



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
KŌMIKINA MĀLAMA KAHO'OLAWE

811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793
Telephone (808) 243-5020 Fax (808) 243-5885
Website: <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony of
MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPT'I
Executive Director

Before the Senate Committee on

WATER & LAND

Monday, March 4, 2024
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 584 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION OF
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE SAUMALU MATAAFA

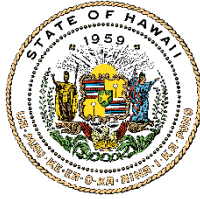
Governor's Message No. 584 submits for consideration and confirmation, Saumalu Mataafa to serve on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in the seat reserved for an official of Maui County. On behalf of the Commission, I wish to express my **strong support** and **recommend** his confirmation.

In his first year on the KIRC, Commissioner Mataafa made a significant contribution to the KIRC by first participating on the selection committee for the hiring the replacement of our long-time Administrative Officer and secondly as part of the commission's legislative working group. Commissioner Mataafa also provided detailed analysis and assistance ensuring KIRC staff maintained fiscal security when seeking Commissioner approvals for major contract awards and budget request. On June 26, 2023, Commissioner Mataafa was elected as Vice Chairperson for the Commission in anticipation that the then Chairperson's and Vice Chairperson's term of office would be expiring soon. Commissioner Mataafa assumed the role of Acting-Chairperson of the KIRC until all the vacant seats on the Commission was filled and a recommendation by the full Commission could be rendered on February 26, 2024. During this time, Commissioner Mataafa was instrumental in keep the necessary function of the KIRC running while at the same time overseeing the difficult task of dealing with the Maui housing crisis for Maui County resultant from the 2023 Maui wildfires.

Commissioner Mataafa addition to the KIRC continues the long and close working relationship the commission has with Maui County's administration. The KIRC is truly fortunate to have the support and advice of Commissioner Mataafa on the commission and strongly supports his confirmation.

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

LATE

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND

Monday, March 4, 2024
2:00 PM

State Capitol Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

In Consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 584
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE KAHO'OLAWAE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SAUMALU MATAAFA
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2027

Governor's Message 584 submits for consideration and confirmation, Saumalu Mataafa, to the Kaho'olawe Reserve Commission (KIRC), for a term to expire 6-30-2027. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) supports this nomination.**

Saumalu Mataafa has represented the County of Maui on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) since July 2019. The County has again submitted his name as their representative. Mr. Mataafa is currently the Deputy Director of the County Office of Housing and Human Concerns. Prior his appointment as the Deputy Director, he served as Executive Assistant in the County Department of Management where he managed county systems, policies, grants and initiatives.

Mr. Mataafa graduated from Lahainaluna High School and attended Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and worked at the NASA Ames Research Center to develop a prototype habitat to promote neonatal growth in space. Upon returning home to Maui, he has applied his skills to addressing the affordable housing shortage on Maui, to addressing the decriminalization of drug use, and to Maui transportation policies.

Mr. Mataafa is Ka Ipu Kukui Fellow and has won multiple awards for his aviation and aeronautical research and designs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Saumalu Mataafa's confirmation as Maui County's member on the Kaho'olawe Reserve Commission.

GM-584

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 2:39:47 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol-Marie K Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator Inouye and members of te Committee on Water and Land.

I am in strong support of the consideration and confirmation of Saumalu Mataafa as Commissioner on the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) as per Governor's GM584.

I retired as the KIRC Administrative Officer in December 2019. I had the priviledge of working with Mr. Mata`afa duriing his first term. I found that he was very thoughtful and helpful in his questions and recommendation on fiscal and planning matters and supported staff in their duties and goals.

Mahalo for the oppportunity to testify.

Me ke aloha maluhia,

Carol-Marie Ka`onohi Lee

GM-584

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 4:04:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairperson Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I would like to urge you to support GM584, appointing Commissioner Saumalu Ma‘afala to a second term on the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission. I strongly **support** this measure.

Commissioner Ma‘afala currently serves as the Interim Chairperson of the KIRC. In my experience as a fellow commissioner, I commend Interim Chair Ma‘afala for his dedication and diligence. His contributions to the KIRC are extremely valuable.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I appreciate your consideration.

GM-584

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 12:09:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Hatakeyama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Leigislators,

As a citizen of Maui Nui, I support GM584 to approve Commissioner Mataafa's next term at KIRC Commissioner. As a commissioner, Mr. Mataafa been a valuable piece of solid, logical and forward thinking advice to all Kaho`olawe stakeholders. The Kaho`olawe is in better hands with Mr. Matafa on board.

Mahalo,

Matt Hatakeyama

Maui County Citizen

GM-584

Submitted on: 2/29/2024 1:37:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lopaka White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kukulu ke ea a Kanaloa

GM-584

Submitted on: 3/1/2024 1:32:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/4/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Ref the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee,
SAUMALU MATAAFA,