



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

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Statement of
James Kunane Tokioka
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Thursday, April 11, 2024
Time 1:00PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of

GM736

**GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE DAVELYN KALIPI AS A MEMBER OF THE NATURAL
ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) is pleased to present testimony in strong support of Ms. Davelyn Kalipi to be considered for the NELHA Board of Directors. She has a long history of contributing to the renewable energy, community economic development and sustainability-oriented projects in Hawaii. She is very qualified and has the ability to fill this important position.

Ms. Kalipi has been on the NELHA Board of Directors since 2022. Her experience and understanding of government, strategic planning, and economic development combined with leadership in facilitating discussions with various stakeholders to develop community partnerships provide her with perfect qualifications for a continued appointment to the NELHA Board of Directors. Her practical realistic assessment of issues and straight-forward thinking will be invaluable in this regard.

Ms. Kalipi has a strong understanding of successful development projects in Hawaii based on a clear understanding of professional relationships and entrepreneurship networks in conjunction with Hawaiian customs and practices. This history and experience will contribute to the Board's ability evaluate new opportunities, strategic direction, and objectives. In this regard, NELHA needs Directors who can see the “big picture” and have a broad vision to understand how the pieces of our economic future fit together. Ms. Kalipi possesses these skills.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony for GM 736.

GM-736

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 1:29:32 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rich Matsuda	Testifying for W. M. Keck Observatory	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair DeCoite, Vice-Chair Wakai and Member of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism -

Thank you for this opportunity to express my support for Davelyn Noelani Kalipi to continue her service on the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority. I am the Director of the W. M. Keck Observatory based in Kamuela, Hawai'i Island, and have known and collaborated with Noe as she effectively developed methodologies and practices for collaboratively building relationships between organizations, communities, and the places where they intersect. I believe such work is essential in strengthening and maintaining the trust necessary for NELHA to meet its mission. Noe's diverse background in government, energy, and community engagement, as well as her volunteer board service and extensive network will continue to serve NELHA well in the future. Mahalo.

GM-736

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 5:25:31 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I, Freedom Kapon Dennis, highly support the nomination of DAVELYN (Noelani) KALIPI, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority. Noelani has consistently demonstrated the value of incorporating ancestral knowledge in all aspects of her personal and professional life and sharing that with the world around her.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Freedom K. Dennis

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 736

RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF DAVELYN KALIPI TO
THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAI'I BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 11, 2024 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Honorable Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. I am Donalyn Dela Cruz, a resident of O'ahu, testifying in **strong support** of the confirmation of Davelyn Kalipi to the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i (NELHA) Board of Directors.

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Ms. Kalipi for many years, and can attest to her dedication and commitment to public service. She has a vast professional background with a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Hawai'i's energy sector.

Ms. Kalipi has served on the NELHA Board for the past two years. During that time, she has actively supported efforts by the NELHA team to engage with community members and cultural practitioners to identify pathways for the contemporary application of ancestral knowledge in ways that can result in a thriving environment and economy.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Davelyn Kalipi to the NELHA Board of Directors. She is a highly qualified and experienced nominee who will serve NELHA and the people of Hawai'i well.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit written testimony and for your consideration.

GM-736

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 7:50:01 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theodore Allen Peck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are few in the state of Hawaii that understand energy and its strategic implications more than Noe Kalipi. She is a person of character and wisdom, and a great asset to NELHA. Please reconfirm her to the Board.

GM-736

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 11:58:44 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Billy Pieper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui,

It is a privilege and a pleasure for me to offer a note of support for and on behalf of Davelyn Noe Kalipi for her consideration and confirmation to the board of NELHA. I have known Noe for well over a decade. In that time span I have observed her in a variety of professional and personal settings and regard her as a high caliber human being and dear friend.

I currently serve as the Senior Vice President and Director of Strategic Partnerships for American Savings Bank. In my current capacity, I have occasion to interface with hundreds of financial and investment professionals throughout Hawaii and the country and can say without hesitation that if I were handpicking a team to work with on a daily basis, Noe would be one of my first picks. Allow me to share a couple of reasons why.

Noe is a unique blend of innate and learned leadership skills. She walks the talk and punctuates what she says with action. Whether in her roles at work, in the community or at home, Noe models the way for the people she leads. She is a student of life and is always looking for ways to improve and get better. She has a heart at peace and treats others with respect and dignity. As a result, people respond to that ethic by wanting to follow her and be like her. Noe is a leader, plain and simple.

Perhaps most importantly for me though, Noe does not place her ego or economic drive above her commitment to principles and truth. In other words, she will not compromise her principles or character for her own personal gain or ego fulfillment. This is a rare quality indeed. Principles like family, humility, respect, relationships, loyalty, and integrity are more important to her than being recognized or simply rewarded economically. This is the hallmark of great people and I can, without hesitation, affirm for you that Noe Kalipi is a great person.

I highly recommend Noe Kalipi for consideration and confirmation to the board of directors for NELHA. If you have interest in discussing further, please feel free to call me.

My best,

Billy Pieper

(808)561-8139

GM-736

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 8:52:45 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole A Velasco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

My name is Nicole Velasco, and I am writing in my private capacity in SUPPORT of the measure. I have had the privilege of working with and learning from Noe on a handful of projects designed to resolve various adaptive challenges present in areas such as leadership development, energy/sustainability, and community building. With her grace and grit, I have faith and trust that Noe will continue to serve NELHA well with in an additional term.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of Noe.

With Aloha,

Nicole

GM-736

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 7:00:51 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles KH Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Charles Young. I am writing in support of Noelani Kalipi's nomination and selection to the Board of Directors of NELHA. I've worked with Noelani as a member of a community advisory group and found her to be knowledgeable, participatory, a good listener and problem solver with a good understanding of the issues I strongly support Noelani's selection to the Board of Directors of NELHA

Charles Young

GM-736

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 7:59:15 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherie Kauahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Noelani Kalipi's background and expertise makes her an invaluable resource for NELHA in her role on the board. In working with Noelani as a member of Pā Pa'aiea, a group of community members organized to provide knowledge and information on Hawaiian values and practices as it pertains to aquaculture and adjacent areas, she has been an integral part of the group, helping to guide and lead tough discussions while bringing awareness to all. Her skills are what is needed for NELHA to move forward in a pono way and to begin to heal community relations. I strongly support Noelani and hope that she gets to fulfill another term on the NELHA board.

GM-736

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 9:57:02 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Sandblom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of GM736 regarding the consideration and confirmation of Davelyn Kalipi to the Board of Directors of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA), for a term to expire on June 30, 2028.

In her first two years of serving on the NELHA Board, Ms. Kalipi has been actively supporting efforts by the NELHA team to engage with lineal descendants and cultural practitioners to broaden understanding and perspectives. She has also helped with identifying pathways for the contemporary application of ancestral knowledge in ways that can result in a thriving environment and economy.

Ms. Kalipi has a proven track record for positive impact across many sectors and is highly regarded by communities across the State. As a resident of Kauai County, in the many years that I have known Ms. Kalipi, I have had the great honor of working alongside her on both personal and professional pursuits. Her integrity and sincere passion for bettering Hawaii are obvious to anyone who knows her, as well as her high business acumen and ability to positively engage community.

I strongly support the confirmation of Davelyn Kalipi to serve an additional term on the NELHA board.

GM-736

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 9:58:40 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Kihalani Springer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HANNAH KIHALANI SPRINGER

72-3403 Māmāaahoa Highway * Kailua-Kona, Hawai‘i * HI 96740

ohiwai@gamil.com

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

I am Hannah Kihalani Springer, writing as an individual, in **support of the nomination of Noelani Kalipi to the Board of Directors of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai‘i Authority.** [GM736]

I am one of the cultural practitioners and lineal descendants (kama‘āina) of the region surrounding the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai‘i Authority (NELHA) campus at Keāhole, Kona. Over the past two years some of us kama‘āina have been meeting regarding the physical condition and care given to commercial and cultural sites on and near to the campus as well as the obligations that the NELHA has, as a State Agency, to consider the Ka Pa‘akai O Ka ‘Āina “framework” when they deliberate on proposed uses of land and water resources, among other things, that may impact the exercise of Hawaiian traditional and customary rights .

Noelani Kalipi, as a Member of the NELHA Board has joined NELHA personnel, Gregory Barbour, Alexander Leonard, and Laurence Sombardier, and the rest of us for these conversations. Her diversity and depth of professional and community, including cultural, experiences, is a welcome asset to our discussions.

The fishpond of Pā‘aiea and the breadfruit grove of Kāmeha‘ikana were important elements of the traditional economy which our ancestors were part of until the lava flow of 1801 covered them. This field of lava is part of the NELHA landscape, and another of the kama‘āina who meet regularly, has described the NELHA campus as being reminiscent of those older food production systems, because of the food production and gainful economic endeavors found there.

Together, we have been making advances, creating a safe space to share perspectives and clarify intentions, to establish pathways of communication, engaging NELHA personnel and kama‘āina

in meaningful discussions helping each other to understand our kuleana according to cultural sensibilities and the spirit of the law.

Noelani has said, "I hope these shared experiences will increase dialogue and sharing of perspectives, helping to establish the trust needed for NELHA to truly meet its mission. This effort is an important model that can be applied globally to address increasing conflicts as populations grapple with the degradation and scarcity of natural resources and the impacts of global climate change." And I agree. It would be pleasure to continue to work with her to accomplish this intention.

Na‘u ka ‘oia‘i‘o

Hannah Kihalani Springer

LATE

GM-736

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 3:24:35 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaika Mahoe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

Mahalo for the opportunity to express my SUPPORT of Davelyn Noelani Kalipi, GM 736, to serve on the Board of Directors of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai‘i Authority (NELHA).

I have had the privilege to work with Noe over the years in various roles on a number of issues. She has been a steadfast bridge in bringing people together in our community.

Her diverse background in policymaking, clean energy, and economic development qualify her for this position but more importantly, it is her years of experience in facilitating dialogue among community members in a collaborative effort to bring about innovative ideas, understanding, and change on numerous matters that impact Hawai‘i that make her the ideal person to continue to serve on the Board of Directors.

It is vital for NELHA to strengthen the relationship with the local community and to be inclusive when looking at opportunities for economic prosperity. She has been actively supporting efforts by NELHA to engage with lineal descendants and cultural practitioners to broaden understanding and perspectives, while identifying pathways for the application of ancestral knowledge in ways that can result in both a thriving environment and economy.

Noe is the right person to help continue to guide NELHA into the future as it moves forward in their mission “to develop and diversify Hawaii’s economy in an environmentally sound and

culturally sensitive manner.” I am confident and look forward to the meaningful contributions Noe will bring to the Board.

For those reason stated above, I strongly and wholeheartedly SUPPORT Noe’s confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai’i Authority.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Ikaika Mahoe

LATE

GM-736

Submitted on: 4/11/2024 9:48:51 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Seidel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support DAVELYN KALIPI in continuing her role on the Board of Directors of the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority (NELHA). She has played an invaluable role with aligning the community to NELHA and her knowledge and experience are an extreme asset the Board.