



**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
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Ko`olau Foundation

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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. 721-Appointment of Frances Kaluhiwa to AMAC

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

The Ko`olau Foundation strongly supports the appointment of Frances Leialoha “Rocky” Kaluhiwa to serve again 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 Rocky Kaluhiwa, we hold her in high esteem as a community and cultural leader, and are fully confident that she 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.

She is a member of our board of directors and our second vice president, and is currently president of the Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club. She has spent a lifetime advocating for our communities and would be a strong asset and advisor to the State of Hawai`i.

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

GM-721

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 10:13:10 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Winter	Testifying for He`eia National Estuarine Research Reserve	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I'd like to express my unequivocal support for Mrs. Kaluhiwa's nomination to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. She is a lineal descendant of He`eia, and has deep knowledge about the traditions of resource management there. She is also an active community leader, and has expansive knowledges of the challenges faced there. You really couldn't find a better candidate for the position.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Kawika Winter, PhD

Director, He`eia National Estuarine Research Reserve

GM-721

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 2:24:38 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing testimony to support the appointment of Frances Kaluhiwa to the AHA Moku as she has not only served on the Aha Moku as a volunteer and has invested many years of her own time volunteering to advise and work for our communities. Her work is so valuable and the efforts she has put forth in choosing to malama our people and aina and efforts she has put forth to restore and protect our resources and cultural/historical spaces is invaluable. You cannot teach the knowledge and teach the experience that she has gained through experience and hard work. She has a great understanding on not only legislative processes and politics, but has an even greater understanding of Hawaiian Culture, behavior, thinking, attitude and understands the importance of culture and all things native. We are in a critical intersection today, between the past and future and need to be able to move forward with both progress and preservation in mind. We have to find the proper balance and start utilizing "the Hawaiian" way of thinking or else one day, mark my words, we will lose all things Hawaiian and Hawaii will never be the same. Many of the practices and knowledge that comes with our kupa'aina and indigenous families is something we should, as people, as communities, as a state, as a nation, these families and kupuna should always be looked to for advice, guidance and mentorship. I very strongly support the appointment of F. Kaluhiwa to the AHA MOKU Council.

Humbly,

Jennifer Nakamura

GM-721

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 6:19:13 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hiiaka Jardine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President,
And Members of the Senate,

My name is Hi'iaka Jardine and I strongly support the nomination of Frances Kaluhiwa to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. Aunty Rocky Leialoha (Frances) is a wealth of knowledge and a pillar in our Ko'olaupoko community. She continues to put the needs of the community first and generously donates her time when she is called upon. Aunty Rocky has done great work in her role at the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. I have personally worked with her and have been honored to receive her counsel. I humbly ask that you consider her for this position.

Mahalo piha,

Hi'iaka Jardine



KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

March 31, 2022

Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair, Senate Committee on Land and Water
Members, Senate Committee on Land and Water
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha kakou,

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club takes great pleasure in recommending Frances Leialoha Rocky Kaluhiwa for appointment to the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. It is difficult to imagine anyone more suited for this role as the Committee has been blessed with her guidance, `ike (wisdom) and aloha since its founding.

Rocky has worked tirelessly for many decades to guard the natural and cultural resources of Hawaii. She is a natural leader, able to gather the support of her peers and the respect of all. She is extremely well versed in governmental affairs, has countless personal connection there and in the community and private sector and understands the importance of patience and cooperation. At the same time, she can be a formidable foe when that is called for.

As a leader of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, she shows an openness to new ideas while remaining steadfast in her commitment to preserving Hawaiian cultural values. The Club has flourished under her guidance in many ways and we are blessed to have her in the role of President at this time.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspectives on the confirmation of Frances Leialoha Rocky Rocky Kaluhiwa. We urge your approval of her nomination to the Ala Moku Advisory Committee.

Mahalo nui,

Cheryl Prince
Secretary
Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

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."