



**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

Monday, April 4, 2022  
1:00 P.M.

**Support for Governor Messages GM 717, GM 718, GM 719, GM 720, GM 721, GM 722, GM 723, GM 724**  
**AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to offer strong support for consideration and confirmation to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC) for:

- GM 717: Keith Robinson, Ka ‘Aina O Kawelonakala (Island of Ni‘ihau)
- GM 718: Walter Rawlins, Moloka‘i Pule O‘o (Island of Moloka‘i)
- GM 719: Robert (Kalei) Luuwai, Moku O Pi‘ilani (Island of Maui)
- GM 720: Manuel Kuloloio, Moku O Kanaloa (Island of Kaho‘olawe)
- GM 721: Frances (Rocky) Kaluhiwa, Moku O Kakuihewa, (Island of O‘ahu)
- GM 722: Charles Young, Moku O Keawe (Island of Hawai‘i)
- GM 723: Llewellyn (Billy) Kaohelaui‘I, Manokalanipo (Island of Kaua‘i)
- GM 724: Winifred (Winnie) Basques, Nana‘i Kaula (Island of Lana‘i)

**Participants in the Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku, Pae‘Aina) staunchly support these nominations.**

The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) works under the **Foundation** of:

- Malama I Ke Akua – To serve and honor our Akua (Our God);
- Malama I Ka‘Aina – To serve and honor our ‘Aina (Our lands, oceans, wetlands, water);
- Malama I Na Iwi Hanau O Ka ‘Aina – To serve and honor one another, the people born of the land.

Our **Mission** is to bring the people/Na Iwi Hanau O Ka ‘Aina and their voices and decisions forward to all policy makers regarding the sustainability and perpetuation of all natural and cultural resources connected to the Akua that created the Aina/Land, and the ‘Aina from which the Kanaka was born and the Kanaka Iwi Hanau O Ka ‘Aina.

Our **Purpose and Goals** are to serve the Akua, the ‘Aina and the Iwi Hanau O Ka ‘Aina as caretakers and stewards of all natural and cultural resources of the ae Moku Of Hawai‘i Nei with the ‘Ike and the Pono of our ancient and inherited spiritualism, order and traditions which is our Kuleana/Birthright.

The nominees understand the mandates attached to AMAC in the Aha Moku Act, Act 288, SLH 2012 – “There is established the aha moku advisory committee to be placed within the department of land and natural resources for administrative purposes. The committee may advise the chairperson of the board and natural resources in carrying out the purposes of this section. §171-4.5 Section 2. (a).

As stated in §171.4-5, (d) the AMAC may provide advice on the following:

1. Integrating indigenous resource management practices with western management practices in each moku;
2. Identifying a comprehensive set of indigenous practices for natural resource management;
3. Fostering the understanding and practical use of Native Hawaiian resource knowledge, methodology, and expertise;
4. Sustaining the State's marine, land, cultural, agricultural, and natural resources.
5. Providing community education and fostering cultural awareness on the benefits of the aha moku system;
6. Fostering protection and conservation of the State's natural resources; and
7. Developing an administrative structure that oversees the aha moku system.

A heavy kuleana for each of the nominees, but the people of each of their islands know them and respect them for their incredible generational knowledge of the natural and cultural resources. Because of this, they can, and do fulfill the mandates of the Aha Moku Act. Additionally, we respect each one for their compassion, their courage and their individual and specific love for God, their 'Aina and the Na Iwi O Hanau O Ka'Aina, the people born of the land. They share all of this with the Public Trust.

Respectfully yours,

Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, Ka Mea Ho'okumu  
Hawaii State Aha Moku  
Email: [kahalelehua@outlook.com](mailto:kahalelehua@outlook.com)  
808-382-6043

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i,  
Hawaii State Aha Moku  
Email: [Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov](mailto:Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov)  
808-640-1214



*Ko`olau Foundation*

P. O. Box 4749  
Kane`ohe, HI 96744  
malamapono744@aol.com

**LATE**

April 4, 2022

To: Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
Sen. Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Water & Land

From: Mahealani Cypher  
Ko`olau Foundation

Subject: Support for G.M. 717-Appointment of Keith Robinson to AMAC

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Agaran, and Committee Members:

The Ko`olau Foundation strongly supports the appointment of Keith Robinson to serve on the Aha Moku Advisory Committee for the State of Hawai`i.

Our Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of Hawaiian history, traditional practices, cultural landscapes and Hawaiian values. It is our hope that a renewed recognition of the importance of the Aha Moku practice of good stewardship for the `aina and natural resources will result in wiser decisions both within the Hawaiian community as well as among decision-makers in the local, state and federal governments.

In fact, it has been our great disappointment over these past few years that more support from the state government has been lacking; however, we are pleased to see that the Governor has finally brought this list of nominees forward for consideration by our State Legislature. We would like to urge that the Legislature include in its budget adequate funding for operations of the AMAC and also a proviso in your budget with language calling for the Department of Land and Natural Resources that ensures funding for this group is properly released to the executive director chosen by the Advisory Committee. This has not been the case in past years.

As for the qualifications of Keith Robinson, we hold him in high esteem as a leader for the people of Ni`ihau, and are fully confident that he will provide wise and sound advice to the State of Hawai`i – and all of its agencies, not just DLNR – on matters pertaining to stewardship of natural resources and Hawaiian cultural perspectives.

We urge your approval of his nomination to this position on the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. Mahalo for considering our mana`o.



## KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

March 30, 2022

Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Chair - Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Committee Members – Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Hawaii State Senate  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 717 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Aha Moku  
Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH  
ROBINSON, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

Aloha Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaii Civic Club is pleased to recommend confirmation of Keith Robinson to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. This Committee plays a vitally important role in preserving the natural and cultural integrity of the resources of Hawaii and Mr. Robinson is thoroughly suited to serve on the Aha Moku by relaying the generational knowledge of himself and others in his community.

We appreciate your favorable consideration and confirmation of his nomination by Gov. Ige.

Me ke aloha,

Cheryl Prince  
Secretary and Board Member

*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-717**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 10:14:37 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/4/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family and I support the confirmation of Keith Robinson to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. Thank you.