



Hawaiian Civic Club of Hilo

**Written Testimony of SUPPORT Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
April 3, 2023**

by
The Hawaiian Civic Club of Hilo

Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (GM 538, GM 542, GM 543, GM 544)

Dear Chairperson Inouye and Members of the Committee:

Please accept this testimony in support of the following nominees for the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (SOA).

- Paul Horner, GM 538
- Richard Matsuda, GM 542
- Gary Krug, GM 543
- Kamanamaikalani Beamer, GM 544

Each of these nominees have demonstrated the commitment, knowledge, integrity, and experience necessary to effectively serve on the Mauna Kea SOA. Our membership fully supports their confirmation.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dorinna H. Cortez".

Dorinna H. Cortez
Secretary/Treasurer

2106 Kaiwiki Rd
Hilo, HI 96720
hccofhilo@gmail.com

GM-543

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 9:32:48 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kupuna for the Mo'opuna	Testifying for Kupuna for the Moopuna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT for consideration and confirmation to the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee **GARY KRUG.**

Mahalo,

Kūpuna for the Mo‘opuna

Pana‘ewa, Hawai’i

GM-543

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 8:21:28 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
john komeiji	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the confirmation of Gary Kalehua Krug to the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

Since September 2022, the members of the Authority have focused on establishing the structure and framework for this new State agency. Along with others, Mr. Krug has had to learn about the many steps that must be undertaken to stand-up this important organization. Further, as the Authority currently has no employees, Authority Board members have had to undertake operational tasks that typically are undertaken by paid staff to move us toward our operational goals.

Based upon my experience and discussions with these members, I have no doubt that he will continue to: be focused and engaged; express and consider differing perspectives; and most importantly, foster a “mutual stewardship paradigm in which ecology, the environment, natural resources, cultural practices, education and science are in balance and synergy” (Act 255). As a result, I highly support the confirmation of Mr. Krug.

Mahalo for permitting me the opportunity to express my support.

John Komeiji

Chair Designee, Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority

GM-543

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 2:57:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noe Noe Wong-Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

Please accept this testimony in support of Dr. Gary Kalehua Krug for the Education seat on the MKSOA. Kalehua is a well known Hawaiian educator and cultural practitioner and brings that voice with him to the authority. Since November, we have worked together on the MKSOA. Kalehua has been engaged and committed to the hard work. I believe he is an asset to the authority and should be confirmed.

Mahalo.

GM-543

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 10:59:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO.

GM-543

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 2:15:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KATHERINE ROSEGUO	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am a Hawai'i island voter and Hawaiian language speaker who works on Maunakea. I am writing to urge you to reject the nominees for the Maunakea Authority who protested the construction of TMT by illegally blocking the road.

There are so many talented and knowledgeable native Hawaiians who can walk in both the past and the future. Do not reward people who threaten, scream misinformation and block the road and with power. They will put all us local people who work on Maunakea out of work while they crush our childrens' dreams. ["You Will Not Build On Maunakea" Mililani Trask Tells NSF \(Aug. 9, 2022\)](#)

I have listed the nominees I am concerned about below along with the evidence (links).

The nominees I am concerned about comprise a majority of the people selected to serve on the Authority. The evidence below shows that they will not honor Astronomy as state policy. In addition, I have been viewing the meetings thus far, and it appears that the people on this Authority are not interested in serving the public, but rather in political power. They want to spend millions of dollars to hire all these people to do the job that UH did and worked so hard to improve. Nonetheless, those efforts were ignored and the "mismanagement" of 20 years ago was used to justify tossing UH under the bus and create a whole new Authority paid for by taxpayers, with no apparent oversight. But here we are.

The nominees I am concerned about are:

Kamanamaikalani Beamer:

<https://www.facebook.com/1180085812/videos/10218301693551963/>

Gary Krug, Pomaikai Bertelmann, Michelle "Noe Noe" Wong-Wilson All of the above are in this video: <https://www.facebook.com/710585613/videos/10157091730755614/>

Joshua Mangaul: <https://fb.watch/g81tBrP7KJ/>

Pomaikai Bertelmann <https://youtu.be/iwRnQQn6m2E> at 5:02, 8:19

As a former public school teacher, I ask: Why even teach STEM to our local kids if the state is actively destroying opportunities for students to pursue careers in physics and astronomy at UH and be able to remain in the islands instead of moving to the mainland? Do you not believe in our youth? Why pit the Hawaiian community as a whole against the sciences when so many Hawaiians and other local people support astronomy and the many technical and other local jobs which follow it?

You might wonder why more did not volunteer to be on the MKSOA. The truth is, people are scared. Supporting astronomy of any kind has become synonymous with being anti-Hawaiian. Nothing is further from the truth. Having taught science in Hawaiian at Nāwahī, I have witnessed the beauty of combining culture and science. What's sad is that our kids who think physics and astronomy is cool stay silent, with so much hatred and anger directed towards astronomy. Those of us who live on Big Island see "A'ole TMT" stickers on people's cars, "Kū Kia'i Mauna" on people's shirts in the grocery store, and many have experienced threats of violence, even former Governor Ige. Native Hawaiian astrophysicists and navigators have gotten threats from their own families and the community. We feel unsafe, especially after Harry Kim and Ige reward protestors by using taxpayer funds to lay down gravel at the protest site. Protestors claim that their voices haven't been heard, but the truth is, the media seems to ONLY give weight to those voices. To testify in person in support of astronomy is absolutely terrifying, especially when some lawmakers have been emboldened by how yelling and screaming has served them. Is this who we in Hawai'i have become?

The actual silenced voices, left unacknowledged by the media as well as our own state government, are the local people who support astronomy and STEM education, and see a future for our keiki to stay in Hawai'i instead of moving away after they graduate. They don't want tourism or the military to be the only future for our kids.

I am advocating for the nomination of native Hawaiians who are able to walk in Hawai'i kahiko as well as Hawai'i today: modern native Hawaiians who perpetuate our cultural heritage of celestial navigation and natural observation by contributing to and supporting the most advanced astronomy and space sciences: people like the late Paul Coleman, Kalepa Baybayan, and Wally Ishibashi, may they rest among the stars. Others who are here with us: Heather Kaluna, Brittany Kamai, Makana Silva, Tyler Trent, Amber Imai-Hong, Kauionalani Brielyn Onodera, Mailani Neal, Kaila Nathaniel, Leinani Lozi, Ka'iu Kimura, Larry Kimura, Naea Stevens, Kekoa Alip, and Kaimi Kahihikolo, to name just a few. I urge you, before considering who should be on this Authority, to come to Maunakea, and see how science and culture are thriving here, and how many local people are working here in various capacities. Please seek nominees who can work together for the good of all. Make it safe for people who can see our past and our future in the heavens. They want to serve. Seeking peaceful solutions united by our shared humanity - and voting - that's what works. Say yes to Maunakea so everyone - the entire world - can benefit. Seeking knowledge is sacred. For all of us.

LATE

GM-543

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 4:33:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Dalton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If appointed to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, there is little chance this nominee will remain neutral in any decision affecting the Thirty-Meter Telescope. I oppose confirmation.

LATE

GM-543

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 5:32:01 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai e Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Water and Land Committee

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit my personal testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Dr. Gary Kalehua Krug to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

I have had the great privilege to work alongside Dr. Krug and to witness his community work over the past year and a half. I can unequivocally attest to his character, expertise, thoughtfulness, and deep commitment to restoring and perpetuating our islands' cultural, social, and environmental integrity. Notably, Dr. Krug's work may be critical to our ability to weather the climate crisis, and navigate the existential threats to our islands that have been created by our modern day departures from the kānaka 'ōiwi science, values, and worldview that have sustained our islands since time immemorial.

Accordingly, I strongly believe that Dr. Krug will be essential to fulfilling the Mauna Kea Authority's functions, and help to restore balance and a culturally-grounded approach to the stewardship of this sacred place, which has suffered far too long from a lack of appropriate management. While much work remains to be done, and much remains to be seen as to whether the Authority will be given adequate support to fulfill its mission, I do believe that the appointment of Dr. Krug will help to give the Authority the best chance of success.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend that the Senate **ADVISE AND CONSENT** to the appointment of Dr. Krug.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.