



**HAWAI'I COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

CHASON ISHII
CHAIRPERSON

CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Statement of
Craig K. Nakamoto, Executive Director
Hawai'i Community Development Authority

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Thursday, April 13, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration, of
GM 579

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Community
Development Authority (He'eia District), Gubernatorial Nominee,
JO-ANN LEONG, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee.

The Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) **supports GM 579**, that
considers confirmation for Ms. Jo-Ann Leong as a He'eia District Community Member,
on the HCDA Board.

As a board member of Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, the long-term lessee and steward of the
lands in the He'eia community development district, a member of the board for Paepae
o He'eia – the Hawaiian fishpond makai of the District, and as Director Emeritus of the
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology at the University of Hawai'i, Ms. Leong brings an
unmatched expertise of the land, its flora and fauna, and the He'eia community.

In the time she has served on the HCDA board, her commitment and passion as
a volunteer for the He'eia district and Kāne'ohe Bay area has been inspirational. We
look forward to continued collaboration with Member Leong.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Ka Moku'aina 'O Hawai'i Aha Moku O Pae'Aina

State of Hawai'i Aha Moku

P. O. Box 621

Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Testimony of the Hawaii State Aha Moku
Before the Senate Committee on
Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Thursday, April 13, 2023
1:00 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

IN SUPPORT of GM 579

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA-Heeia District), Gubernatorial Nominee, JO-ANN LEONG, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) strongly supports this Gubernatorial Nominee.

Based on her extensive experience in demonstrated leadership and successful management in transactions in conservation, community capacity building, conflict resolution and ecosystem restoration, Aha Moku supports Jo-Ann Leong. But more than this, we acknowledge and honor her skills in empowering local communities to steward cultural landscapes and wise community development.

Further, Ms. Leong is a leader who was raised with the traditional values of the diverse cultures that make up Hawaii, particularly Kaneohe and Heeia. She is respectful to elders which is critically important to local people. She understands the value of generational knowledge and that each moku and ahupua'a are unique in their natural and cultural resources, particularly He'eia that houses the leina of Ko'olaupoko.

Thank you for the opportunity to sharing our mana'o with you. We strongly support Jo-Ann Leong as a member of the HCDA-Heeia District .

Respectfully,

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/Executive Director

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KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

Thursday, April 13, 2023

To: Senator Lynn DeCoite, chair Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Senator Glenn Wakai, vice-chair Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism

From: Nancy Davlantes, Government Relations Committee

Subject: SUPPORT for GM579 Nomination of Jo-Ann Leong to Heeia District, Hawaii Community Development Authority

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Committee Members,

Kaneohe Bay is a sacred wahi pana to native Hawaiians of Ko`olaupoko, and Jo-Ann's dedication to the health and welfare of the Bay and its environs and commitment to the people who live there and in the Kāne'ohe Bay region have been consistent threads throughout her time as Director of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

Until her tenure as Director from 2001-2014, HIMB was seen by community members as a place for scientists apart from the people of Kaneohe. Jo-Ann aimed to change that perception and to welcome the entire Kaneohe community to Moku o Lo`e, popularly known as Coconut Island.

Not only that, she found time to serve on the boards of Paepae o He'eia, Kako o' Oiwi, and the Ko'olapoko Hawaiian Civic Club. She and Jonathan Kanekoa Kekua Shultz proposed the designation of the National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) site at He'eia and that proposal was selected for the federal designation process by the state.

It's not every day that HCDA has the opportunity to have someone with Jo-Ann's background serve on the Heeia District.

For these reasons, we **STRONGLY URGE** you to confirm this extremely qualified person.

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is one of the largest in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs nationwide. Ko'olaupoko HCC is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians and providing leadership and scholarships. Its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart."

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GM-579

Submitted on: 4/10/2023 2:26:02 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I heartily support this nominee, who has been connected to Heeia and its environs through her long tenure at HIMB as well as helping to establish the Heeia national estuarine research reserve (NERR). Her experience is invaluable to HCDA.

GM-579

Submitted on: 4/11/2023 8:21:56 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Texeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT Gubernatorial Nominee, JO-ANN LEONG, for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (Heeia District).

Mahalo,

Cynthia Texeira

GM-579

Submitted on: 4/10/2023 3:55:25 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

NO !!