting practice. Prior to these roles, Aimee was a senior advisor on climate change to California Governor Jerry Brown. In that role, she built coalitions to advance climate action and helped launch the U.S. Climate Alliance—a bipartisan group of 25 states committed to the goals of the Paris Agreement. These skills and experiences would serve her well on the Board of Land and Natural Resources, which plays a central role in helping Hawai'i meet its ambitious climate goals through the conservation of our natural and working lands that serve as important carbon sinks.

In addition to her climate policy experience, Aimee has a strong background in public policy and public service generally, both locally and nationally. Locally, she volunteers her time in many ways to support efforts that help create a resilient future for Hawai'i. As one example, I've had the honor of working with Aimee in her capacity as an Advisory Board member of Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE). WiRE is a Hawaii-based nonprofit that offers a forum to empower professional women working in clean energy—a largely male-dominated field.

Rooted in her Native Hawaiian values, Aimee cares deeply about Hawai'i and devotes her personal and professional life to helping ensure a resilient and sustainable future for our islands. She would bring with her to this position demonstrated experience and expertise on climate and sustainability and an enduring commitment to Hawai'i and the 'āina. I hope you will support her confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of GM 683.**

Aloha,

Melissa Miyashiro

Executive Director, Blue Planet Foundation

Board Member, Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE)



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

March 21, 2022

1:00 PM

CCR229

Offering **COMMENTS** on

GM683

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, AIMEE BARNES, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

GM686

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, WESLEY YOON, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

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

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i offers the following **COMMENTS** on the nominees to the Board of Land and Natural Resources ("BLNR").

The Sierra Club appreciates the willingness of the nominated individuals to provide their time and expertise in service to the BLNR's important mission. The Sierra Club does emphasize the critical role of the BLNR in overseeing the management and protection of the lands and resources that provide the foundation of our islands' identity, social fabric, and ways of life. Accordingly, Sierra Club believes that this hearing provides a critical opportunity for the Committee, the nominees, and the general public to reflect on the nominees' knowledge, views, and commitment to make what may be difficult but necessary decisions to uphold their fiduciary and legal obligations under the constitution, statutes, and other laws of the state, with regards to our natural and cultural public trust resources and sites.

To assist in this process of reflection and assessment, the Sierra Club respectfully offers the following questions for the nominees before you today:

- 1) What expertise, knowledge, or skills do you possess that may be relevant to fulfilling the BLNR's fiduciary and legal obligations with respect to the conservation, protection, and use of our public lands and natural and cultural resources and sites?
- 2) Should stream diverters be allowed to dewater entire streams and waste millions of gallons of water per day, due to aging and leaky irrigation and reservoir infrastructure?
- 3) Do you believe it is appropriate to issue long-term leases of ecologically or culturally significant lands and waters before DLNR staff can demonstrate sufficient expertise and capacity to provide consistent and timely oversight over lease terms and conditions?

- 4) What is your position on community-based fisheries management approaches, and should greater weight be given to the testimonies of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practitioners and subsistence community members than outsiders who do not have a daily connection with the resources of their place?
- 5) What steps should the DLNR take to address the recommendations of the 2019 Audit of the Land Division's Special Land and Development Fund, which found a lack of an overarching plan for the Land Division's public land inventory, a lack of staff expertise and capacity to administer industrial and commercial leases, an overreliance on ground leases rather than more lucrative space leases in disposing of revenue-generating lands, and a lack of transparency and accountability, among other deficiencies, leading to significant opportunity costs to the DLNR and its mission?
- 6) Do you believe that the aquarium collection industry should be subject to stricter regulations based on evolving science regarding climate change impacts on our coral reef ecosystem, and the application of the precautionary principle?
- 7) What strategies should the BLNR employ to discourage shoreline hardening and encourage strategic retreat to mitigate the loss of our beaches and coastal areas?

The Sierra Club hopes and strongly believes that these questions will provide a much-needed understanding of the value that the nominees may bring to the BLNR, as it carries out its kuleana concerning matters of critical importance over the next several years.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.



March 21, 2022

The Honorable Chair Lorraine R. Inouye
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 4
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 5
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221
senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov

To the Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Aimee Barnes to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, representing the 3rd Land District.

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider maintains a network of over 150 chapters and academic clubs nationwide, including 4 chapters in the Hawaiian Islands. The Surfrider Foundation focuses on many aspects of the environment such as coastal protection, plastic pollution, and water quality.

With our work in the coastal zone, Surfrider Foundation is acutely aware of the negative, climate change-induced impacts that face our coastlines in the coming years. We need experts on the BLNR who are understanding of these impacts and willing to support our shoreline environment, beaches, and coastal waters. We thus support Aimee's appointment as she is a nationally recognized climate expert who brings nearly 20 years' experience working on climate and sustainability issues across the public, private and non-profit sectors. She understands the imperative to act on climate, and the important role BLNR has to play in helping the state meet its ambitious climate goals, including through conservation of our natural and working lands, which serve as a significant carbon sink.

In addition, Aimee is a collaborative leader who sees Hawai'i as a beacon of climate and sustainability leadership for the world. She is able to tackle complex challenges, build strong relationships, respect and trust, and is committed to ensuring that all stakeholders have an equal voice and seat at the table. Aimee has furthermore served on and managed boards and commissions and understands board procedures and requirements for transparency, impartiality, and the importance of being able to impartially represent the public interest. Her work has spanned from city level Commissions, to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) committee work, to national organizations. Currently she serves on the board of Dartmouth's Irving Institute and Independent Diplomat.



Surfrider Foundation believes that Aimee's experience, deep climate expertise, commitment to Hawai'i, and values will position her to be a great fit to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. We hope you will fully support her confirmation.

Sincerely,
Camile Cleveland
Volunteer Policy Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation, O'ahu Chapter

Cc:
The Honorable David Ige, Governor of Hawai'i
The Honorable Suzanne Case, Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources
Ms. Aimee Barnes, Board of Land and Natural Resources Nominee

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 1:32:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/21/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chip Fletcher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aimee Barnes is a committed advocate for land protection, climate action, and community resilience. Her international experience in climate policy, climate change impacts, resilience and adaptation make her an excellent candidate for the BLNR. I strongly support her nomination to the Land Board.

Mark B. Glick

13 March 2022

Testimony of Mark B. Glick
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Monday, March 21, 2022
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
in consideration of
GM 683
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board
of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee,
AIMEE BARNES, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate
Committee on Water and Land,

I am pleased to offer my strong support for the confirmation of Aimee Barnes to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I first became aware of Aimee's considerable skills and leadership shortly after I joined the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute when she helped establish the US Climate Alliance as a senior advisor on climate change to California Governor Jerry Brown. The US Climate Alliance was an extremely important bipartisan coalition of states committed to the Paris Agreement in 2017, showing resolve when many in the nation and world were concerned over the future of climate actions in the face of the unfortunate federal policy at the time.

I witnessed her considerable skills firsthand when she helped coordinate the Climate Governance subcommittee of an Energy and Environment Committee that was formed to explore and develop day-one and 100-day actions under a prospective Biden Administration. During that time, we worked together on a Climate Federalism working group to devise processes by which states, cities, and tribes best work with the federal government to maximize climate-friendly actions.

Page Two
GM 683 Testimony
13 March 2022

These are invaluable insights and experiences she would bring to BLNR in aligning federal and state actions to achieve the greatest climate impact and pursuing smart strategies and leveraged resources. Such strategies in which she is highly qualified to help lead are considerations for using our state lands as a carbon sink or to better understand the broad potential for sequestration.

I have been impressed with her deep understanding of and commitment to Hawaii's values, including the importance of the State's leadership in climate and sustainability. Importantly, Aimee is not intimidated by difficult and complex challenges and has earned the respect and trust of a wide variety of stakeholders, while embracing diversity, equity and inclusion.

Her professional career is distinguished with senior roles and effective leadership, including directing a new and innovative Policy Lab at Elemental Excelsior and managing her consulting firm, Hua Nani Partners. BLNR would greatly benefit from Aimee's climate and broad policy experience, her dedication to improve and protect Hawaii's cultural, waters, and lands, and her values and work ethic.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of Aimee Barnes confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Barnes BLNR Support Letter

March 14, 2022

The Honorable Chair Lorraine R. Inouye
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 4
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 5
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221
senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov

To the Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Aimee Barnes to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, representing the 3rd Land District.

Aimee is a nationally recognized climate expert who brings nearly 20 years' experience working on climate and sustainability issues across the public, private and non-profit sectors. She understands the imperative to act on climate, and the important role BLNR has to play in helping the state meet its ambitious climate goals, including through conservation of our natural and working lands, which serve as a significant carbon sink.

Aimee is a collaborative leader who sees Hawaii as a beacon of climate and sustainability leadership for the world. She is able to tackle complex challenges, build strong relationships, respect and trust, and is committed to ensuring that all stakeholders have an equal voice and seat at the table.

Aimee's professional experience makes her well prepared to serve on the Land Board. She currently serves as Director of the Policy Lab at Elemental Excelerator and runs a small consulting practice, Hua Nani Partners. Previously, as senior advisor on climate change to California Governor Jerry Brown, she built coalitions to advance climate ambition, including helping to launch the US Climate Alliance – a bipartisan group of 25 states committed to the Paris Agreement. Aimee was also responsible for the Executive Order committing California to carbon neutrality by 2045 – one of the most ambitious targets of its kind, which was inspired by Hawai'i's Executive Order to achieve negative emissions by 2045. From this experience she has developed a deep understanding of effective climate policy, as well as the capacity to work with diverse communities to find common ground even on issues rife with challenges and conflict.

In addition to Aimee's climate policy experience, she has a strong background in public policy and public service more broadly – from the local to national level. She has served on and managed boards and commissions and understands board procedures and requirements for transparency, impartiality, and the importance of being able to impartially represent the public interest. Her work has spanned from city level Commissions, to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) committee work, to national organizations. Currently she serves on the board of Dartmouth's Irving Institute and Independent Diplomat. A cancer survivor, Aimee also founded and runs a non-profit, Bright Spot Network, which supports young families facing cancer while raising small children.

Aimee currently serves as the Director of Elemental Excelsior's Policy Lab and runs a small consulting practice, Hua Nani Partners. In both roles, she has built a solid understanding of what it takes to build a strong and sustainable economy, not only at the policy level, but also in practice. Aimee also founded Powerwomen, which supports getting more women into the climate workforce, and she works with FoundHer, a mentorship program for women entrepreneurs in Hawai'i, where she is partnered with Polipoli Farms, a Hawaiian-run farm in the Waiehu foothills of Maui.

Aimee's commitment to improving our environment and the human condition is rooted in her Native Hawaiian culture. Born and raised in California, she was called home to serve the people of Hawaii and our 'āina. She and her husband are raising their children, ages 3 and 7, in Kailua.

I believe that Aimee's experience, deep climate expertise, commitment to Hawai'i, and values will position her to be a great fit to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I hope you will fully support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Turnbull', written in a cursive style.

Paul Turnbull, Ph.D.

Cc:

The Honorable David Ige, Governor of Hawai'i

The Honorable Suzanne Case, Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Ms. Aimee Barnes, Board of Land and Natural Resources Nominee

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 9:43:25 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/21/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lehia Apana	Testifying for Polipoli Farms	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Aimee Barnes to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, representing the 3rd Land District.

- **Aimee currently serves as the Director of Elemental Excelsior's Policy Lab and runs a small consulting practice, Hua Nani Partners. Aimee also founded Powerwomen, which supports getting more women into the climate workforce. I met Aimee through her work with FoundHer, a mentorship program for AAPI women entrepreneurs in Hawai'i. We are a Hawaiian-run farm that is growing Polynesian plants in an agroforest setting. Aimee has partnered with our farm and supports us as we grow our young farm business.**

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 2:01:37 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/21/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirstin Punu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Aimee Barnes to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Ms. Barnes is an exemplary leader, with over a decade of experience in climate, energy and sustainability. It is an understatement to say that her breadth of experience in the state, federal, public, private, non-profit and international sectors makes her a highly-qualified and exemplary candidate for this position. I have no doubt that Ms. Barnes will serve with the best interest of Hawaii and her people in mind.

SUPPORT TESTIMONY

March 14, 2022

GM683 Submitting for confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, AIMEE BARNES, for a term to expire 06-30-2025

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

Hearing: Wednesday, March 21, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

Aloha a welina mai nei e nā kau kānāwai:

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the Governor's nomination (GM 683) of Aimee Barnes to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) for a term to expire June 30, 2025.

Aimee Barnes is the ideal nominee, and I commend the advancement of her confirmation. Aimee has balanced and inclusive perspectives and is committed to the conservation, protection and sustainable use of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources that are the public trust responsibilities of the state Department of Land and Natural Resources. She is a professional who possesses advanced knowledge in effective climate policy, as well as the capacity to work with diverse communities to find common ground even on issues rife with challenges and conflict.

Aimee has a strong background in public policy and public service more broadly – from the local to national level. Her portfolio of public, private, and community service demonstrates robust qualifications for managing, administering, and exercising control over public lands, water resources, ocean waters, navigable streams, coastal areas, minerals, and all interests therein. She has served on and managed boards and commissions and understands board procedures and requirements for transparency, impartiality, and the importance of being able to impartially represent the public interest.

Critically, Aimee is a nationally recognized climate expert who brings nearly 20 years' experience working on climate and sustainability issues across the public, private and non-profit sectors. She understands the imperative to act on climate, and the important role BLNR must play in helping the state meet its ambitious climate goals, including through conservation of our natural and working lands, which serve as a significant carbon sink. Aimee's breadth of experience would bring valuable local-to-global perspective to the BLNR, such as her understanding of climate-related economic development and diversification opportunities for Hawai'i.

Aimee Barnes will be an invaluable asset to Board of Land and Natural Resources as it carries out its increasingly substantial kuleana to enhance, protect, conserve, and manage Hawai'i's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.

I urge you to support GM 683 and confirm Aimee Barnes to the BLNR.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Respectfully, me ka `oia`i`o,

Dr. L. Kealoha Fox

2nd Congressional District ● Senate District 18 ● House District 39

GM683

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:35:01 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/21/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Seu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination of Aimee Barnes to the BLNR. I first met Aimee while in my previous role at Hawaiian Electric, and firmly believe her work in sustainability and her incredible expertise on climate related matters make her an invaluable resource for the BLNR. Her deep commitment to Hawaii and our natural environment positions her perfectly to serve in this role.

Duane K. Kurisu



March 17, 2022

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221
senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov

To Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

Please accept this letter to express my support for the confirmation of Aimee Barnes to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I've interfaced with Aimee extensively in our work with the Hawaii Executive Collaborative in our Climate Repair and Sustainability Committee. She is not only bright and visionary, but she is a strategic thinker and collaborative in the way she does things.

Hawaii is very fortunate to have Aimee as part of our leadership community. She is a nationally recognized climate expert. Aimee was formerly a senior advisor on climate change to California Governor Jerry Brown. She currently runs Hua Nani Partners, a consulting practice and serves as a Director of the Policy Lab at Elemental Exceleator and volunteers for a number of non-profit initiatives.

I believe that Aimee brings balance to the Board and will be a beacon to remind ourselves of our sense of place in the things that we consider and in the decisions that we make.

Thank you for your kind consideration for the confirmation of Aimee Barnes as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duane K. Kurisu".

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 12:20:32 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/21/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nae Kaiama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the nomination of Aimee Barnes! Shes been generous in donating her time and efforts to the non profit I work for in Waimanalo. Our organization develops safe environments and provides cultural learning for keiki, opio and ohana of this community with an emphasis on MALAMA - caring for our lands and beaches whether that be cleaning up rubbish before enjoying the ocean or learning moololo and oli to pay respect to cerain places here in hawaii.

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 10:12:49 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/21/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I strongly support Gubernatorial Nominee Aimee Barnes for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Her credentials and experience are stellar and she will make significant contributions to the Board and to our state in this position.

Mahalo for your consideration.

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 6:43:55 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/21/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam ?Ohu Gon III	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the confirmation of Aimee Pua Barnes to serve on the BLNR. It is good to see a woman and a kanaka maoli on that important board.

18 March 2022

The Honorable Chair Lorraine R. Inouye
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 4
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 5
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221
senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov

To the Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Aimee Barnes to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, representing the 3rd Land District.

I lead the Climate Planning group at ICF, a global consulting firm and a recognized leader in climate, energy, and environmental planning work. I have spent over 2 decades evaluating the physical impacts of climate change on infrastructure, water resources, and sensitive ecosystems, and was a chapter author on the Hawai'i and U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands chapter of the Fourth National Climate Assessment. I recently led efforts to develop Climate Ready O'ahu (a climate risk assessment and adaptation strategy for the City and County of Honolulu) and to update to the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan (the state's strategic sustainability and climate adaptation plan).

Aimee is a nationally recognized climate expert who brings nearly 20 years' experience working on climate and sustainability issues across the public, private and non-profit sectors. She understands the imperative to act on climate, and the important role BLNR has to play in helping the state meet its ambitious climate goals, including through conservation of our natural and working lands, which serve as a significant carbon sink.

Aimee's professional experience makes her well-prepared to serve on the Land Board. She currently serves as Director of the Policy Lab at Elemental Excelerator and runs a small consulting practice, Hua Nani Partners. Previously, as senior advisor on climate change to California Governor Jerry Brown, she built coalitions to advance climate ambition, including helping to launch the US Climate Alliance – a bipartisan group of 25 states committed to the Paris Agreement. Aimee was also responsible for the Executive Order committing California to carbon neutrality by 2045 – one of the most ambitious targets of its kind, which was inspired by Hawai'i's Executive Order to achieve negative emissions by 2045. From this experience, she has developed a deep understanding of effective climate policy, as well as the capacity to work

with diverse communities to find common ground even on issues rife with challenges and conflict.

I believe that Aimee's experience, deep climate expertise, commitment to Hawai'i, and values will position her to be a great fit to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I hope you will fully support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Asam".

Susan Asam

Cc:

The Honorable David Ige, Governor of Hawai'i

The Honorable Suzanne Case, Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Ms. Aimee Barnes, Board of Land and Natural Resources Nominee

LATE

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 9:15:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/21/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Rocha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Barnes BLNR Support Letter – DRAFT

20 February 2022

The Honorable Chair Lorraine R. Inouye

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Senate District 4

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210

seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Senate District 5

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221

senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov

To the Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Aimee Barnes to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, representing the 3rd Land District.

My name is Veronica Rocha. I am the Founder and Principal at Essential Leap, where I work with entities on clean energy and climate adaptation.

Paragraph or two describing the reasons for your support. Some ideas to talk about:

- Overall – Aimee is a nationally recognized climate expert who brings nearly 20 years’ experience working on climate and sustainability issues across the public, private and non-profit sectors. She understands the imperative to act on climate, and the important role BLNR has to play in helping the state meet its ambitious climate goals, including through conservation of our natural and working lands, which serve as a significant carbon sink.
- Climate Expertise – Aimee’s professional experience makes her well prepared to serve on the Land Board. She currently serves as Director of the Policy Lab at Elemental Excelerator and runs a small consulting practice, Hua Nani Partners. Previously, as senior advisor on climate change to California Governor Jerry Brown, she built coalitions to advance climate ambition, including helping to launch the US Climate Alliance – a bipartisan group of 25 states committed to the Paris Agreement. Aimee was also responsible for the Executive Order committing California to carbon neutrality by 2045 – one of the most ambitious targets of its kind, which was inspired by Hawai’i’s Executive Order to achieve negative emissions by 2045. From this experience she has developed a deep understanding of effective climate policy, as well as the capacity to work with diverse communities to find common ground even on issues rife with challenges and conflict.
- Background in Public Service - In addition to Aimee’s climate policy experience, she has a strong background in public policy and public service more broadly – from the local to national level. She has served on and managed boards and commissions and understands board procedures and requirements for transparency, impartiality, and the importance of being able to impartially represent the public interest. Her work has spanned from city level Commissions, to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) committee work, to national organizations. Currently she serves on the board of Dartmouth’s Irving Institute and Independent Diplomat. A cancer survivor, Aimee also founded and runs a non-profit, Bright Spot Network, which supports young families facing cancer while raising small children.
- Rooted in Hawai’i – Aimee’s commitment to improving our environment and the human condition is rooted in her Native Hawaiian culture. Born and raised in California, she was

called home to serve the people of Hawaii and our 'āina. She and her husband are raising their children, ages 3 and 7, in Kailua.

I believe that Aimee's experience, deep climate expertise, commitment to Hawai'i, and values will position her to be a great fit to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I/we hope you will fully support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

Veronica Rocha

Cc:

The Honorable David Ige, Governor of Hawai'i

The Honorable Suzanne Case, Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Ms. Aimee Barnes, Board of Land and Natural Resources Nominee

LATE

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:05:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/21/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Vares-Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am happy to provide testimony in support of Aimee Barnes. Her experience and commitment to Hawaii is evident in the work she has done for the committee, and is well suited to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 6:33:12 AM
Testimony for WTL on 3/21/2022 1:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Stampe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Aimee Barnes to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, representing the 3rd Land District.

I can attest to Aimee's energy, intelligence, thoughtfulness, and collaborative spirit. I know she sees Hawai'i, as do I, as a beacon of climate and sustainability leadership for the world.

I believe Hawai'i is lucky to have Aimee and am glad she is willing to serve the 'aina and the people in this way.

I believe that Aimee's experience, deep climate expertise, commitment to Hawai'i, and values will position her to be a great fit to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I hope you will fully support her confirmation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Stampe
NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) - organization listed for identification only

LATE

GM-683

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 8:10:44 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/21/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Josh Stanbro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I strongly support the confirmation of Aimee Barnes as a member of the State Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Ms. Barnes is extremely qualified for this position, with a strong working knowledge of Hawai'i conservation issues, a deep background in the climate and energy field, and an extraordinary commitment to public service. I have personally worked with Ms. Barnes for several years, and have found her commitment to Hawaii's natural resource conservation to be balanced and well-informed, her preparation and work ethic to be unparalleled, and her ability to work as a team player and facilitate agreement and discussion incredibly strong.

Hawai'i faces a gauntlet of challenging issues facing our land and natural resources due to accelerating climate change impacts, increasing tourism and public use, and the pressures of commercial development. Ms. Barnes is well-suited to serve the public in this role, given her deep background in these areas but also her ability to listen, to learn, and to weigh the benefits to the public and the protection of resources for future generations as each decision comes before the Board.

I believe that Ms. Barnes will make an excellent BLNR member, and strongly support her confirmation by this committee.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Josh Stanbro

Palolo Valley

LATE

The Honorable Chair Lorraine R. Inouye
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 4
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
seninouye@capitol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate District 5
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221
senkeithagaran@capitol.hawaii.gov

March 21, 2022

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support for Aimee Barnes' nomination to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I hesitated to submit testimony because I am often at odds with this Committee and the BLNR. I trust, however, that the Senate is committed to balancing the many interests affected by this agency, and for that reason I wanted to be counted as strongly supporting Ms. Barnes' confirmation to the BLNR.

I believe Ms. Barnes has the right kind of experience, mindset, creativity, and tenacity to help chart a better course for Hawai'i's future. As you know, I have appeared before the BLNR on many issues over the years. I have seen the BLNR set visionary land use policies with its decisions on watershed management and coastal resource protection. However, I have also seen the BLNR make major mistakes that undermine Hawai'i's move towards a more just and balanced approach to land use policy. The difference in those lines of decisions has often hinged on Board members with the experience and mindset to rectify long-standing imbalances, and the creativity and tenacity to craft workable solutions in the best interest of our unique public trust resources and the communities that rely on them. Based on her professional and personal experience, I believe Ms. Barnes would be that kind of Board member.

Ms. Barnes is a bonafide climate policymaker. For 20 years now she has worked on climate and sustainability issues across the public, private and non-profit sectors. She understands the urgent need to act on climate, and the leadership BLNR can provide as the state strives to meet its ambitious climate goals. I am excited to see how Ms. Barnes' experience can help land managers advance conservation work as carbon sequestration work.

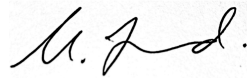
I find hope and inspiration in Ms. Barnes' track record as a collaborative problem-solver. Her resume is quite impressive. From her own personal experience with the challenges of battling

cancer while raising young children to her professional experience bridging divides in public and private sectors to expand diversity, equity, and inclusion in all decision making, Ms. Barnes has demonstrated her ability to understand complex issues and forge the alliances necessary to move her community to new levels of sustainability and resilience.

I appreciate that Ms. Barnes could bring her extensive professional expertise and relationships to any community in the world and she has chosen to bring it here to Hawai'i, the land of her ancestors. She is the fresh perspective rooted in commitment to Hawai'i's unique way of life that is necessary to lead us all through the challenges of the 21st century.

My apologies for not being able to appear in person to support Ms. Barnes confirmation. Thank you again for this opportunity to express my support in writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Townsend", is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Marti Townsend, Esq.