



**To:** **Senate Committee on Water and Land**

Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang  
Senator Angus McKelvey  
Senator Kurt Fevella

**From:** Jean-Gabriel Cuby, Canada France Hawaii Telescope Executive Director

**Date:** April 3, 2023

**GM:** 544

**GM Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAMANAMAICALANI BEAMER, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

**Subject:** **SUPPORT for GM544**

Aloha Chair Inouye and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer's confirmation to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, for a term to expire June 30, 2024.

As a professor at the University of Hawai'i and an individual with a strong commitment to the local community, Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer is able and willing to tackle the work before MKSOA authority members. As an academic well-versed in the study of Polynesian societies, the circular economy, and sustainability issues, and as an individual committed to and experienced in land and water management, Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer will be an invaluable asset to the MKSOA. I have no doubt he will contribute to shaping, with the Observatories, a responsible and sustainable future for astronomy on Maunakea and be a key asset in developing community-based mutual stewardship.

I support Dr. Beamer's confirmation, along with the full slate of nominees for the MKSOA, to continue the work they have begun as interim board members over the past several months to co-create a pono future for Maunakea governance and decision-making. Thank you very much for your consideration of my testimony.

Mahalo nui loa,

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Director Jean-Gabriel Cuby, Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope



# 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-544**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 9:29:18 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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 **KAMANAMAIKALANI BEAMER.**

Mahalo,

Kūpuna for the Mo‘opuna

Pana‘ewa, Hawai‘i



April 3, 2023

**LATE**

Committee on Water and Land  
Hawai'i State Senate

**Subject: GM 544 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAMANAMAIKALANI BEAMER, for a term to expire 06-30-2024**

Dear Chair Inouye and members of the Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Water and Land:

I write in reference to the Governor's nomination of Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer for appointment to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. The appointment of Dr. Beamer to this role would engage a leader with courage to constructively disrupt failed models and ingenuity needed for problem resolution and reinvention.

Dr. Beamer is not unlike the warriors, cultural practitioners, educators and scholars that have emerged from his 'ohana over many generations. He has their same innate courage, talent and insight. But born to the generation that was almost mute in our language, Dr. Beamer's struggle had to bear the additional burden of relearning our 'olelo makuahine and rising to the kuleana of renewing a respect for Kanaka Maoli traditions and for the ancestral knowledge that once produced an astonishing, industrious and dynamic society. He became what Native scholars often become, masters of the grounded, integrating the multi-disciplinary focus of Hawaiian worldview with global perspectives taught in the western academy.

Dr. Beamer wrote a fearless dissertation that challenged some long-held beliefs and assertions about the nature of change and historical processes in Hawai'i. His intellectual bravery is arguably an even more significant makana than his well-reasoned research conclusions. Dr. Beamer reflects and perpetuates the daring imagination, unfettered intelligence and stubborn will that for millennia have produced pioneering navigators and the brave kánaka who followed them out to sea. He serves as a role model for the generations of scholars and productive citizens we hope to continue producing among our lāhui.

Like his wayfinding kūpuna and teachers, Dr. Beamer has sailed from one challenge, one imagined point on the horizon to another, confident in his knowledge because it has come from our ancestors and sure of his direction because he knows from whence he came. And his voyage has produced a deep love for this 'āina because the navigator understands that our pae 'āina, the homeland of a magnificent people, offers all that we need to thrive.

The beauty and abundance o nēia ‘āina nani kamaha’o...of this wondrous land...is a precious gift that we must never take for granted. Dr. Beamer understands the importance of the reciprocity required to maintain balance. He has concluded, “There is no ‘āina without people. Because people live on land and are fed by land, then it is ‘āina.”

To this end, while managing ‘āina-based learning programs for the Kamehameha Schools Land Assets Division and in his college classes at the University of Hawai‘i, Dr. Beamer designed a graduated series of place-based learning experiences and curriculum evolving:

- from an introduction to sense of place and understanding of the ahupua‘a system;
- to reflecting on the knowledge derived from the ‘āina;
- to demonstrating appropriate stewardship and sustainability practices;
- to engaging in advocacy and leadership on behalf of ‘āina and community.

Dr. Beamer’s brilliant research is entitled, “*No Mākou ka Mana*”. In it, he recognizes that many of the stresses upon our resources, systems and society are ramifications and residue of an inherited paradigm. However, he also believes in agency. The problems and conflicts that beset our world may not be of our making, but that should not prevent us from confronting and changing the structures that produce inequitable and intolerable results. He walked this talk with distinction during his two terms as a commissioner on the State Commission on Water Resources Management.

The planet Dr. Beamer is determined to leave his keiki will be better than the world in which we now live. The more sustainable and self-reliant Hawai‘i he envisions and strives to create will honor the heritage of our host culture, treasure our uniqueness and inspire an increasingly diverse population to embrace a commitment to aloha and mālama the lands and resources that enable our being.

I am confident that Dr. Beamer’s knowledge, worldview and ability to function well on a team will be of great value to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. I urge your favorable consideration and vote of confirmation.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

*Neil Hannahs*

**Neil J. Kaho‘okele Hannahs**  
**Founder & CEO**

**GM-544**

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 2:58:23 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
penny levin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support.

**GM-544**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 6:59:07 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. Dr. Beamer's education and experieecs clearly make him qualified to serve on the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority,

**GM-544**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 8:16:53 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
john komeiji	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the confirmation of Kamana Beamer 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. Beamer 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. Beamer.

Mahalo for permitting me the opportunity to express my support.

John Komeiji

Chair Designee, Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority



**GM-544**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 9:01:21 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimi Makaiau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am honored to provide my support for KAMANAMAİKALANI BEAMER, who I believe will be an exceptional member of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. His deep knowledge of practice and unwavering commitment to 'āina is a necessary perspective on this oversight board.

**GM-544**

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 4:37:26 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christoph Baranec	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose having protestors on the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

**GM-544**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 1:00:26 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noe Noe Wong-Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

Please accept my testimony in support of Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer for the MKSOA. I have known Dr. Beamer for a number of years and served with him as a founding author of the Aina Aloha Economic Futures initiative. I believe he brings great experience, expertise and wisdom to this authority with his background serving on the Water Commission for 8 years as well as his work at UH Manoa's Kamakakuokalani School of Hawaiian Knowledge and The William Richardson School of law.

I urge you to approve his nomination.

Mahalo nui.

**GM-544**

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 10:59:34 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO.

**GM-544**

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 2:16:34 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-544**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 4:17:31 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Dalton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**LATE**

**GM-544**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 5:47:45 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
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. Kamanamaikalani Beamer to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

For over a decade, I have personally witnessed how Dr. Beamer's research, thoughtfulness, expertise, and commitment to our islands have served to benefit our islands and the cultural and social fabric that make Hawai'i such a special place to live. His eight years on the State Water Commission marked a new era of thoughtful, balanced, culturally-grounded, and dutiful application of our constitution and Water Code - leading to historic water management decisions that have restored and enhanced our islands' ecological and cultural landscape as well as our environmental integrity, resilience, economic sustainability, and social fabric. Notably, his leadership in navigating the Keauhou aquifer controversy enabled the Commission to consider, understand, and strike a balance between the critical need to protect Kona's irreplaceable cultural and ecological character, and the fears of landowners regarding perceived undue bureaucracy associated with water management area designation.

Accordingly, I strongly believe that Dr. Beamer will be essential to fulfilling the Mauna Kea Authority's functions, and help to ensure that this long-mismanaged and sacred place finally receives an appropriate level of thoughtfulness, care, and balanced, holistic consideration in its future stewardship. 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. Beamer 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. Beamer.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony,

Wayne Tanaka



**LATE**

**GM-544**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 7:13:42 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ashley Kaono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination of Kamanamaikalani Beamer to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. As such, I respectfully urge Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee on Water and Land to support GM 544.

Mahalo,  
Ashley B. Kaono, Esq.

**GM-544**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 8:57:17 PM

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

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patti Cook	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

**LATE**

**GM-544**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 8:01:18 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonathan Osorio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning Senate President Kouchi and members of the Hawai'i Senate. My name is Jonathan K. Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio and I work for the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am also a keiki o ka 'āina of Hawai'i island and was born in Hilo, T.H. Mahalo for accepting my testimony in full support of Kamanamaikalani Beamer's appointment to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

You already know about his qualifications, former state water commissioner, professor of Hawaiian Studies and the current holder of the Dana Naone Hall Faculty Chair in Hawaiian Studies, Literature and the Environment. He is also the principal investigator for the non profit Aloha Kuamo'o 'Āina, founder of 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures and a public advocate for addressing the ongoing crisis on Kapūkakī (Red Hill). So Dr. Beamer is a knowledgeable and committed individual who has demonstrated effective leadership in Hawaiian communities and in state policy councils for the past fifteen years or more.

I know him as a colleague at the Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies and as a personal friend in whom I have seen nothing but earnest integrity and love for the 'āina. It is true that Dr. Beamer has been a vocal and visible opponent to the TMT, but he is not an opponent of sensible astronomy, sensitive to the cultural requirements of living in this very special place. The Governor has not made a better appointment this term than Kamana Beamer and I urge this Senate to confirm him

Jonathan K Osorio, Wahiawā, HI

**LATE**

**GM-544**

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 8:12:15 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John O'Meara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For the MKSOA to be successful, it requires multiple experiences and perspectives, along with a willingness to come together in a spirit of mutual stewardship. I support Kamana's nomination.