

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawai'i*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRMAN, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. DUCATT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

March 29, 2023

Chair Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro,
Vice Chair Kurt Fevella
and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol Room 222
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message 526, Nomination of Katie Ducatt to the position of Deputy to
the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Hawaiian Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Committee's questionnaire. Please
find my responses below:

- 1) A description of your experience with respect to the scope of responsibilities for the
Department of Hawaiian Homelands and the Hawaiian Homes Commission, or any
related field;

I represented the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands as a deputy attorney general for
approximately eight years. During that time, I became very familiar with the Hawaiian Homes
Commission Act of 1920, as amended, and DHHL's administrative rules. I also became familiar
with the case law that developed around the HHCA program.

In addition to advising the DHHL Chair and staff on a variety of issues, I also served as
counsel to the Hawaiian Home Commission, which meant offering ad hoc advice on sunshine
law and parliamentary procedure during the Commission's regular meetings.

In the private sector prior to joining the Department of the Attorney General, my practice
focused on collections/foreclosure law and planned community association and condominium
law. This experience formed a strong basis in the understanding of statutory, contractual, and
real property legal concepts, which I believe was a good foundation given the types of legal
issues DHHL encounters.

2) An assessment of your strengths and weaknesses;

My main strength is in my ability to problem solve when an issue arises – i.e., identifying the issue, which often includes having to learn about what happened quickly, coordinating among the staff who would be the most knowledgeable on the topic, and providing direction toward next steps and/or resolution. Since becoming Deputy to the Chair, this has been a skill that I have exercised repeatedly on a range of issues.

My weaknesses include not having met many of DHHL’s waitlist and homestead beneficiary associations. I hope to have the opportunity to meet them with Chair Watson, and to form relationships that will help to facilitate better communication between DHHL and the communities DHHL serves. Also, while I have a good understanding of certain DHHL processes due to my work as DAG, there is much I do not know from a purely operational or programmatic (rather than legal) perspective. For example, how a departmental budget is put together, or being a manager in a large organization. I am looking forward to the opportunity to learn these new areas and skills as part of DHHL’s leadership team.

3) An assessment of the department's strength and weaknesses. Please include an explanation of how the department's strengths may be best utilized, as well as how the department's weaknesses may be improved;

The strength of the department lies in the dedicated staff who have worked diligently, some for decades, in service of the Trust. It is also a strength that the State constitution recognizes the importance of the HHCA, such that DHHL should be sufficiently funded so that it can meet its mission not only to provide homestead lots to native Hawaiians, but also provide for loans, rehabilitation programs, and operating/administrative costs.

The weakness of the department is in not being able to implement initiatives quickly or process routine matters efficiently, due to the lack of capacity. While DHHL has capable staff, many have been covering additional work, sometimes in subject matter areas that they are not familiar with, due to vacancies. While filling vacancies will offer some relief, DHHL needs to also create or update internal guidelines, workflows, and tracking systems for routine matters (i.e., lease transactions, successorship requests, UIPA requests, etc.) together with the applicable law or rule or policy that is the backdrop for why the process is designed the way that it is. This would help staff who may need to step in when vacancies due to turn over happens. This would also act as a reference for DHHL to review and adjust processes accordingly when laws, rules, or policies change over time.

- 4) An overall vision for the department, specifically what goals can be accomplished within the next four years and what types of annual benchmarks can be used to evaluate the department/agency's progress towards those goals;

The overall vision of DHHL should be to reduce the number of native Hawaiians waiting for a homestead. Act 279 gives DHHL the unprecedented ability to prepare lots for projects it otherwise could not have started in the next three years without such a generous appropriation. New lot development funded by Act 279 will need to be in conjunction with homestead projects already in process, as well as the repair and maintenance of existing homesteads, supported by the “sufficient sums” biennium budget.

As Deputy to the Chair, I see myself as supporting the overall vision to provide homestead lots for native Hawaiians by attempting to concurrently address how to make DHHL more timely, transparent, and responsive to its waitlist beneficiaries and homestead lessees. As DHHL prepares more lots and homes, it will need to be ready to process awards in a timely manner. It will also be responsible to an increased number of lessees who will be living on lands under its jurisdiction. DHHL thus needs to be prepared to ramp up its efforts in the administration of the important processes that impacts the daily lives of those who live in its communities - maintenance issues, application and lease transfer and successorship issues, issues with compliance and safety on homestead lands, etc. My vision for DHHL in the next four years is to think through, create, and implement formal training programs, internal policies, and workflows for the various divisions to lessen the amount of gaps in DHHL’s current processes that leads to uncertainty and delays.

- 5) The department's top budgetary priority for the biennium;

DHHL’s top budgetary priority for the biennium is to determine and request the amounts it believes will sufficiently fund the four purposes outlined by Article XII, section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution: 1) lot development; 2) loans; 3) rehabilitation projects; and 4) DHHL’s administration and operating budget.

DHHL needs to be able to articulate the justification of its “sufficient sums” budget alongside its efforts to encumber Act 279 funding. While there has been an emphasis on the development of lots, both those in process (Purpose 1 of the sufficient sum budget) and for new lots (Act 279), repair and maintenance costs for existing homesteads needs to be highlighted and stressed as a priority for DHHL as well. For example, some of DHHL’s older developments requires significant infrastructure investments such as for sewer upgrades. Furthermore, while sufficient sums need to increase for staffing, DHHL also needs to advocate for the resources that are necessary to manage the volume of records and information more efficiently across DHHL’s divisions. This means asking for appropriations for significant upgrades to DHHL’s information systems and providing training to maximize the utilization of any new system that is installed.

Chair Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro,
Vice Chair Kurt Fevella
and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
March 29, 2023
Page 4


- 6) An assessment of the department's staff morale, including the turnover rate for personnel; and;

Staff morale is sensitive. DHHL is staffed with dedicated public servants who have been operating over capacity for some time and should be recognized for their efforts to manage their workloads as best as they can with reduced manpower, especially in the wake of the recent changes in administration.

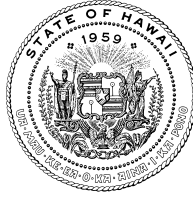
- 7) Any foreseeable possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service in the department and how you would overcome them.

I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during my service in the department. Should any conflicts arise, whether actual or perceived, I would promptly recuse myself from any decision-making or exerting any influence due to my position on the project or issue.

Sincerely,


[Katie Ducatt \(Mar 29, 2023 08:58 HST\)](#)

Katie L. Ducatt
Deputy-designate to the Chairperson
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of
Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawaii

Before the
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Thursday, March 30, 2023
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 526

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 526, the appointment of Katie Ducatt to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

Since being appointed as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Katie has provided the Department with valued knowledge regarding loans and land lease transfer issues, represented DHHL in administrative hearings and litigation, and has been assisting the Hawaiian Homes Commission by providing them with legal guidance on certain issues before the Commission.

Prior to her appointment as the Deputy to the Chairperson of DHHL, Katie spent over seven years serving DHHL as the Deputy Attorney General for the Department. During this time she has been able to learn about the legal, political, and practical challenges that DHHL, the Commission, and staff face in working to fulfill its mission and provide homes to our Native Hawaiian community. Katie also served as Deputy Attorney General for the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA), Maui branch. In her work with CSEA, Katie represented CSEA in cases before the family court and circuit court and provided essential services and guidance to ensure that the well-being of children and families were met.

Katie earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Hawaii at Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law and her Bachelor of Business Administration Degree also from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Testimony of the Governor

G.M. No. 526

March 30, 2023

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For the reasons listed above, I am confident that Katie will serve our State well as the Deputy to the Chairperson at DHHL and will work with Chairperson Kali Watson to support DHHL's needs during this critical time.

Mahalo for your consideration.

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 7:52:26 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Shikada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I worked directly with Katie on cases while she was a Deputy Attorney General. Katie is a hard worker, has good judgment, and good people skills. Katie has knowledge and experience working on Hawaiian Homeland matters and I believe she will be an excellent Deputy Director for the department. I have no reservations in providing full support for Katie's appointment.

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:51:33 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kali Watson	Testifying for Department of Hawaiian Home Lands - Chairman	Support	In Person

Comments:

Dear Chair and Vice-Chair,

I testify in strong support of Katie Ducatt as the Deputy Director for DHHL. In the short time that I've worked with her, she has exhibited a thorough understanding of the Hawaiian Home Commission Act, along with the various issues involving the Dept. She is heading up the Broad Band federal funding initiative and the work force development, especially in the area of land management and enforcement. Being the Deputy Attorney General assigned to DHHL has given her a helpful insight into the legal issues. She would definitely be a great asset to the Department and me in helping move the DHHL programs forward. I respectfully request that you vote in her favor and move her appointment forward to the full Senate. Mahalo, Kali Watson, Chair of DHHL

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawaii*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawaii*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRMAN, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. DUCATT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawaii'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON MARCH 30, 2023 AT 1:00PM IN CR 224

IN SUPPORT OF

GM 526

for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KATIE DUCATT**, for a term to expire 12-07-2026

March 30, 2023

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Katie Ducatt as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

Katie Ducatt has gained insight and institutional knowledge of DHHL from her experience as a Deputy Attorney General representing DHHL, including the Hawaiian Homes Commission, on all manner of legal issues facing DHHL. This position and kuleana of Deputy to the Chairperson of DHHL will allow Ms. Ducatt to utilize her strengths in analyzing issues quickly and finding resolution to these issues in service to the HHC and DHHL on behalf of the beneficiaries. Her high level of organization and attention to detail serves her well in responding to elected officials and working with other government agencies and non-government organizations to best serve DHHL and its beneficiaries.

Katie Ducatt is a trustworthy leader who will aid DHHL in implementing best practices for dealing with current issues and pursuing upcoming and future projects and endeavors. Her experience as a public defender, case resolution specialist, and attorney in various capacities will provide DHHL with the right balance between thinking outside of the box and providing the best parameters to evaluate and control issues and projects concerning DHHL.

We are excited to see the various ways that Katie Ducatt's work will benefit the Trust, the beneficiaries to the Trust, the Commission, and DHHL and we are equally excited to see her grow and evolve as a leader. We respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination and we thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Thursday, March 30, 2023
1:00 P.M.
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol

In consideration of
Governor's Message 526
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson,
Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, Katie Ducatt

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the confirmation of Katie Ducatt as Deputy to the Chairperson for the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

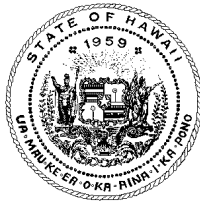
Ms. Ducatt received her J.D. from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and B.A. from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She has served as a Deputy Attorney General for DHHL and a Deputy Attorney General for the Child Support Agency, Maui Branch.

While working as Deputy Attorney General for DHHL, Ms. Ducatt gained knowledge of the challenges that the department and its Commission encounter while working to fulfill its mission to provide homesteads for Native Hawaiians.

The DOT believes that Ms. Ducatt is the ideal candidate to help lead DHHL as Deputy to the Chairperson.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William F. Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 526
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF MS. KATIE DUCATT TO BE THE DEPUTY
TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS

By
Tommy Johnson, Director

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 30, 2023; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Via Video Conference

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Katie Ducatt as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL). Ms. Ducatt's nomination represents a fresh start and well rounding of the leadership team to the DHHL at this critically important time.

The Legislature recently appropriated over \$600 million to the DHHL so it could fulfill its mission and mandate to provide housing to native Hawaiians, many of whom have been on the waiting list for decades. If provided with the opportunity, Ms. Ducatt will work closely with DHHL's Chairperson, Mr. Kali Watson to lead the Department forward in this effort.

Ms. Ducatt's work experience as an attorney in several positions is an asset that should be maximized and leveraged to the benefit of both the State and the beneficiaries.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony support of Governor's Message 526 and the confirmation of Ms. Ducatt.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

March 30, 2023

To: The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2023

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 16 & Videoconference, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

Re: G.M. 526; Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, KATIE DUCATT, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations **strongly supports** the confirmation of Katie Ducatt as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

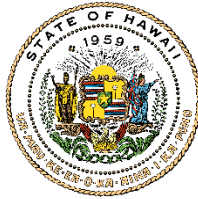
Ms. Ducatt possesses the knowledge and experience to serve as the DHHL Deputy to the Chairperson. Since 2014, Ms. Ducatt has served as a Deputy Attorney General assigned to the Child Support Enforcement Agency and DHHL. Her dedicated public service and legal expertise in criminal law, civil litigation, family law, and DHHL matters will enable her to effectively support the DHHL's important mission.

The DHHL has a waitlist of roughly 28,700 applicants seeking homesteads. The DLIR believes the critical and demanding issues that the DHHL faces requires Ms. Ducatt's legal experience, wisdom, and resolve for providing Native Hawaiian families with affordable housing options and economic opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Governor's Message 526.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
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

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, March 30, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 526
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY TO THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, KATIE DUCATT, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026**

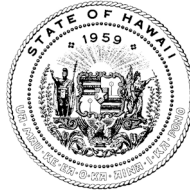
Governor's Message 526 submits for consideration as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), Gubernatorial Nominee, Katie Ducatt, for a term to expire 12-07-2026. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department recognizes the significant contributions of Ms. Katie Ducatt, in her broad experience as an attorney with a background in real property and litigation. Ms. Ducatt has excelled as a former public defender and associate attorney, and serving as Deputy Attorney General for DHHL. Representing DHHL and the Hawaiian Homes Commission, she provides advice and counsel on all manner of related to DHHL

Ms. Ducatt's experience and substantial knowledge of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, in addition to a wide variety of legal issues that impact DHHL, make her an ideal candidate for the Deputy to the Chairperson of DHHL.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 526.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 526
NOMINATION OF KATIE DUCATT, DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Thursday, March 30 2023

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Favella, and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of Governor Josh Green's nomination of Katie Ducatt as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

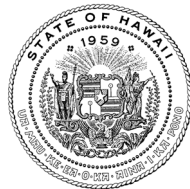
Ms. Ducatt has served as a Deputy Attorney General for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for almost seven years. She has intimate knowledge of the legal, political, and practical challenges that DHHL, its Commission, and staff face in trying to fulfill its mission to provide homesteads for qualified Native Hawaiians.

She has also served as a Deputy Attorney General for the Child Support Enforcement Agency, Maui branch, where she worked with federal, state, and county agencies to ensure the well-being of children and families by providing essential services and guidance.

I am honored to support her confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 526

March 30, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Room 224 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KATIE DUCATT, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Katie Ducatt to the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). I am working with Ms. Ducatt in my professional capacity as Director of Finance.

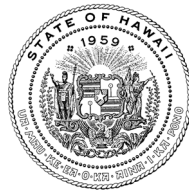
Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Ms. Ducatt is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Ms. Ducatt has been serving as the Deputy to the Chairperson at DHHL since December 2022. Prior to that, she worked at the Department of the Attorney General as the Deputy Attorney General representing DHHL on legal issues from 2014 to 2019 and 2021 to 2022. Her knowledge of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and the legal issues that impact DHHL will benefit the department and the State; therefore, I support her confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 526

March 30, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Room 224 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KATIE DUCATT, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appointment of Katie Ducatt to the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). I am working with Ms. Ducatt in my professional capacity as Deputy Director of Finance.

Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Ms. Ducatt is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Ms. Ducatt has been serving as the Deputy to the Chairperson at DHHL since December 2022. Prior to that, she worked at the Department of the Attorney General as the Deputy Attorney General representing DHHL on legal issues from 2014 to 2019 and 2021 to 2022. Her knowledge of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and the legal issues that impact DHHL will benefit the department and the State; therefore, I support her confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau

P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540

FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

In consideration of G.M. No. 526

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial nominee, Katie Ducatt

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

DATE: Thursday, March 30, 2023
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 224

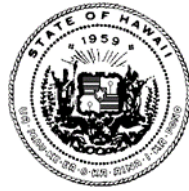
Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of the confirmation of Ms. Katie Ducatt as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

I believe Ms. Ducatt's experience as a legal advisor to DHHL and her private sector legal experience will enable her to be an effective leader for DHHL. Through my interactions with her, I feel Ms. Ducatt is prepared and committed to work with the communities in serving the best interests of the State and am confident that she will do a great job.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 526.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 29, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director
Joseph Campos II, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **Testimony in Support**
G.M. 526, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the
Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands

Hearing: March 30, 2023 at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

As Director and Deputy Director for the Department of Human Services, we write in strong support of Katie Ducatt's appointment to the role of Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

Katie is an experienced litigator and is well versed in the Hawaiian Homes Act of 1920. Having served as a deputy attorney general advising DHHL, she is well poised for success in this role. We will continue to work alongside DHHL to ensure housing and human service supports are in place for individuals and families.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in **SUPPORT** of Governor's Message 526 and Ms. Ducatt.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM526
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson,
Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, KATIE DUCATT, for a
term to expire 12-07-2026.

SENATOR MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: 3/30/2023

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the nomination of Katie
3 Ducatt as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL), for the State
4 of Hawaii.

5
6 Ms. Ducatt's lengthy experience with real property and litigation will be an invaluable resource
7 for the Chairperson and DHHL as a whole as they execute complex and innovative strategies to
8 reduce the waitlist and put Native Hawaiians in real homes. Her resume reflects a career dealing
9 with contentious issues and parties with divergent interests – foreclosures, child welfare, health
10 insurance appeals, covenant enforcement – which will be applicable to DHHL's task and the
11 many stakeholders and beneficiaries.

12

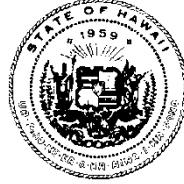
13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

14

15 **Offered Amendments:** None

LATE

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 30, 2023
1:00 PM
Room 224, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
GM 526

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY TO THE
CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
KATIE DUCATT, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.**

Honorable Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 526, to consider and confirm Katie Ducatt to the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

I am honored to be working alongside her in Governor Green's Administration. She is an integral part of a team that is committed to addressing the many issues facing our State and I believe that she will be able to effectively fulfill her role through her life experiences and professional expertise.

There is no doubt in my mind that she will continue to bring a fresh perspective on how to deliver services, improve the experience of those we serve, and strive to maximize taxpayer dollars efficiently and effectively.

The HPHA urges the Committee to pass GM 526 and confirm Katie Ducatt to the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

GOVERNORS MESSAGE NO. 526

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KATIE DUCATT**, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, Katie Ducatt, as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Katie has experience working with state government, 5+ years with the issues of Hawaiian Home Lands, including the Hawaiian Homes Commission and DHHL. She is a graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law and is the right person for the position.

Respectfully requesting your vote to confirm Katie Ducatt's nomination to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Testimony of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
to the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 30, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
GM 526
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson,
Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, KATIE DUCATT, for
a term to expire 12-07-2026.**

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella and Members of the Committee.

I support the appointment of Katie Ducatt to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

Ms. Ducatt has recently served at the Deputy Attorney General with the Department of the Attorney General, Public Safety, Hawaiian Homelands and Housing Division, where she provided representation on legal issues for DHHL. Her experience in both the public and private sectors will continue to be an asset to the State in her position. Ms. Ducatt is also a fellow graduate of the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for Ms. Ducatt's confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 5:37:16 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William J Aila Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Shimabukuro and Committee members.

I strongly support and encourage you to confirm Katie Ducatt as Deputy to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. I have known Katie for the past eight years as she served as a Deputy Attorney General assigned to Department and then the Hawaiian Homes Commission during my tenure as Deputy and Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission and Director of the Department.

Katie is extremely intelligent and understands the Hawaiian Homelands Trust duties and the statutes that govern the Trust. In my experience as she provided advice to me, Katie was frank, clear, and her analysis was always well researched and well thought out. Many Commissioners enjoyed and continue to enjoy working with her,

Katie will be a valuable member of the Chairman's team and will contribute to the future success with creating and awarding lots and homes to Beneficiaries on the waitlist.

I encourage the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs to Confirm Katie as Deputy to the Chairman and ask all Senators to vote to confirm her.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

William J. Aila Jr.

**TESIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
GM 526**

Thursday, March 30, 2023, 1:00pm, Rm.224, Videoconference

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Katie Ducatt**, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair, Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice-Chair, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. I am Pauline N. Namuo, Oahu Commissioner of the Hawaiian Homes Commission. I am submitting my testimony in support of **Katie Ducatt** for the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

In the time that I have served as an Oahu Commissioner, I have had the opportunity to observe Ms. Ducatt in her capacity as Deputy Attorney General for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. In reviewing her resume' I am impressed with her legal management experience. I applaud her tenure with the Department of the Public Defender as that venue is tough and exhausting, similar to this position she is nominated for. In her sessions with the Commission she has shown to be well versed in the law regarding our Trust, honest and straightforward. Most important, she is diligent in her work ethic, has been able to analyze situations and respond accordingly. Her experience with the department is highly valuable in working together as the Deputy Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Katie. We hope you will approve her nomination so we may move forward.

Respectfully submitted,
Pauline N. Namuo

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 10:27:35 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya	Testifying for Commissioner DHHL	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee, Mahalo for the opportunity in supporting Ms Katie Ducatt for the Deputy to the Chairman of DHHL.

She has worked alongside with our Commission as our Attorney General at the Department of Hawaiian Homelands as a very fair attorney when it comes to transparency for the trust. She has provided us with many accurate legal findings that has benefit beneficiaries and in assisting the Commission in our decision making. Katie, will work well with the Chairman, staff and Commissioners to move forward the trust and support all of our Homesteads as well as our beneficiaries.

I urge the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee to support Ms. Ducatt to the Deputy of the DHHL.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya

DHHL COMMISSIONER OAHU

808 723 9161

PO Box 2308 Waianae Hawaii, 96792

March 29, 2023

RE: GM 526, Testimony in Support of Katie L. Ducatt, Gubernatorial Nominee, Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and members of the Committee,

My name is Vanessa Garber and I am writing in support of GM 526, to confirm Katie Ducatt to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I have had the pleasure of knowing Katie Ducatt for over 25 years. As an experienced attorney with a strong real property and litigation background, Katie has demonstrated excellent legal ability, integrity, intelligence, temperament, and fairness throughout her career.

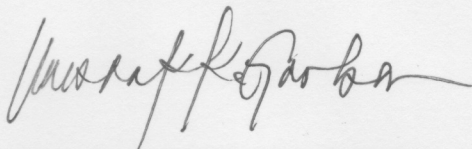
During her time as a Deputy Attorney General at the Department of the Attorney General, State of Hawaii, Katie provided advice, counsel, and representation on a variety of legal matters to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Through this role, she gained substantial knowledge of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended (HHCA), and the wide variety of legal issues that impact the Department.

Furthermore, as the Deputy to the Chair at the DHHL, Katie supports the Chair of the Department in managing the resources of the DHHL in order to provide homestead and housing opportunities and services for native Hawaiian beneficiaries. Her strong research, writing, and communication skills, as well as her excellent time management skills and ability to analyze issues quickly and accurately, make her an excellent candidate for the position of Deputy to the Chair.

I have no doubt that Katie's skills, experience, and dedication to her work will make her a valuable asset to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I wholeheartedly recommend her for the position of Deputy to the Chair, and I am confident that she will excel in this role.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vanessa Ku'ulei Kaneshiro Garber".

Vanessa Ku'ulei Kaneshiro Garber
Owner, VK Productions, LLC
Owner, Waialua Orchards, LLC

Testimony of
Pacific Resource Partnership

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair

GM 526—Confirmation Ms. Katie Ducatt as Deputy to Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands
Wednesday, March 30, 2023
1:00 P.M.

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a non-profit market recovery trust fund which represents approximately 7,000 men and women union carpenters and 240 large and small contractors. With our expertise in research, compliance, marketing, and project advocacy, we are committed to building a stronger, more sustainable Hawaii in a way that promotes a vibrant economy, creates jobs, and enhances the quality of life for all residents of Hawaii.

PRP writes in **strong support** of GM 526, confirming as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL), Gubernatorial Nominee, Ms. Katie Ducatt. Ms. Ducatt has valuable experience as an attorney in both the private and public sectors. More specifically, her experience as a Deputy Attorney General and understanding of legal issues that impact the Department of Hawaiian Homelands renders her well suited to serve as Deputy to Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Given the above, we respectfully ask for your favorable consideration on Ms. Ducatt confirmation.





HUI KAKO'O 'ĀINA HO'OPULAPULA

"Let the people flourish on the land."

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Thursday, March 30, 2023; 1:00 pm
By
Elmer Ka'ai
President and Chair

GM 526 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON, DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KATIE DUCATT, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit written testimony in **strong support** for Ms. Katie Ducatt as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Hui Kako'o 'Āina Ho'opulapula (Hui Kako'o) believes that this gubernatorial nominee is highly qualified and confident in her commitment to the mission of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act.

Ms. Ducatt met our Board of Directors at the beginning of the new year and provided us with her visions and hopes for the Hawaiian home land trust. We appreciated her candidness and foresight when responding to our questions and concerns, especially her views of Act 279. Immediately after the meeting with Ms. Ducatt, our board met and unanimously voted to support Ms. Ducatt's nomination, as such, we encourage the committee to Advise and Consent Ms. Ducatt as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you again for opportunity to submit testimony in support.

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Thursday, March 30, 2023

1:00 p.m.

GM 526: Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairman, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Gubernatorial Nominee, KATIE DUCATT, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Testimony of Jobie Masagatani in STRONG SUPPORT of the nomination of Katie Ducatt to the position of Deputy to the Chairman at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella and members of the Committee. I have had the pleasure of working with Katie during my tenure as Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Katie is intelligent, extremely hard working, and tough (when needed). She understands the complexities of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and it's very unique status as a state agency with specific public trust responsibilities to its beneficiaries. She also understands, perhaps more than anyone else in the entire state, the federal nexus to the Department of Interior and the limits to the oversight DOI has over DHHL's operations.

She is a person of integrity and commitment. In my work with her, I always found her analysis and advice clear, compelling, well-researched, and sound. She has phenomenal attention to detail (where the "devil always is"), and I think will lend an important balance to Chairman Kali Watson's "big-picture" style of leadership, which I am familiar with having served as his Deputy for four years.

Katie is an excellent choice for the position of Deputy to the Chairman, and I strongly urge the committee to recommend her confirmation.

March 22, 2023

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

RE: GM 526, Testimony in Support of Katie L. Ducatt, Gubernatorial Nominee,
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and members of the Committee,

My name is Jana (Naruse) Mukogawa and I am writing in support of GM 526, to confirm Katie Ducatt to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I have had the privilege of working with Katie during her employment as an associate attorney at Motooka Yamamoto & Revere as well as Anderson Lahne & Fujisaki. I have known Katie personally and professionally for over 14 years.

As a fellow attorney, I have observed Katie demonstrate a strong work ethic, reliability, tenacity, and fairness. She is attentive, detail-oriented, and has practiced law with integrity throughout her entire legal career. She has a wealth of experience working in the private sector, as well as in the public sector as a Deputy Public Defender and Deputy Attorney General. Particularly, she has experience working with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands that lends itself seamlessly to this appointed position.

Personally, she is a hard-working mother, dedicated to her family. She is a proud graduate of Kamehameha Schools and a leader in the Hawaiian community. I have witnessed Katie meet obstacles and tribulations head on and overcame them with perseverance in both her personal and professional life.

Overall, Katie is an excellent candidate for this position and it is for these reasons I support Katie Ducatt's confirmation.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,



Jana Mukogawa

March 29, 2023

The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
The Honorable Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Re: In Support of the Nomination of Katie Ducatt to the Position of
Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
GM 526
Hearing Date/Time: March 30, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Hawaiian Affairs:

I write in strong support of the nomination of Katie Ducatt to the position of Deputy to
the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). I am submitting this testimony
in my personal capacity.

Ms. Ducatt and I worked together for nearly five years as deputy attorneys general
representing DHHL. I know first-hand that she is bright, hard-working, and committed to
DHHL's mission. In addition to her intelligence and dedication to DHHL, she possesses the traits
necessary to be a strong leader – good judgment, even temperament, and compassion for others.
Ms. Ducatt was a wonderful colleague and I have no doubt that she will be a real asset to DHHL
as Deputy to the Chairperson.

Ms. Ducatt is exceptionally well-qualified for this position and I urge the committee to
support her nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew S. Dvonch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew S. Dvonch

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 12:55:36 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig Iha	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee:

I am testifying in my individual capacity as a private citizen.

I am in strong support of Katie Ducatt’s nomination to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission. I first met Ms. Ducatt in 2014 when she joined the Department of the Attorney General as a deputy in the Hawaiian Home Lands unit. Over the years, we worked together on literally hundreds of DHHL-related matters. Ms. Ducatt is the perfect person for this job because:

First, Ms. Ducatt has a strong moral compass and does what is right.

Second, Ms. Ducatt is competent and capable. She quickly and accurately digests complicated legal and factual issues on matters of great public importance. She understands DHHL’s mission, programs, and operations.

Third, Ms. Ducatt is incredibly dedicated, dependable, and disciplined. She will be one of the hardest working people at the department if confirmed.

Fourth, while Ms. Ducatt has a keen eye for detail, she is also a pragmatic thinker who never overlooks the big picture and her team’s strategic goals. She will cut through the chaff and focus on what needs to be done to accomplish DHHL’s mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Ms. Ducatt.

Sincerely,

Craig Y. Iha

LATE

TESTIMONY of GERMAINE MEYERS

IN SUPPORT OF GM 526 – KATIE DUCATT (KATIE L. LAMBERT)

My name is Germaine Meyers. I'm a Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead Lessee.

I strongly support the confirmation of Katie Ducatt (Katie L. Lambert) as the Deputy to the Chairperson for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Katie Ducatt is highly qualified for this position. Similar to Tyler I. Gomes (resume attached), the previous DHHL Deputy to the Chairperson, Katie will also begin this position with strong legal education and work experiences.

In 2020, I was skeptical of Tyler Gomes at first because he didn't have years of experience in Hawaiian issues prior to his position as DHHL Deputy to the Chairperson. However, Tyler proved that his legal education, public defense work experiences, and the ability to review and resolve complex issues with legal consequences were essential to his success as the DHHL Deputy Director. I believe Katie will prove this as well.

I humbly ask for you all to support her confirmation.

Mahalo kekahi I kekahi,

Germaine Meyers

EDUCATION

William S. Richardson School of Law
J.D. & Certificate in Native Hawaiian Law

2012 First Place & Best Advocate
Native American Moot Court National Competition

2012 Best Oralist
Native American Moot Court National Competition

2011- 2012 Student Bar Association
President

2012 Slow-danced with Supreme Court Justice
Sonia Sotomayor

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
B.A. in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i

Tufts University

Kamehameha Schools - Kapālama

BAR ADMISSIONS

State of Hawai'i
Admitted November 2012

U.S. District Court, District of Hawai'i
Admitted November 2012

EXPERIENCE

Elemental Excelsior *Aug. 2018 - Sep. 2019*
Partnerships Manager - Hawai'i

Oversaw the Elemental Hui - a partnership network of local business, non-profit, educational, and philanthropic institutions including Kamehameha Schools, Hawaiian Electric Companies, Servco Pacific, Hawai'i Energy, American Savings Bank, and several angel donors and family foundations. Responsible for the development and expansion of the Hui initiative in its second year, including recruitment strategy for critical local organizations.

Managed Hawai'i-based stakeholder, customer, and community partner relations in coordination with the CEO and Managing Director of Policy and Community. Represents Elemental at Hawai'i Business Roundtable (HBR) Committee Meetings and was appointed to oversee storytelling and messaging strategies for the HBR Innovation Economy Task Force.

Self-Employed *Dec. 2017 - Aug. 2018*
Independent Contractor

Co-authored and co-edited legal pleadings in Waters v. Nago, which successfully overturned the 2018 election results in the District IV Honolulu City Counsel race and resulted in a successful second campaign for City Counsel on behalf of Tommy Waters.

Drafted successful bids for State level procurements valued at \$1.1M in contracted work for local consulting firm, Solutions Pacific.

Served as political consultant and campaign manager for Friends of Kim Coco Iwamoto and consultant for Friends of Tommy Waters - including management of field, finance, communication, and strategy teams.

Office of the Public Defender *Sep. 2013 - Dec. 2017*
Deputy Public Defender III

Successfully argued State v. Kalua before the Hawai'i Supreme Court in June 2016. Decision issued January 2019.

Appeared before the Hawai'i Supreme Court, Circuit Court, District Court, Family Court, Juvenile Court, and Hawai'i Paroling Authority.

Took over 50 cases to trial before juries and the bench and argued innumerable substantive and procedural motions. Maintained a case load of approximately 25 pre-trial felony cases and 40 post conviction cases including parole hearings, probation violations, resentencing, and new offenses.

TYLER IOKEPA GOMES

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**William S. Richardson School of Law (WSRSL)
Alumni Association - Non-Profit 501(c)(3)**

President
2018 - 2019
2015 - 2017

Vice-President
2017 - 2018
2014 - 2015

Dean's Appointee
2012 - 2014

Testified before the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents regarding funding for the construction of the law school Clinical Building.

Successfully negotiated and reinstated the first Memorandum of Agreement with law school administration since 2008.

Eliminated cost-ineffective fundraising opportunities and commissioned fundraising committee tasked with establishing the first-ever fundraising benchmarks, identifying new fundraising opportunities, and compiling updated donor and alumni lists.

Commissioned mentorship committee tasked with establishing a mentorship program pairing law school alumni with law school students. Mentorship program successfully launched in the Spring of 2019 with over 50 alumni mentors paired with law students.

Native Hawaiian Bar Association
Board Member
2018 - 2019

Portuguese Chamber of Commerce
Board Member
Mar. 2019 - Present

EXPERIENCE

Chambers of the Hon. Dexter D. Del Rosario *Aug. 2012 - Sep. 2013*
Law Clerk

Drafted orders, findings of fact and conclusions of law, and legal memos for the Judge's review and approval.

Responded to inquiries from public and parties to cases, including documentation of ex parte communications for court and attorneys to maintain impartiality and transparency.

Served as bailiff in the courtroom – managing attorneys, clients, witnesses, and the court's calendar.

Office of Hawaiian Affairs *Jan. 2011 - July 2011*
Legislative Fellow

Assisted in editing "Introduction to Hawaii's Land Classification and Management System-A Manual for Residents" – published 2017.

Assisted Public Policy Advocates and Public Policy Department with research and reporting during the 2011 Legislative session and planning for the 2012 Legislative session.

Reviewed bills and resolutions to identify matters that had direct impacts on OHA beneficiaries and drafted testimony in response.

Katie L. Lambert

(a.k.a. Katie L. Ducatt)

Contact

Profile

Experienced attorney with strong real property and litigation background. In current employment as a Deputy Attorney General, possesses substantial knowledge of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended, and the wide variety of legal issues that impact the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Key Skills

Excellent research, writing, and communication skills
 Very organized and detail-oriented
 Excellent time management skills
 Able to analyze issues quickly and accurately
 Excellent problem-solving skills

Experience

April 2014 – July 2019; March 2021 - Present

Deputy Attorney General • Department of the Attorney General, State of Hawaii • Public Safety, Hawaiian Home Lands and Housing Division
 Advice and counsel; represents the Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands, including the Hawaiian Homes Commission, on all manner of legal issues facing DHHL.

August 2019 – March 2021

Deputy Attorney General • Department of the Attorney General, State of Hawaii • Child Support Enforcement Agency – Maui
 Advice and counsel; represented CSEA in paternity and enforcement cases; assisted in the management of the Maui Branch.

January 2013 – March 2014

Associate Attorney • Anderson Lahne & Fujisaki LLP
 Responsible for the management and disposition of civil litigation cases representing condominium associations and planned community associations, focusing on collection, foreclosure, and covenant enforcement.

April 2012 – December 2012

Case Resolution Specialist • Hawaii Medical Service Association
 Assisted HMSA members who appealed HMSA's denial of insurance coverage for medical procedures and/or benefits.

May 2010 – April 2012

Associate Attorney • Clay Chapman Iwamura Pulice & Nervell
 Responsible for the management and disposition of civil litigation cases representing lenders in foreclosure litigation.

February 2009 – April 2010

Associate Attorney • Motooka Yamamoto & Revere

Responsible for the management and disposition of civil litigation cases representing condominium associations and planned community associations, focusing on collection, foreclosure, and covenant enforcement.

August 2006 – February 2009

Deputy Public Defender • Office of the Public Defender

Responsible for the management and disposition of criminal cases in district court and family court.

Education

May 2005

Juris Doctor • William S. Richardson School of Law • University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

May 2000

Bachelor of Business Administration • University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:32:57 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Oku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Sen.Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Sen. Fevella, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I support the consideration and confirmation of Katie Ducatt to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO GM526 CONFIRMATION OF KATIE DUCATT AS DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

Aloha Senator Maile S.L Shimabukuro (Chair), Senator Kurt Fevella (Vice Chair) and other members of the committee

I oppose confirming Ms Katie Ducatt (Katie Lambert) as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) for the following reasons:

- Chairperson Kali Watson is a trained lawyer and so is the DHHL Attorney General. We do not need more lawyers in the DHHL. Instead, we need experienced leader-managers who know how to develop strategies, monitor performance, improve processes and achieve results. There is no evidence of Ms. Ducatt having led or managed a midsized organization (100-999 employees) such as the DHHL at any point of her career.
- As the Deputy, she must help lead Transformation in the department to improve organizational efficiencies and effectiveness, eliminate wasteful and unnecessary bureaucracy, and improve the delivery of services to beneficiaries. Again, there's no evidence she has been trained in management programs such as Balanced Scorecard, Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence, or Lean Six Sigma to name a few or has any experience leading the kind of organizational changes the department needs now.
- On occasion, we expect the Deputy to step in as the Chairperson. There is no indication that Ms. Ducatt has worked with, understands or is an advocate for native Hawaiians. In fact, some in the Hawaiian Community have a dim opinion of Ms. Ducatt's adversarial role in the *State of Hawaii vs Kalima* settlement, where claim payments were subjected to "lengthy verification processes of plaintiff's lease files" (under Deputy Attorney General Katie Lambert/Ms. Ducatt's purview) which delayed action and served the interest of the State of Hawaii as opposed to native Hawaiian plaintiffs.
- Ms. Ducatt is unqualified for the position as Deputy Chairperson. She is not ready to meet the needs of the Department, its workforce and those of native Hawaiian beneficiaries now and/or future.

Sincerely,

William L. Kapakū Jr.
DHHL Wait Lister since 1995

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 1:09:31 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Kahawaiolaa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Senator Shimabukuro, Chair, Senator Fevella, Vice Chair and the honorable members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee, I am Patrick L. Kahawaiolaa, a native Hawaiian, as defined pursuant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended July 9, 1921 (HHCA,1920), (c42, 42 stat.. 108, 67th CONG, 1920) and *incorporated* into Hawai'i Admission Act,(Publ 83-6, 73 stat..4, March 18, 1959), and now the Supreme law of the land by Statutes...

The ground rules I'm attempting to articulate is so that this body understands clearly the plight of the beneficiaries whom you all as co-trustee *swore* at the time you all were publicly elected to uphold the Constitutions of the United States & State of Hawai'i to uphold the Hawaiian race and now by virtue of your positions in State government on this committee must now try to come to a conclusion whether or not this applicant to become the Deputy Director of the institution *created* In 1963 to become a State department, *replacing* the Hawaiian Home Commission making it the *executive board* for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL)...the applicant Katie Lamdert 8358, Deputy Attorney General who as an attorney *represented* the DHHL in *Kalima v State*...AGAINST THE BENEFICIARIES, is now sitting on the *other side of the fence*, seeking NOW TO BECOME ITS DEPUTY...*TO HELP THE BENEFICIARIES*...

FOR THAT REASON ALONE... I OBJECT TO HER CONFIRMATION

"Owau

Patrick L. Kahawaiolaa

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 10:18:34 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in FULL Support of Governor Nominee Katie Ducatt GM 526 for Deputy to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo

March 30, 2023
1:00 PM
Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony in Support of GM 526

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair

Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair

March 24, 2023

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee,

I am Linda Rosehill testifying in strong support of Ms. Ducatt. I have known Katie throughout her entire life. She works hard, sets goals and achieves them. Her educational and work experience have prepared her well to assist in addressing the many issues before the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). She is also realistic in finding practical solutions to issues, a trait that is necessary in order to be successful in the current climate. She will do well as the Deputy Director of DHHL. I humbly ask for your support of her nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. Rosehill".

Linda Rosehill

March 24, 2023

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair

Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Senate

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

RE: GM 526, Testimony in Support of Katie L. Ducatt, Gubernatorial Nominee,

Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and members of the Committee,

My name is Katrina Souza and I am writing in support of GM 526, to confirm Katie Ducatt to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I have known Katie since we met in the seventh grade at Kamehameha Schools. Over the course of nearly three decades, we have maintained our friendship and I have witnessed her growth both personally and professionally.

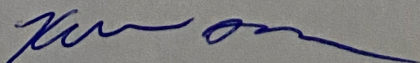
Katie has always been a passionate person who puts logic, integrity, and common good above all things. She is a compassionate listener and sympathizer, but she will always use facts and logic as the basis of any advice or recommendations. As true friends, we do not always agree on everything, but I always trust that her opinions and decisions will be grounded in the principles of fairness, the law, and common sense.

It is crucial to have a strong Native Hawaiian leader like Katie in positions that are so important to the Hawaiian people. Her cultural values and sense of community has guided her since graduating from Kamehameha when she decided to stay in Hawaii to go to college, earn her law degree, and practice law for nearly 20 years. Hawaii has always been her home and throughout her career, she has consistently demonstrated her strong commitment to bettering our islands.

It is for these reasons I support Katie Ducatt's confirmation.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Souza', written in a cursive style.

Katrina Souza

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 12:47:29 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanen Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Maile Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting my testimony in full support of the nomination and confirmation of Katie L. Ducatt as Deputy to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands. I am currently employed at DHHL and have worked with Ms. Ducatt for over seven years when she was DHHL's Deputy Attorney General and now as the Deputy Designate. She is a bright and devoted attorney and is a very valuable asset to DHHL because of her extensive knowledge of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920. She is also very familiar with DHHL's policies and procedures and has worked with many of DHHL's staff. I have enjoyed working with Ms. Ducatt and look forward to continue working with her at DHHL. I humbly ask that you support the confirmation of Ms. Ducatt as the next DHHL Deputy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shanen Cruz



MOTOOKA ROSENBERG LAU & OYAMA

Attorneys at Law

A Limited Liability Law Company

1000 Bishop Street, Suite 801

Honolulu, HI 96813

Tel: 808.532.7900

Fax: 808.532.7910

Website: <http://www.myhawaiilaw.com>

Email: help@myhawaiilaw.com

March 24, 2023

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

RE: GM 526, Testimony in Support of Katie L. Ducatt, Gubernatorial Nominee,
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and members of the Committee,

My name is Milton M. Motooka, partner in the firm of Motooka Rosenberg Lau & Oyama and I am writing in support of GM 526, to confirm Katie Ducatt to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I know Katie from when she worked with us as an associate. She is very intelligent and a very hard worker. We could always depend on her to produce quality work in a timely manner. She was driven to do a good job and always reflected great integrity in how she approached her work.

It is for these reasons I support Katie Ducatt's confirmation.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Milton M. Motooka

March 27, 2023

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

RE: GM 526, Testimony in Support of Katie L. Ducatt, Gubernatorial Nominee,
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

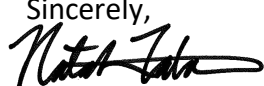
Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and members of the Committee,

My name is Natalie Ho Talamoa and I am writing in support of GM 526, to confirm Katie Ducatt to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I have known Katie for over 30 years. I first got to know her when we both attended Kamehameha Schools. Over the years our friendship has grown through our similar interests in CrossFit and Olympic Weightlifting. We have competed together in several team CrossFit competitions and have competed together on the same Olympic weightlifting team. Although I have not worked with her in a professional capacity, I feel with my experience of competing alongside her as well as the length of time I have known her I can attest to her strong character and suitability for this position.

Katie's character is one of perseverance and strength. I've seen her struggle and triumph through difficult situations, show leadership skills, and be a critical thinker when faced with problems. Although I cannot attest to her legal abilities, I know her to be intelligent and knowledgeable through our many discussions. She has a very calm temperament which will suit her well to handle difficult situations. I've known her to treat others with fairness, and integrity. As a Kanaka Maoli like Katie I know she has chosen this path because she truly cares and wants to make a difference for all of us, and our future generations. Katie has a unique perspective growing up on 'Oahu, and now choosing to raise her family on Maui. This give her a more holistic view to understand the unique situations of those who live on Neighbor Islands that can be so different than those who live on 'Oahu. I'm very proud and honored to give my support to Katie Ducatt for this confirmation.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Natalie K. H. Talamoa

TO: Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice-Chair Hawaiian Affairs
Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Strong support for GM 526 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, Katie Ducatt, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Hearing date and time: March 30, 2023, 1:00PM

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Fevella, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian:

I write in strong support of GM 526 and the confirmation of Katie Ducatt as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

It has been a privilege to call Katie a friend for over 20 years. Katie's blend of character and experience make her an excellent selection for this important position.

She is smart, compassionate, and humble, a combination of traits that all good leaders should have and exercise freely. She has an unwavering commitment to the community and impressive work ethic, both of which are necessary in public service.

Prior to her appointment, Katie served as a Deputy Attorney General for DHHL. Through this work, she has extensive experience and knowledge of the statutes, rules, policies, and procedures, and sometimes the lack thereof, within DHHL, and familiarity with current issues. She is uniquely able to hit the ground running at DHHL and tackle both longstanding and emerging challenges.

Katie has the experience and grit to work with the Chairperson and Commission to lead DHHL. No one will work harder or be more dedicated to DHHL's mission and success.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 526 and the confirmation of Katie Ducatt as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands. I humbly ask for your vote in support of GM 526.

Sincerely,
Joy Kobayashi

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 4:46:39 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha -- I welcome this opportunity to testify in favor of the appointment of Katie Lambert Ducatt for the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

I am, and have been, an associate attorney with Clay Iwamura Pulice & Nervell (fka Clay Chapman Iwamura Pulice & Nervell) since 1997. Katie joined the firm in 2010 and practiced on the same litigation team with me. We often consulted with each other on particular factual and legal scenarios and issues. In my opinion, Katie was exceptionally adept at grasping the issues, and digging for the truth. I also felt that her personality, attitude and perseverance were assets that would allow her to pursue leadership positions such as this position with DHHL. I think she is well suited to work with this department and will be an asset.

I wholeheartedly support her nomination.

Mahalo for the opportunity.

Mary Martin

March 28, 2023

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

RE: GM 526, Testimony in Support of Katie L. Ducatt, Gubernatorial Nominee,
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and members of the Committee,

My name is Erica Apana, and I am writing in support of GM 526, to confirm Katie Ducatt to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I am a classmate of Katie from Kamehameha Schools and have known her for over 30 years. I consider myself fortunate to have a woman of such strong character in my circle of friends.

I am writing to express my support for Katie's nomination as the Deputy to the Chairperson of Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Katie's years of service to the State of Hawai'i and DHHL shows that she has the proven knowledge and background to effectively serve the state of Hawai'i. When she speaks about her work, it is with passion that she upholds the law and fairly represents the state. As a personal friend, I can count on her to give sound advice and consider all sides of a situation. She has the integrity and leadership needed to serve, and I feel confident that she is the best person for this job.

It is for these reasons I support Katie Ducatt's confirmation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erica Apana", written in a cursive style.

Erica I. Apana

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:04:44 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lili Ann Sora	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Katie Ducatt.

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 11:23:11 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Maeshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support for KATIE DUCATT as Deputy to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands Chairperson. I first met Katie approximately 15 years ago, when she was a Deputy Public Defender and I was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. We were opposing counsel in district court and for a time I saw her in court on a regular basis. She was always prepared, very articulate and took each of her cases seriously. I then worked with her again at the Department of the Attorney General, and we were in the same division while she was there from 2015 to 2022.

Katie is a strong individual who is not afraid to speak her mind on any issue she is passionate about. Whatever she is tasked with, she will get the job done, and have a solid basis for her actions. She will always do the right thing. Katie is intelligent, hardworking, and takes pride in her work. She is also a wonderful mom, co-worker and friend. Katie is a valuable asset to DHHL and for our state.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in support.

Jennifer R. Sugita

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in **strong support** of GM 526 nominating Katie Ducatt to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I had the honor and privilege of working with Katie at the Department of the Attorney General for approximately 8 years when she was a deputy attorney general for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). During my years working with her when we were both deputy attorneys general in the same division, I found Katie to be a dedicated, extremely intelligent, and hardworking public servant of the State of Hawaii. Katie also has years of experience and knowledge of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended, diverse legal issues affecting DHHL, real property law and litigation.

Katie would be an asset for DHHL. I've seen her analyze complex legal issues and provide quick and timely analyses and resolutions of matters. When she was a deputy attorney general, she worked nights, weekends, and holidays to serve DHHL. Katie's passion, experience and knowledge of DHHL issues, and her background in real property law, make her an ideal Deputy to the Chairperson of DHHL.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Katie Ducatt.

Jennifer R. Sugita

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 11:12:46 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: GM 526, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Gubernatorial Nominee, KATIE DUCATT, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I write in strong support of GM 526 to confirm Katie Ducatt as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

Katie served as a deputy attorney general for several years and in that capacity represented DHHL and its governing body, the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Thus, she comes to the Deputy position with in-depth knowledge of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and a substantial understanding of the Department, its programs, its challenges, and its tremendous potential going forward.

Katie is a person of great integrity. She is a hard-working individual dedicated to seeing the mission of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act fulfilled. In mid-2021 Katie was tasked with the responsibility of working with the State's outside counsel (my law firm) on the *Kalima* lawsuit. I believe this was Katie's first foray into the lawsuit, which had been remanded to the circuit court after the Supreme Court's June 2020 decision. There was so much to be done as the case moved into a new phase after the remand. Katie worked diligently to prepare the case for the waitlist claims administration process. Her hard work contributed significantly to the case being postured such that after 22 years, the plaintiffs' claims could be evaluated and a historic settlement of all claims could be reached. The settlement is now pending final approval by the circuit court.

Katie has the knowledge, skills, experience, and commitment to help move DHHL forward. I respectfully urge her confirmation.

Donna Kalama

Testimony Supporting Katie Ducatt -GM 526

My name is David Ka'apu and I am testifying as an individual and in support of Katie Ducatt's nomination for Deputy to the Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Homes. I worked closely with Katie when she was a Deputy Attorney General assigned to the Hawaiian Homes Commission and I sat as the West Hawaii Commissioner from 2014-2022.

Katie is well informed, bright and capable attorney who worked with the Commission on many difficult and complicated matters over the years. Katie was always professional in her presentations and took whatever time necessary to explain the current state of law to the Commission and always utilized a well-reasoned approach. This allowed the Commission to weigh her advice and, in my view, to make prudent decisions.

If confirmed as Deputy to the Chair of the Hawaiian Homes, I believe that Katie will utilize her breadth of knowledge, not only as to the law, but also her keen understanding of the unique issues facing the Department to help move the Department forward. She will be an asset to the Department of Hawaiian Homes, a breath of fresh air, and I fully support her nomination.

Mahalo

David Ka'apu

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 11:54:18 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Szucs	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of GM 526, to confirm Katie Ducatt to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I met Katie when we both attended the William S. Richardson School of Law. During law school, we worked together on the Asian-Pacific Law and Policy Journal, and we remained friends upon graduation. We also worked together for a time at the law firm of Motooka Yamamoto & Revere. I know Katie to be a conscientious, detail-oriented, hard worker, who is passionate about Native Hawaiian issues. I am confident that she would be a good candidate for the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. For these reasons, I support Katie Ducatt's confirmation. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Kirsha K.M. Durante
811 Akumu Street
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734
(808) 371-7456

March 29, 2023

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

RE: GM 526, Testimony in Support of Katie L. Ducatt, Gubernatorial Nominee,
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Aloha e Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and members of the Committee,

My name is Kirsha K.M. Durante and I am writing in support of GM 526, to confirm Katie Ducatt to be the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Although we both attended Kamehameha Schools around the same time, I first met Katie when we both attended the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. After she graduated and completed her clerkship with the Honorable Richard W. Pollack, Katie joined the Office of the Public Defender ("OPD"). As you are probably aware, the OPD handles the bulk of the criminal defense cases in the State of Hawai'i. It is a statewide office established by statute to represent any indigent person charged with a criminal offense or threatened with the loss of liberty. The caseloads are high and the work is demanding. Katie excelled at the OPD gaining legal experience in appeals and both jury and judge trials. Central to the work of a deputy public defender is also the development of people skills. The individuals seeking assistance from the OPD are oftentimes suffering from a multitude of socioeconomic issues – including generational trauma since a disproportionate amount of our prison population, and the clients represented by the OPD, are Native Hawaiian. Deputy public defenders learn to communicate compassionately and effectively with individuals in dire circumstances. Legal experience and people skills are just some of the characteristics Katie developed during her time at the OPD which will aid in her role as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

More recently, I have worked with Katie in a different capacity. As a staff attorney at the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, I have represented clients in matters concerning the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands ("the Department") and Katie has served as counsel for the Department and/or the Hawaiian Homes Commission. In my personal experiences appearing against Katie in cases, she has always maintained a professional demeanor while zealously advocating for the interests of her client. Katie's vast legal experience in criminal litigation, civil

litigation, government positions and the private sector provide her with a unique ability to accurately and efficiently identify the legal issues in any situation. This ability not only bolsters her ability to discern areas of potential liability and protect the interest of the Department, but also gives her the credibility to provide a candid assessment when necessary to ensure that Department and the Commission fulfill their fiduciary obligations to beneficiaries.

It is for these reasons I support Katie Ducatt's confirmation.

Mahalo piha for your consideration of my testimony.

Na'u nō me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirsha K.M. Durante". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Kirsha K.M. Durante, Esq.

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 12:54:16 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Kanakaole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I am submitting this testimony as a private citizen and offering my enthusiastic support of Katie Ducatt for confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I had the pleasure of working with Katie since 2017 when I joined the Hawaiian Home Lands Unit within the Department of the Attorney General.

During our time together, I witnessed firsthand Katie's exceptional work ethic, dedication, and commitment that she brings to the job. She is the perfect candidate for Deputy to the Chair, having years' worth of understanding and dealing with the legal issues and operational/programmatic complexities surrounding the Hawaiian home lands. Time and time again, she has offered insightful and creative solutions to the challenges faced by DHHL.

Katie is an outstanding attorney who possesses more than the requisite leadership qualities, experience, and passion necessary for her appointment. I have no doubt that she will be – as she has always been- an invaluable resource for DHHL, and I wholeheartedly recommend her for this position.

Mahalo nui,

Ryan K. P. Kanaka'ole

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 12:58:43 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Taira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chari Fevella and Committee Members:

It is with honor and pleasure that I write in support of the nomination of Katie Ducatt for the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I supervised Ms. Ducatt for four and a half years when she was a Deputy Attorney General servicing the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. She was well qualified for the position and eager to serve. Ms. Ducatt was, and continues to be, particularly suited to serving DHHL as she is experienced in real estate law and has an understanding of, and affinity for, Hawaiian issues. Ms. Ducatt is smart, a good communicator, grasps issues well, is disciplined and sees matters to conclusion. She always gives 200% effort.

Ms. Ducatt's many years as DHHL's assigned Deputy Attorney General makes her uniquely suited to address DHHL issues at the administrative level. She knows the people that make up DHHL, its constituents, and the issues well. She has a respect for everyone involved and does not take this opportunity lightly. She is eager to assist DHHL, as Deputy to the Chair, in accomplishing its mission to serve its native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

Ms. Ducatt comes from a family dedicated to public service. Her father is retired from the Honolulu Police Department and her brother is currently with HPD. It is unsurprising that she has answered this call to service at the leadership level, continuing her family's strong tradition of service to the community.

In my opinion, the Committee would do well in supporting Ms. Ducatt's nomination and forwarding her nomination to the Senate with recommendation for approval.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Diane K. Taira

LATE

G.M. 526

Testimony in **support** of Gubernatorial Nominee
Katie Ducatt as Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 30, 2023, 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol Room 224

Testimony from Brian K. Furuto as a private citizen

Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Committee:

I stand in strong support of Ms. Katie Ducatt as nominee for Deputy Chair of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. Ms. Ducatt is a highly capable individual who has both the experience and knowledge of the issues facing the Department.

Over the last nearly 30 years, I have worked in the executive offices in the legislature and executive branch, and I have led Administrative Services for two UH campuses and the DHHL. I provide my background because I understand what makes good government leaders, administrators, and Department heads. Ms. Ducatt has the knowledge, temperament, and experience to successfully manage the issues facing DHHL.

I am confident in Ms. Ducatt's abilities to lead and manage. I see in her and Chair Watson a dynamic team that is prepared to lead the DHHL into the future.

LATE

March 29, 2022

Senate Committee On Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of GM-526

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and members of the Committee,

I'm Homelani Schaedel, a beneficiary residing in Malu'ōhai, a homestead leader in Kapolei, and an advocate for the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust.

The designation by Governor Green of Ikaika Anderson as Chair Designate of the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) created turmoil, uncertainty, and a three (3) month setback for Commissioners, DHHL staff, and beneficiaries.

I am so grateful for your fortitude and foresight in approving the nomination for Kali Watson as Chair of the HHC and Director of DHHL, followed by confirmation by the Senate. Now we move on to confirmation of Deputy Director of DHHL.

In her capacity as Deputy Attorney General, Katie Ducatt served DHHL for seven (7) years. Ms. Ducatt knows the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, as amended, is observant and attentive. Having sat through a minimum of 84 commission meetings providing commissioners guidance, she has accumulated valuable information to assist her in supporting DHHL staff.

Of particular interest is her skills and background that I hope will be used to preview a backlog of documents and advance the process which requires the Attorney General's office review and approval.

It is time to holomua, to move forward, for we have little time to waste. With this urgency in mind, I humbly ask for your support to confirm the nomination of Katie Ducatt for Deputy Director of DHHL.

Mahalo for your time and this opportunity to present my testimony.

LATE

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 2:31:40 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Iokepa Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Fevella, and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I submit testimony today on GM 526 in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Katie Ducatt's nomination to the role of Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

I worked alongside Ms. Ducatt for the better part of my own time serving as Deputy, where she served as one of the Deputy Attorney Generals assigned to DHHL. She was a brilliant, detail-oriented, motivated, subject-matter expert upon whom we relied greatly. In that time, I was entirely confident in her mastery of the complexities of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, the unique nature of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, and the multitude of factual and legal issues arising out of the management of the Hawaiian Home trust.

In the brief period of overlap between the end of my term and Ms. Ducatt's nomination, she independently reached out to me to schedule several meetings and calls to best understand the role of Deputy and the responsibilities therein. It was clear that she had the drive and passion to make the kind of commitment that comes with accepting these particular roles, and she demonstrated a keen interest in entering the role and approaching the kuleana from the right frame of mind.

I have no doubt in my mind that Ms. Ducatt is well-suited for this position, that she understands the position, and that in this position she will ensure continuity and continued success for the Department and the Commission.

I strongly urge you to advise and consent to Ms. Ducatt's nomination.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Tyler Iokepa Gomes

LATE

I am Kaulani Almeida, beneficiary lessee of the HHCA 1920, amended 1921 and the President of the Panaewa Hawaiian Home Lands Community Association (PHHLCA). We are in strong opposition of the confirmation of Katie Ducatt to the position of Deputy under Chairman Watson.

As interim AG, She was the one that advised the DHHL Commission to proceed with the extension of Brookfield's lease of the Prince Kuhio Plaza, in her opinion, she believed that HHCA fell under Act 236. She was the opposing AG against the beneficiaries in the Kalima case. No to her confirmation.

Our strong recommendation for the Deputy is DHHL staff Lehua Kinilau. She is currently the Head of NAHASDAH and the DHHL legislative aide. She articulated all the answers to questions of Act 279 that was asked from the Senators at the hearing of Interim Chair Anderson.

LATE

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:00:15 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
K. Piltz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

I strongly support Katie Ducatt for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.

Katie is a strong advocate for native Hawaiians. She works closely with other State and Federal agencies and has a very wide, thorough and knowledgeable perspective on issues.

I believe that Katie's immense knowledge and abilities will be a valuable asset to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and to provide strong support for Katie Ducatt.

LATE

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:55:19 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Katie Ducatt for Deputy Director to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands for the State of Hawaii.

Ms. Ducatt's resume demonstrates that she possesses an impressive grasp of the issues past and present that the DHHL faces in these challenging times. She has a diverse background which is an asset as the Deputy to the Chairperson in a multifaceted agency such as the DHHL. The State will benefit from her diverse background, professional accomplishments, and commitment to service.

I have known Katie as an attorney working in the Department of the Attorney General's office. She was assigned to advise DHHL. Her knowledge and commitment to providing legal advice to her clients were admirable. She possesses a commendable and demonstrated commitment to serving. She has an impressive educational background that she can draw upon to fulfill her responsibilities and duties as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:22:16 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
randy awo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators. My name is Randy Awo. I am a life long Hawaiian Homestead Beneficiary and have served as the Maui Hawaiian Homes Commissioner since 2017 until present. Today, I submit testimony in strong support of Governor's nominee Katie Ducatt to serve as the Deputy for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. I have had the opportunity to work with Ducatt in her capacity as an AG assigned to the DHHL. She is always well prepared, provides sound advice and maintains a level of objectivity that allows for meaningful discussion and thoughtful decision making. Her work ethic, good judgement and demonstrated commitment to maintain the integrity of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act makes her well suited to serve in this capacity. I ask for your consideration in supporting Ms. Ducatt. Mahalo nui

LATE

Statement of

LEO R. ASUNCION, JR.

before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 30, 2023

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of

Governor's Message (GM) 526

Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

I strongly support the nomination of Katie Ducatt to serve as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

I have known and worked with Ms. Ducatt for over 20 years, and she continues to demonstrate competency of the broad range of issues and topics facing the DHHL. With her experience as an attorney in state government and the private sector, it is my opinion that Ms. Ducatt is the right type of leader that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands needs to ensure critical initiatives are advanced for DHHL Beneficiaries and the State.

Ms. Ducatt possesses that right demeanor and collaborative nature to assist the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands in leading the Department, and she continues to demonstrate the highest level of leadership. Ms. Ducatt has gained my trust as a colleague and a friend, and I have the utmost confidence that she will serve DHHL Beneficiaries and our State well.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to advise and consent to the nomination of Katie Ducatt as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM 526.

LATE

GM-526

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 7:41:17 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis L. Neves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in total support of Katie Ducatt's appointment to Deputy Director of Hawaiian Homes. Katie has the legal expertise and institutional knowledge needed to more the department forward in providing the required benefits to our beneficiaries.

LATE

Aloha e Senators;

Our names are Ronald T. and Doreen K. Kodani and reside on the Island of Hawaii in the Piihonua Hawaiian Homestead Community Association. Although we are officers of this homestead association, this email we are submitting is our own opinion and testimony as husband and wife. We are not representing the Board and Members of the PHHCA.

It is with deep regret that my wife and I are in opposition to the appointment of Katie Ducatt to be the new Deputy Chair for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. There are a number of reasons for this opposition but will only specify 4 in this email.

First of all, it is personal to us because Ms. Ducatt was one of the lead attorneys who pursued the opposition to the Native Hawaiians' lawsuit against DHHL and the State of Hawaii in the Kalima Case. Currently, there are over 2,700 original plaintiffs in this decades-old lawsuit who were recently awarded a 328 million dollar settlement by the 2021 legislature. As we understand it, Ms. Kucatt was one of the lead lawyers who tried to dismiss this case against the State of Hawaii and the DHHL/State by the plaintiffs in this class action lawsuit. Her participation of being part of the opposition to this lawsuit for over 20 years, has delayed the awards for the beneficiaries who sued the State of Hawaii to receive their mandated homestead awards in an efficient and timely manner. This delay had prolonged the damages judgment by the Supreme Court to the plaintiffs and resulted in over 1,000 plaintiffs dying before seeing their action and perseverance being awarded in their favor. We cannot feel that, after all these years, her attitudes and thoughts can be unbiased on her part if this current administration is executing her duties as a line administrator of the HHA of 1920. I told you that it is personal to us because if you review the plaintiffs in the case, my wife Doreen is listed as such.

Second, it is our understanding that she was the DHHL Attorney General for Mr. Bill Aila in 2021 when they advocated to changing the HHA of 1920 to extend leases for current non-native beneficiaries for forty more years which would allow the Big Island's managers for the Prince Kuhio Mall for the length of 99 years, if we are not mistaken. That puts the Delaware Company lessees of the Prince Kuhio Mall on par with a lessee! AOLE! They will have had the mall for 65 years of the original lease and they have made their return on investment for many years. It is time for DHHL and beneficiaries to have their lands returned to them and let the Native Hawaiian Community decide the new future for the mall. It belongs to the beneficiaries who have been denied the use of this prime commercial site for all these years.

Third, Chair Kali Watson is a lawyer, and has access to lawyers in the department so we do not feel that a lawyer in the administrative position as a Deputy Chair is as important as a person with a financial or a construction background that can help him focus on developing the residential lots mandated by Act 279 with it's 600 million dollar spending deadline hovering over the Department. If that is the case however, we would like Governor's Green to consider Ms. Nicole Lehua Kimilau-Cano for this position. Watching her testify on behalf of the NAHASDA funds and other matters relating to DHHL policy and action, she carries herself in a professional and courteous manner when addressing the Senate. We understand that she is also a lawyer, but with many years of knowledge dealing with building, construction, infrastructure, and other matters relating to planning and development. We have had meetings with her in the past, interacted with her and consider her to be credible and able to assume the position of the Deputy Chair, if a lawyer is needed in this position. We also understand that she applied for the position, but the vetting committee never chose to interview her. Auwe.

Fourth, We have attended a number of in-person beneficiary and televised meetings over the years. Only after watching the HWN Senate meetings on February 10th and 19th of this year, did we see what Kaktie Ducatt looked like, let alone met. Until that day, we did not know she was a staffer at DHHL let alone interact with homesteaders and beneficiaries except in an adversarial position.

On a side note, If there is any situation that Mr. Kali Watson cannot perform his duties as the Chair for the Hawaiian Homes Commission, she becomes the acting chair and assumes the position as chair. Does she continue to the end of his term, does she need to be reconfirmed to the Chair, or is the process starting all over again.? All we know is that any delays can be fatal to carrying out Act 279 and we feel that she will not be a strong supporter for Mr. Watson to execute this legislative Mandate.

We apologize for the length of time to explain our position as to why we are opposing her. Again, many things our opinion is based on can be hearsay and second hand notice. But we met with and talked with Ikaika Anderson, Makai Freitas, and Kali Watson. We appreciated them taking some of their time to visit with us on the outer islands and engage with us. She could have done the same outreach as they did , so it seems that we are just not important enough to meet and talk with us, even on Zoom. Our personal thoughts anyway.

A hui hou,

Ronald & Doreen Kodani