

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

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON MARCH 12, 2024 AT 1:00PM IN CR 224

IN SUPPORT OF

GM 567

for consideration and confirmation to the
Hawaiian Homes Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, **WALT KANEAKUA**,
for a term to expire 6-30-2027

March 12, 2024

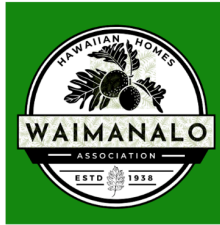
Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Walt Kaneakua as Commissioner for the island of O'ahu on the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Mr. Kaneakua's public service to the Native Hawaiian community and the State of Hawai'i is reflected in his work as Director for the Hawaii Pacific Foundation, the Board of Governors for Shriners Hospital for Children, and Commissioner for the Department of Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. In his congressional career, Mr. Kaneakua formerly worked as congressional staff for United States Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Mazie Hirono and Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. His extensive military education and career speaks to his qualities of discipline, dependability, and discernment. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is delighted to have a pilot on the Hawaiian Homes Commission and we hope to reach "new heights" of enrichment for the beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, with the help of Mr. Kaneakua.

DHHL looks forward to continuing to work with Walt Kaneakua on the Hawaiian Homes Commission and we respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes
Association
41-253 Ilauhole Street
Waimānalo, HI 96795



mail to: PO Box 353
Waimānalo, HI 96795
www.waimanalohha.com
(808) 426-1223

February 21, 2024

Hawai'i State Senate
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Honorable Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
Honorable Sen. Kurt Favella
State Capitol
415 S Beretania Street
Conference Room 224

Re: Strong Support for Confirmation of Walt Kaneakua to the Hawaiian Homes Commission

Aloha Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Sens. Shimabukuro (C) and Favella (V) et al.

The Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association (WHHA) is pleased to submit this letter in STRONG SUPPORT for the confirmation of Dr. Walt Kaneakua to the Hawaiian Homes Commission (Commission). Dr. Kaneakua's resume speaks for itself. Our experiences and interactions with him are explained in this letter.

Before sharing what we've experienced with our next commissioner, it is important to talk about our reason. WHHA's purpose and objectives are to promote the welfare of its members in home, school, church, and community; raise the standard of home life of its members; secure adequate laws for the care and protection of the property and children of its members; and develop between its members and government officials, such united efforts as will secure for every member, the Rehabilitation Program Act 1920, Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Our board strives to make the first three of those purpose and objectives fruitful. The fourth has been a challenge. We believe that with the confirmation of Dr. Kaneakua to the Commission, we will have an opportunity to unite efforts with government officials to secure for each of our members the Rehabilitation Program Act. History would agree.

In October 2023, at the request of our members, I reached out to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) Planning Office to request that a commissioner attend a membership meeting to field some questions. In November 2023, personnel from the office replied via email carbon copying Dr. Kaneakua and he has been gracious, patient, and generous with his time, knowledge, and abilities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KENNETH HO, JR. (P), KILAUĒA WILSON (V), APELA PEĀHI (T), KIRK DEITSCHMAN (S), H. ILIMA HO-LASTIMOSA, JOE AIPA

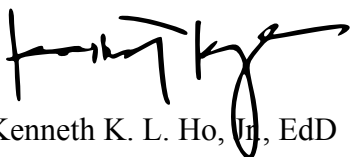
A new (and unconfirmed) commissioner, Dr. Kaneakua came to WHHA's January 2024 membership meeting where he fielded questions from our membership. While new, he was both poised in speech and professional in responses, answering questions he had the answers to and unafraid to acknowledge when he didn't have the answer. Because of his experience with the parliamentary process, his presence at our meeting was both timely and beneficial. He made clarifications to proper and improper motions; clarifications that have been sorely missed in our community.

Subsequently, Dr. Kaneakua met with WHHA's Board at our January 2024 board meeting to give us a 10-minute class on Robert's Rules of Order and gifted Board members with a quick reference guide to the same. Dr. Kaneakua has committed to continuing to attend WHHA meetings and we look forward to his presence.

As described, our organization has had direct personal and professional experiences with Dr. Kaneakua. These interactions have been invaluable for our organization and we look forward to more of the same. While ours is a small community organization, I would like to make clear that WHHA was founded in 1938 by our first residents whose homesteads were awarded during the time of Territorial Hawaii, which is to say that our organization has a long history in Hawai'i. For some time, that history has been lacking partnerships with government officials. We look forward to Dr. Kaneakua's commission confirmation as it will be a benefit to all DHHL beneficiaries and, more specifically, our members as we look to execute on all parts of our purpose and objectives..

To close, the Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association affirms its **STRONG SUPPORT** for the confirmation of Dr. Walt Kaneakua to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Please feel free to reach out with any questions and/or concerns to any of the contact information in our letterhead above.

Na Mākou Nō.



Kenneth K. L. Ho, Jr., EdD
President

Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association



March 1, 2024

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
The Senate
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Endorsement for Mr. Walt Kaneakua's Nomination to the Hawaiian Homes Commission

Dear Senators Shimabukuro and Fevella,

It is with great pleasure and unwavering confidence that I submit this letter of endorsement for Mr. Walt Kaneakua's nomination to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

I have had the privilege of knowing Walt for over 15 years, forging a strong bond of friendship since his tenure as the Executive Assistant for Military Affairs with Senator Daniel K. Inouye's office. While Walt's professional achievements are undoubtedly impressive, I would like to focus on the exceptional qualities that set him apart as an individual of outstanding character.

Walt embodies honesty, fairness, practicality, love, and compassion in every facet of his life. His approach to communication is a perfect blend of candor and respect, allowing him to navigate any situation with finesse. Whether faced with challenges or successes, Walt's attentive listening, insightful questions, and straightforward responses demonstrate his commitment to understanding and addressing the core of any matter.

In addition to his remarkable interpersonal skills, Walt has consistently championed Native Hawaiian issues, placing them at the forefront of his endeavors. He passionately advocates for the education and employment opportunities of Hawaiian children, striving to ensure they can thrive within their homeland. His dedication to promoting Native Hawaiian small businesses in federal contracting reflects his vision of fostering self-sustainability and creating well-paying jobs for the people of Hawaii.

Walt's proactive approach to problem-solving extends beyond merely offering solutions; he empowers individuals to think critically and contribute to the analysis and resolution process. His ability to transform good situations into even better ones is a testament to his strategic thinking and visionary mindset.



I firmly believe that Walt's unwavering commitment to integrity, vast knowledge, and widespread respect makes him an invaluable candidate for the Hawaiian Homes Commission. His dedication to rectifying inequalities and ensuring equitable opportunities for all, with a particular emphasis on the Native Hawaiian community, is evident in his actions over the years.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Mr. Walt Kaneakua's nomination to the Hawaiian Homes Commission and encourage the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs to unanimously confirm his appointment. With Walt's exemplary qualities and passion for making a positive impact, I am confident he will serve with distinction and contribute significantly to the Commission's vital work.

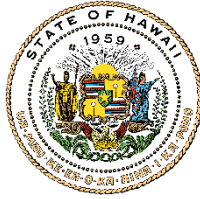
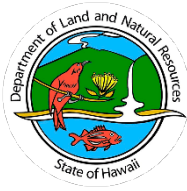
Should you have any questions or need further information about Mr. Walt Kaneakua, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at (808) 864-5050 or via email at dsakaguchi@gsisg.com. I am readily available to address any inquiries you may have.

Respectfully,

Derek J. Sakaguchi
Executive Director

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING 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**

**Tuesday, March 12, 2024
1:00 PM**

State Capitol Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

**In Consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 567
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WALT KANEAKUA
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JULY 30, 2027**

Governor's Message 567 submits for consideration and confirmation, Walt Kaneakua, to the Hawaiian Homes Commission for a term to expire on July 30, 2027. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) supports this nomination.**

Mr. Kaneakua will bring a wealth of experience to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. As a Director for the Hawai'i Pacific Foundation, he is aware of the issues facing Hawaiians. The Hawai'i Pacific Foundation fosters Native Hawaiian owned and Native Hawaiian serving small businesses and is an umbrella organization for five of its own firms, which mainly focuses on U.S. Department of Defense contracts. Profits are put back into Native Hawaiian education and culture programs.

Mr. Kaneakua also brings a knowledge of economics, systems management, strategy and planning. He has served in the military, flown commercial aircraft, and has worked for members of Hawai'i's Congressional delegation. He is a strategic thinker who understands the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) unique legislative position.

Mr. Kaneakua brings needed skills to the table as DHHL faces the challenge of spending \$600 million provided by the Legislature in 2022, with a total estimated \$1.2 billion in needed funds as they look to aggressively fulfill the promise of Prince Kūhio to "place Hawaiians back on the soil."

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Governor's nominee to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Walt Kaneakua.



THE Hawai'i Pacific Foundation, Inc.

Testimony presented before the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 12, 2024, at 1:00 pm

Re: Confirmation of Gubernatorial Appointee, Dr. Walter K. Kaneakua, to the Hawaiian Homes Commission

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

I am pleased to testify in favor of confirming Dr. Walter K. Kaneakua's appointment to the Hawaiian Homelands Commission. My personal and professional relationship with him spans over thirty (30) years, including service in the Hawaii Air National Guard and the Hawai'i Pacific Foundation. During those years, I continually witnessed examples of his uncommon levels of integrity, character, skills, success, and passion for the welfare of Hawai'i. He will prove to be a great asset to this commission, and I urge you to consider his appointment.

Dr. Kaneakua currently serves with me as a member of the Hawai'i Pacific Foundation's (HPF) Board of Directors and has already impacted multitudes of Native Hawaiians in disadvantaged communities, leaving behind a legacy of Native Hawaiian leaders and enduring solutions important to our Hawaiian Communities. HPF is a nonprofit Native Hawaiian organization based in Honolulu. He leads our Board of Director's community strategy and outreach efforts and does so with passion and professionalism. He enhanced HPF's ability to encourage and empower beneficiary organizations impacting health, education, access to capital, and hope for disadvantaged Native Hawaiian communities across the state. This is just one of many instances of his leadership; this short letter cannot do justice to Dr. Kaneakua's capabilities and accomplishments.

He is a talented, collaborative professional, friend, and mentor. He is a leader who produces results and a communicator who builds enduring relationships. I have the highest regard for Walt's integrity, initiative, knowledge, capabilities, and passion for the welfare of Hawai'i and its future—so much so that I have entrusted the Strategic Direction of our foundation and its beneficiaries to him as a Senior Board member.

Please contact me at skip.vincent@hpfps.org or 808-291-2153 if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Edwin A. (Skip) Vincent, Brig Gen, USAF (Ret)
Chairman of the Board

**TESIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
GM 567
Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 1:00pm, Rm.224, & Videoconference**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, **WALT KANEAKUA**, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

Senator Maile S. L. 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 **Walt Kaneakua** to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Walt Kaneakua's outstanding education and credentials with international and
local expertise are excellent assets to help our beneficiaries. Most importantly, he is
a treasured Veteran. In the time we have worked together I am extremely impressed
with his professionalism and tact in handling the challenges of this volunteer endeavor.

I strongly support Walt Kaneakua to be a member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of **Walt Kaneakua**. Your
significant authority of Advice and Consent to this gubernatorial nominee will help
us to move forward, together, for all beneficiaries of the Trust.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline N. Namuo
Oahu Commissioner
Hawaiian Homes Commission

GM-567

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 5:11:08 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
De Mont Kalai Manaole	Testifying for Hoomana Pono, LLC	Support	In Person

Comments:

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the Governor's nomination of Walter Kaneakua to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Mr. Kaneakua is a humble & studious person that makes his appointment to the Commission a great choice.

Our interaction with Mr. Kaneakua, though brief, has been pleasant and respectful.

On a substantive level, Mr. Kaneakua has exhibited a profound ability to grasp the Purpose & Intent of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, as well as the Hawaiian Homes Commissions Act.

We respectfully request that this committee duly "Advise and Consent" the nomination of Mr. Kaneakua to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Mahalo.

GM-567

Submitted on: 2/15/2024 5:11:08 AM

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Our interaction with Mr. Kaneakua, though brief, has been pleasant and respectful.

On a substantive level, Mr. Kaneakua has exhibited a profound ability to grasp the Purpose & Intent of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, as well as the Hawaiian Homes Commissions Act.

We respectfully request that this committee duly "Advise and Consent" the nomination of Mr. Kaneakua to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Mahalo.

GM-567

Submitted on: 2/16/2024 10:54:38 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline J Conant	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 16, 2024

Subject: Letter of Support for Walt Kaneakua

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to convey my enthusiastic endorsement of Mr. Walt Kaneakua as a candidate for the Hawaiian Homes Commission. I wholeheartedly support his candidacy and believe that his dedication and qualifications make him an excellent choice for this crucial role. His commitment to the betterment of the Native Hawaiian community through his roles in strategic planning and overseeing charitable giving is truly commendable.

Mr. Kaneakua's diverse background, having grown up on the mainland and in Europe before returning to Hawaii for his education, brings a unique perspective to his work. His educational journey at the Kamehameha Schools and the University of Hawaii, Manoa, reflects his deep connection to the culture and community he serves.

In addition, Mr. Kaneakua's contributions as an adjunct professor at Pacific Rim Christian University and a professor at the U.S. Naval War College at Pearl Harbor underscore his commitment to education and the development of future leaders. His involvement on the Board of Governors for Shriners Hospital for Children (Hawaii) further demonstrates his dedication to the well-being of children and the broader community.

Moreover, Mr. Kaneakua's service as a commissioner for the Department of Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion highlights his commitment to fostering inclusivity and diversity within important institutions. His prior experience as a business analyst for the Daniel K. Inouye Asian Pacific Center for Security Studies at Fort De Russy and his work as congressional staff for esteemed figures like Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Mazie Hirono and Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard showcase his extensive knowledge of various communities.

In conclusion, Mr. Walt Kaneakua's multifaceted experiences, skills, and unwavering dedication make him an invaluable asset to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. I wholeheartedly recommend and endorse his continued efforts and am confident that he will continue to positively impact the lives of those he serves.

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at jaxsconant808@gmail.com.

Thank you for considering my letter of support for Mr. Kaneakua.

Sincerely,

Jackie Conant

GM-567

Submitted on: 2/19/2024 10:20:47 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum

45-557 Liula St.

Kaneohe, HI 96744

Subject: Testimony in Support of GM 567 - Confirmation of Hawaiian Homes Commission Nominee, WALT KANEAKUA

Aloha Honorable Chair Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Senator Kurt Fevella, and esteemed members of the committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum, and I am honored to provide testimony in strong support of GM 567 confirming the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, WALT KANEAKUA for a term set to expire on 06-30-2027.

As a proud daughter of Hawai'i whose Father is from Maui and of Hawaiian, Tahitian, Chinese, Portuguese, and English ancestry, and a mother from Japan, I offer my unique perspective as a part-Hawaiian, mixed-race woman immersed in the diverse culture of Hawai'i. While I am ineligible for Hawaiian Homestead Lands, I am closely connected to ohana, family friends, and community members who are eligible. My involvement in promoting Native Hawaiian education and community engagement, both through my military role and as a community leader, has provided me with firsthand experiences and insights.

I have witnessed the challenges faced by those waiting for years on the Hawaiian Homes list and the heartbreaking stories of eligible Native Hawaiians who were denied the opportunity. Tragically, many have passed away while awaiting a home. As you are aware, the Hawaiian Homes Commission holds the crucial responsibility of effecting positive change for the Native Hawaiian community, and it is imperative that its leadership possesses a deep understanding of the complex challenges faced by our communities.

Walt Kaneakua, with his experience and profound understanding of the historical and cultural considerations essential for leading change in the lives of Native Hawaiians, represents a beacon of hope. I have known Walt since my twenties, and he has been a mentor and source of inspiration throughout my life. His commitment to mentorship and dedication to Native

Hawaiian education is evident through the countless hours he has invested in nurturing the growth and potential of individuals like me.

Walt's unique blend of expertise and humble, compassionate leadership is unparalleled. His proven record of competence and integrity is widely acknowledged in our community. With a holistic perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing the Native Hawaiian community, Walt can effectively bridge cultural divides and foster prosperity in a globalized world.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission requires leaders of the highest character, and Walt Kaneakua epitomizes the values of honesty, integrity, equality, and fairness in both his personal and professional life. I have personally benefited from Walt's wisdom and possibility-oriented mindset, learning not only from his vast knowledge but also from his unwavering passion for the present and future success of Native Hawaiian communities.

It is with great honor and utmost confidence that I submit this testimony in support of GM 567, urging the confirmation of WALT KANEAKUA to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. It is with great honor that I submit this testimony. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Very Respectfully,



Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum

(Major General Vares-Lum, USA Retired)

GM-567

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:20:59 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derek Chow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

GM 567

I wholeheartedly SUPPORT Mr. Walter Kaneakua's nomination to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Mr. Kaneakua is a gentleman of great character and an example of selfless service. His stellar career spanning from military service, commercial and national guard pilot, staff to the late US Senator Daniel K. Inouye and to US Senator Mazie Hirono, lecturer at the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, and numerous volunteer organizations has been one of dedication and commitment. His grace, calm demeanor, great orator, stature, knowledge, dedication to family and community, and commitment to excellence makes him an ideal commissioner for the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

I submit testimony in SUPPORT of Mr. Kaneakua's nomination to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Derek J. Chow

As an individual

GM-567

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 9:51:15 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wintehn Park	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, please accept my testimony in strong unconditional support of the nomination of Walter Kaneakua as a Hawaiian Homes Commissioner. Walt is extremely qualified both professionally and personally.

Professionally, Walt's experience in the military and in the political arena speak for themselves. I have personally seen him take a difficult situation, break it down and come up with a plan to move forward and solve it.

Personally, I have benefitted from his willingness to take younger colleagues under his wing and provide them advice and guidance.

For these reasons and many more, I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Walter Kaneakua and humbly ask that you confirm his nomination. Mahalo.

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/1/2024 7:35:04 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iwalani Koide	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony for GM 567 in support of **Walt Kaneakua** to serve on Hawaiian Homes Commission term ending June 30, 2027

March 1, 2024

He koa'e, manu o ka pali kahakō. 696

In support of **Walt Kaneakua**, I share an 'Ōlelo No'eau (696) *He koa'e, manu o ka pali kahakō*. The koa'e bird nestles upon the highest of cliffs. I use this phrase as an expression of my admiration for Walt and his prodigious leadership and accolades in the Hawaiian community. As a role model for our community, Walt mentors his colleagues to strive for their own personal summit or pali kahakō.

Over the past five years, I've had the privilege of collaborating with Walt on my personal and professional endeavors that includes mentoring UH students, translating work for FEMA, and networking with other Hawaiian professionals. I have witnessed his generosity of time and expertise encouraging young professionals to do their part in enhancing our Hawaiian community. He shares his skill of setting short-term and long-term goals while keeping true to one's authentic self.

Walt will be a strong advocate for our community as a representative on the Hawaiian Homes Commission. It is a privilege and honor to write in support of my colleague and mentor Walt Kaneakua.

Mahalo nui, Iwalani Koide

GM-567

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 9:23:16 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Kawasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the selection and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. Walt Kaneakua for the Hawaiian Homes Commission, GM567.

My name is Stephanie M. Kawasaki, a colleague of Mr. Kaneakua while serving at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI-APCSS).

My personal connection with Mr. Kaneakua began when we led the strategic planning effort for the DKI-APCSS organization. I had been there for several years when Mr. Kaneakua was hired to support the effort.

My first impression upon meeting Mr. Kaneakua was as if I were encountering a lifelong friend from years past; someone I've trusted and who had my best interests in mind. I felt that way because of his genuine and relatable nature, always seeking to understand the needs of others.

Since then, we have nurtured a professional friendship, learning from each other, and connecting people to add value to their causes. I believe I have most benefited from this relationship because of his mentorship and leadership qualities, which he models with humility.

My growth as a leader and business owner is largely due to the many conversations we had that challenged me to think beyond my present circumstances and focus on my potential. He is a visionary who helps elevate standards of excellence and fosters of culture of 'ohana in the environments he has served.

Here is a list of character traits I have witnessed:

- Dedicated and loyal family man
- Seeks to understand before making assumptions.
- Builds connections with genuine sincerity.
- Sees value in people.
- Adds value to people.
- Growth-minded with intent to share knowledge and experience with others.
- Elevates thought processes.
- Listens intently to others with his heart.
- Public servant; community minded; servant heart; humble.
- Asks difficult questions with graceful assertiveness.

- Visionary, empathic.
- Calm and steady under tense circumstances.
- Mindful of social cues.
- Observant of temperature in the room (senses people responses).
- Easily adjust presentation from monitoring feedback from audience.

I humbly submit for your consideration.

Aloha, Stephanie M. Kawasaki

February 25, 2024

Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Senate
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 567
Testimony in Support of Walter Kaneakua

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee:

I offer my unequivocal support of Walter Kaneakua as a member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission (Commission).

I met Mr. Kaneakua in 2011 when I was hired as a Legislative Assistant in Senator Daniel K. Inouye's Honolulu office. Mr. Kaneakua was Senator Inouye's military, defense, and veteran's liaison. My area of responsibility included Native Hawaiian issues, having worked at the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, and the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum. We interacted daily and I witnessed firsthand Mr. Kaneakua's intellect, professionalism, and dedication to serve Hawai'i. He also always made time to mentor younger staff, interns, and fellows, never failing to offer thoughtful advice and forge connections to help with future career goals. After Senator Inouye's passing, he continued to serve in the Congressional Offices of Senator Mazie Hirono and Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. Both offices benefitted from his measured leadership and commitment to excellence.

On a more personal note, I admire how Mr. Kaneakua chooses to live his life. He continues to dedicate his time to the community in different capacities. And despite all his professional successes and achievements, he maintains a humble approach and has shown a willingness to listen and learn from others. It is one of his many outstanding qualities that will serve him well at the Commission and when interacting with native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these words on behalf of Mr. Kaneakua.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Wooton

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 8:44:33 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamakana Watanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I cannot recommend USAF Colonel (ret) Walter Kaneakua highly enough for this critically important position. I have known Walt since working with him at Senator Daniel K. Inouye's Honolulu office in 2010. In all this time I have come to understand that Colonel Kaneakua is exemplary at all things, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and a dedicated public servant. Walt truly embodies Noblesse Oblige, to whom much is given, much is expected, and Walt always delivers. His passion to help our community, Native Hawaiian and Kama'aina alike, is unmatched. His integrity is unquestionable. Added to his sharp intelligence and decades of incredible service and accolades, his suitability for this position is unmatched.

I endorse him whole heartedly and without reservation! I can't think of a better candidate.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kamakana Watanabe

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Colonel Walter Kaneakua

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to highly recommend Colonel Walter Kaneakua for a position on the Hawaii Homes Commission. As a mentor, leader, and professional, Colonel Kaneakua embodies the epitome of excellence and integrity.

Throughout our professional and personal interactions, I have consistently witnessed Colonel Kaneakua's dedication to mentoring others. His guidance has been invaluable to many, including myself, as he generously shares his knowledge, expertise and time to help others grow and succeed.

Colonel Kaneakua's professionalism is unmatched. He approaches every task with meticulous attention to detail and a commitment to excellence. His exemplary conduct sets a standard for others to follow, and his ability to maintain focus under pressure is truly commendable.

Above all, Colonel Kaneakua is a person of unwavering integrity. He operates with honesty, transparency, and a strong moral compass in all his endeavors. His integrity is not just a trait, but a guiding principle that informs every decision and action he takes.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Colonel Kaneakua as a remarkable individual and a valuable asset to any team or organization. His exceptional mentorship, professionalism, and integrity make him an outstanding candidate for any opportunity.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information or clarification regarding Colonel Kaneakua's qualifications.

Sincerely,

Rodney Lee Asentista
Captain Hawaiian Airlines
Owner operator Waterbox Hawaii
808-358-8501

Joshua Michaels

808-554-5148 ● joshjmicahels@gmail.com

Testimony on GM 567

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, WALT KANEAKUA, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

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

I am privileged to write this letter in strong support of Walter Kaneakua's nomination to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Throughout his long and dynamic career in public service, Dr. Kaneakua has repeatedly distinguished himself with a record of superior achievement and dedicated servant leadership in many different fields. Whether as a pilot, an educator, a congressional aide, or an executive, Dr. Kaneakua's professional accomplishments are legion.

That said, as lengthy as his C.V. might be, his colleagues and friends know that Dr. Kaneakua is much more than just a (very impressive) piece of paper. Dr. Kaneakua is the ideal candidate to be a Hawaiian Homes Commissioner because of his devotion to the people of Hawaii, his unimpeachable ethics, his commitment to mentoring future generations, and his enormous heart.

Although the Hawaiian Homes Commission was born out of a painful and traumatic history of loss and dispossession, its mission – still unfulfilled, but ever more urgent – to heal historic injustices and improve the welfare of the Native Hawaiian people remains critical and relevant to all who call Hawaii home. The Commission's efforts will only be successful with bold leadership and careful stewardship, motivated equally by love and by duty.

To that end, I respectfully urge you to confirm Walter Kaneakua to this crucial position, and to empower him and his colleagues with the resources they need to get the job done.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this nomination.

Aloha,



Joshua Michaels

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 8:12:03 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 10:33:07 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rufino Dan Magliba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Walter Kaneakua's nomination to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Dr. Kaneakua's diverse background in public service, private sector, academia, and spiritual leadership as a Kahu, underscores his holistic understanding of governance and community dynamics. His unwavering dedication to effective governance and protection of citizens' rights is evident through his extensive legislative experience.

With a profound mastery of legislative intricacies and a distinguished history of uplifting all of Hawaii's people, Dr. Kaneakua stands at the forefront, uniquely poised to bring an unparalleled perspective to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. His unwavering commitment to fulfilling his kuleana not only reflects a deep sense of responsibility but also embodies a steadfast resolve to propel the mission of the Commission forward and uplift the community it serves. Dr. Kaneakua's wealth of experience and dedication paints a picture of a leader who not only understands the complexities of governance but is genuinely dedicated to fostering positive change and ensuring the well-being of the people of Hawaii.

Given Dr. Kaneakua's exceptional qualifications, wealth of experience, and strong community ties, I implore you to confirm his nomination. Granting him this opportunity will enable him to fulfill his kuleana and contribute meaningfully towards addressing the historical pain and trauma born with the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this vital appointment.

Mahalo,

Rufino Dan Magliba

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 12:37:41 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jullie Aiko Manaole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Aiko Manaole and I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Walter Kaneakua.

In the short time that I have seen him at DHHL meetings, what stands out for me is that he is really interested in "listening" to the voices and concerns of native Hawaiians. He also has many skills that I believe will help in moving many issues forward. I look forward to seeing what he can add to the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and hopefully FINALLY giving Hawaiians BACK their lands.

Thank you

HUI O HANA PONO

A Native Hawaiian Organization



March 8, 2024

**The Honorable Rondald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second Legislature 968SUBJECT**

**Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

SUBJECT: GM 567 Walt Kaneakua Nomination as a Hawaiian Homes Commissioner

Please consider my testimony in support of Walt Kaneakua's appointment as a Hawaiian Homes Commissioner.

I've known Walt personally and professionally for thirty years. We served together in the Hawaii National Guard and I've worked with him as a member of the Native Hawaiian Organization Association. His integrity and commitment to doing what's right at all times has been his way of managing and leading. As a member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, he will make immediate contributions. He brings a valuable understanding the needs of the Native Hawaiian community. He is a visionary always looking for ways to improve the system but more importantly to work with commission members to improve services being provided to the Native Hawaiian community. My experience working with Walt in the military and professionally is he leads by example and will make it a point to learn from all that he has the kuleana to support and take the time to understand what they are asking.

Throughout Walt's career he has demonstrated his commitment and support of Native Hawaiians. His actions have been not to give outright but to teach and mentor to grow as an individual and be able to give back to the community.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Walt Kaneakua.

Sincerely,

**Michael E. Rawlins
Director, Hui O Hana Pono
Native Hawaiian Organization
Col, Retired, United States Army**

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 4:09:11 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ralph Hasegawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I highly support confirmation. His various experiences in both the business, education and government sectors, along decades of support to our community, have prepared him well for duties at the Hawaiian Homes Commission. His leadership and interpersonal skills will be assets that will be valued by the Commission and its constituents. Mahalo for your consideration.

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 1:42:22 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Shimazu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to loudly voice my support for Walt Kaneakua. He is a man of high integrity, high moral standards and impeccable character. He has been an asset wherever he has served throughout his storied career. He will no doubt be an excellent addition to this very important area in the State of Hawaii. The State of Hawaii is so fortunate to have a nominee like Walt Kaneakua. Highest recommendations with no reservations!



THE Hawai'i Pacific Foundation, Inc.

Testimony presented before the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 12, 2024 at 1:00pm

Re: Confirmation of Gubernatorial Appointee, Walter Kaneakua, to the Hawaiian Homes Commission

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

I am writing to express my **support** for Walt Kaneakua's confirmation as a commissioner for the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. Having worked closely with Walt on the board of directors for the Hawaii Pacific Foundation, I have witnessed firsthand his unwavering dedication to serving the native Hawaiian community.

Walt has consistently demonstrated his commitment to uplifting our community by supporting programs and efforts that provide opportunities to native Hawaiians. His leadership and passion for our community are evident in his involvement with various organizations, where he has worked tirelessly to uplift and advocate for kānaka ʻōiwi.

What sets Walt apart is not only his determination and integrity but also his exceptional ability to listen, observe, and provide valuable insights. He possesses the key quality of being able to balance listening to the voices of the community while applying his own wisdom and judgment to make informed decisions.

Walt's character is marked by steadfastness, authenticity, and a genuine desire to serve the best interests of the beneficiaries and constituents of Hawaii. He embodies the principles of truth and transparency, and I am confident that he will bring these qualities to his role as a commissioner for the DHHL.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Walt Kaneakua's appointment to serve on the commission for the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. His leadership, integrity, and dedication make him the ideal candidate to represent and advocate for the Hawaiian community.

Thank you for considering my endorsement, and I urge you to confirm Walt Kaneakua for this important position.

Sincerely,

Jeanine DeFries
President & CEO
The Hawai'i-Pacific Foundation

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 12:59:36 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Shiroma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Kyle Shiroma, and I am testifying in **strong support** of the appointment of Mr. Walt Kaneakua to the Hawawaiian Homes Commission.

Mr. Kaneakua's commitment to the betterment of his community cannot be understated. While his professional accomplishments and credentials are detailed in his resume, what is not listed is just as important. Mr. Kaneakua understands the importance of humble leadership, building relationships, mentoring others, and investing in future generations so they may also be equipped to do good in the community.

Since moving back to Hawaii in 2021, I have had the privilege of serving at church with, and becoming a mentee of, Mr. Kaneakua. Mr. Kaneakua's sincerity and willingness to spend his time investing in less accomplished individuals like myself reveals the quality of his character and leadership. It is an honor to consider him a friend and I believe he will be an excellent addition to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Sincerely,

Kyle Shiroma

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 3:58:08 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. I do not personally know Dr. Walt Kaneakua, however, his education in Economics and Organizational Leadership and his diversity of experience as an Air Force Colonel, an Executive Assistant and Military Liaison in the political world working for Senator Inouye, Senator Hirono and Congresswoman Gabbard and as an educator should be helpful in helping the Dept of Hawaiian Home Lands and homesteaders in carrying out the intent of the Hawaiian Homes Act.

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:02:05 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Osorio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Judiciary/Hawaiian Affairs Committee of the State House of Representatives, Chair Tarnas and Vice Chair Takeyama. My name is Jonathan Osorio. I am a resident of Wahiawā, a Kanaka Maoli native to Hilo Hawai'i and a historian of 19th and 20th century Hawaiian history. I am writing in strong support of Walter Kaneakua who is being considered for a position as commissioner with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands.

I have known Dr. Kaneakua since 1966 when we were cadets at the Kamehameha Schools and we have been very close friends for most of our lives. Though we had different career paths and despite my strong criticism of American military adventures in the world over our lifetimes, I have had nothing but admiration for this man who has conducted his public life with a powerful sense of professional ethics and honesty, and his private life with compassion, empathy and generosity.

His record of achievements speak for themselves. It is hard to believe that there are many who have the service record that he has coupled with the trust of very powerful individuals in government. He is fiscally conservative but has a rich experience with government bureaucracy and has the necessary acumen and patience to navigate them. He is accountable and economical with words and will be a strong addition to this board. The Department needs someone of Walter's ability and temperament and I urge this committee to confirm his appointment.

Mahalo

Jonathan K Osorio

HAWAI'I STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
1:00 PM

GM 567 – Testimony in Support of Walt Kaneakua

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

Please accept this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Walt Kaneakua, for consideration and confirmation as a member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission (GM 567).

I'm a resident of Honolulu and I've known Mr. Kaneakua for many years.

Mr. Kaneakua is a lifelong public servant who embodies the highest personal integrity and a heartfelt commitment to serving our country and our home in Hawai'i.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission will surely benefit from his lifetime of experience and leadership, along with his unquestionable character, work ethic, and judgment.

Mr. Kaneakua has always answered the call to serve. This includes a distinguished military career with the U.S. Air Force and the Hawai'i Air National Guard, serving on the staff of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, and supporting numerous non-profit organizations.

Most importantly, Mr. Kaneakua leads with aloha and compassion for others, he serves with humility and a generous spirit, and he tirelessly works every day to make a difference for Hawai'i.

I respectfully request the committee's favorable consideration to confirm Mr. Kaneakua as a member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

David S. Taga

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 9:54:30 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Winona K Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 11, 2024

Testimony to the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Re: 567 GM Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, WALT KANEAKUA, for a term to expire 06-30-2027

Dear Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair, Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Winona Lee and I submit this testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Mr. Walt Kaneakua to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. As the Director of the Hawai'i Pacific Foundation, Mr. Kaneakua comes with a breadth of strategic planning experience, business acumen, and most importantly, an authentic desire to support and strengthen Native Hawaiian communities. I have personally witnessed Mr. Kaneakua's capacity to mentor and uplift emerging Native Hawaiian leaders as he willingly shares an openness to dialogue and learning from others. I believe Walt Kaneakua possesses the integrity, expertise, and heart to be an effective member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Winona K. Lee

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 10:19:52 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sachi Kaulukukui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to support **WALT KĀNEAKUA** for the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Years before we met, ‘ohana and friends would share stories of Walt and all the many ways he mentored their professional journeys (as a Hawaiian Airlines pilot and as lead staff for Senator Inouye). One friend’s aloha and respect for Walt carried so high, he was asked to officiate his wedding ceremony.

It was an honor to finally meet him through Hawai‘i Pacific Foundation. I can personally attest that Walt genuinely has the best interest of Native Hawaiians. Walt is humble and is all about uplifting others. He goes above and beyond to get to know our programs, meet haumana and connect us with resources to help us grow future Native Hawaiian healers serving Hawai‘i.

I believe Walt will continue to carry this mana in his heart and work with the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Mahalo again for your time!

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ATTN: CHAIR SHIMABUKURO & VICE-CHAIR FEVELLA

TESTIMONY IN STONG SUPPORT OF GM 567

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, WALT KANEAKUA**

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 224

My name is Ashley Kaono and in my capacity as a public interest attorney, and a Native Hawaiian, I respectfully urge the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs to confirm the appointment of Dr. Walt Kaneakua to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

As we well know, the purpose of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 was for the United States Congress and the State of Hawaii to enable native Hawaiians to return to their lands in order to fully support self sufficiency, self determination and preserve the values, traditions and culture of native Hawaiians. Dr. Kaneakua has not only demonstrated his commitment to the advancement and support of our Native Hawaiian community but in my opinion, has dedicated his much of his life to doing so. In working with Dr. Kaneakua as a congressional aide, I can say with all certainty that he will serve the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the State of Hawaii, and most importantly, our Native Hawaiian community with the highest level of integrity; I strongly support his appointment and urge the members of this committee to do the same.

Very respectfully,

Ashley B. Kaono, Esq.

Irish Barber
alohairish@gmail.com
Mobile: (808) 479-1770

March 11th, 2024

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State House of Representatives
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs (HWN)

RE: GM567 – WALT KĀNEAKUA – Hawaiian Homes Commission Nominee

Hearing: March 12, 2024, 1:00PM, CR 224, State Capitol

Aloha, Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Fevella and Committee Members –

I am writing in strong **support** of Walt Kāneakua's nomination to the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC). I have known Walt for over 40 years, and have been a close friend of the family since 1981. I can attest to his many accomplishments which make him a valuable asset to the executive board.

Walt is a graduate of the Kamehameha Schools and is proud of his Hawaiian heritage. He has strong relationships in the Native Hawaiian community and often donates to and volunteers for local charities.

Throughout his military career, private sector employment and government positions, Walt has held himself to a high moral standard and intense work ethic. He has earned the trust of numerous political and community leaders. As the director of the Hawai'i Pacific Foundation, he directly oversees the lawful allocation of millions of dollars that affects Native Hawaiian individuals, families and organizations.

Walt is a natural leader and has an inclusive and collaborative leadership style. All good leaders identify and nurture the individual strengths of their team, and Walt continues to do this in his family, church, business and community relationships. Many of us have sought his wise counsel over the years.

In a world where Kanaka Maoli are struggling to find identity and positive role models, Walt Kāneakua is a person who leads by example and is committed to a life of service. He brings tremendous skills to every endeavor. Please vote in favor of Governor Green's nomination of Walt Kāneakua to the HHC.

Respectfully,



Irish Barber
Lifetime member of the Wai'anae Hawaiian Civic Club
Lifetime member of the Polynesian Voyaging Society

Testimony in support of the Confirmation of Walt Kaneakua
Hearing on GM 567
March 12, 2024, at 1:00 pm

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

GM 567 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, WALT KANEAKUA, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

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

My name is Sara Hamakawa, and I am writing in **support** of Walt Kaneakua’s nomination as a Hawaiian Homes Commissioner.

I have known Walt since 2008 when we became co-workers at Senator Dan Inouye’s Honolulu office. Walt has a very strong moral compass and works daily to make other people’s lives better. He has been a leader in the military, on the staff of several members of the congressional delegation, as a professor and mentor, and in the community at many different levels. I am honored to call him a former co-worker and friend.

I believe he would be a very good addition to the Hawaiian Homes Commission as it works to improve the quality of life for our Native Hawaiian population. I support him wholeheartedly.

Aloha,

Sara Hamakawa

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 12:59:32 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Taum, Phd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members:

I reach out to you in full support of Dr. Walter Kaneakua serving on the Hawaiian Homes Commission. My testimony, on behalf of Dr. Kaneakua, is rooted in everyone who is reading this, having read Dr. Kaneakua’s resume, which speaks volumes on his qualifications and abundant accomplishments—clearly highlighting his past efforts, passions, and commitment, over decades—serving the greater good of community, state, country, and our world.

Unlike many of us who were born and raised across our islands, Dr. Kaneakua has experienced living on the continent, Europe, and other places around the world; as a Hawaiian, choosing to return to Hawai`i, his home. His world view and service, offers something greater than someone, like me, could imagine. Dr. Kaneakua’s experiences include leadership in serving and protecting our country, serving on countless boards, and continuing to lead as an educator, sharing his mana`o with the next generation.

I have had the privilege of both working with and engaging in numerous community events alongside Dr. Kaneakua over the past couple of years. From the first few meetings with him, it was clear that he is someone who has committed to his work and the mission that it will serve on a greater scale, for people.

Dr. Kaneakua is not only someone who has lived a deliberate and focus-driven life, serving in our military, and earning the rank of Colonel, committed to his wife, Moloka`i bride, and family, and leading through many community endeavors, Dr. Kaneakua is the example of someone with strong values, who as my parents instilled in me and my eight older siblings, *aims toward making our island, our place, better for the generations to come*. This takes a strong leader, and I believe that Dr. Kaneakua is the perfect person to honor and serve Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole’s mission of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act in addressing important issues, without an agenda; just a genuine heart, for Hawai`i’s people, for generations to come.

Dr. Alice Holt Taum



February 16, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to provide a character reference for Walt Kaneakua. In the time that I have known Walt, I have been consistently impressed by his unwavering integrity, strong work ethic, and dedication to bettering the Native Hawaiian community.

Walt is a person of impeccable honesty and integrity. He holds himself to the highest ethical standards in all of his endeavors, whether personal or professional. His integrity is evident in every interaction he has, and he is someone you can always rely on to do the right thing, even when faced with difficult decisions.

One of Walt's most commendable qualities is his initiative and independent thinking. He is a self-starter who doesn't wait for instructions or guidance but instead takes the initiative to identify areas for improvement and devise solutions. Walt's ability to think independently allows him to approach challenges creatively and find innovative ways to address them.

Furthermore, Walt is deeply passionate about uplifting the Native Hawaiian community. He is driven by a strong sense of purpose to make a positive impact and create opportunities for his community members. Whether through advocacy, mentorship, or community outreach, Walt consistently demonstrates his commitment to improving the lives of Native Hawaiians.

In addition to his passion, Walt is also incredibly self-driven. He sets high standards for himself and is constantly seeking ways to grow and develop personally and professionally. His determination and perseverance enable him to overcome obstacles and achieve his goals, making him a role model for others in the community.

In conclusion, I have the utmost respect and admiration for Walt Kaneakua. He is a person of integrity, initiative, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of the Native Hawaiian community. I wholeheartedly recommend him without reservation.

Sincerely,

JANET L HAOLE
Franchise Owner

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 2:27:36 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Germaine Meyers	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose the nominee, Walt Kaneakua. I humbly ask the Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee to vote NO to his confirmation.

He's been the Oahu Interim Commissioner since August 2023. During the past 7 months, Chair Kali appointed him to be the Chair of a PIG to reassess the Act 279 Strategic Plan and Budget previously approved by the Commission in December 2022. As Chair, he generated a new strategic plan that would keep native Hawaiians on the list for an additional 30 years by redirecting the funds in support of the development of rental units instead of lot development. If confirmed, Walt Kaneakua would be a disempowering oppressive Commissioner keeping native Hawaiians on the waitlist.

Please vote NO.



Testimony before the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Chair Maile Shimabukuro

Relating to the Nomination of
Walt Kaneakua, Hawaiian Homes Commission
March 12, 2024 at 1:00 pm

Madame Chairperson and members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer Sabas, and I am pleased to submit testimony in strong support of Walt Kaneakua to serve on the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Walt joined the Honolulu office of U.S. Senator Inouye in 2008 and we worked together until Senator's passing in December 2012. Walt is a thoughtful, diligent, balanced team player. We worked to improve, enhance and preserve opportunities for our beloved Hawaii.

Beginning as a Hawaii Air Guard officer, congressional staff member, educator and mentor, board leader of Hawaii Pacific Foundation, a Native Hawaiian Organization whose mission it is to support the native Hawaiian community, Walt continues to be a dedicated servant leader. I have no doubt he will take his responsibilities as a member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission very seriously with a focus on increasing the housing inventory for beneficiaries. He will fairly study the issues and will bring to bear his working knowledge of the federal and congressional process to the extent it could result in additional federal resources.

I recommend Walt Kaneakua to serve on the Hawaiian Homes Commission fully and without reservation.

Aloha,
Jennifer Sabas
Owner and President
Kaimana Hila

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 6:50:58 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Kaleikini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in support for the consideration and confirmation of Walt Kaneakua as a Commissioner to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Mr. Kaneakua's knowledge and experience that he has developed, and continues to foster during the many years of service to community and country, is impeccable and will support the focus of the Hawaiian Homes Act, to the rehabilitation of native Hawaiians.

Respectfully, Mike Kaleikini

GM-567

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 8:43:54 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/12/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT GOVERNORS MESSAGE 567