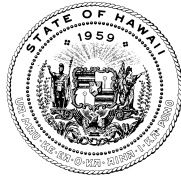


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia 'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawaii 'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia 'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawaii 'i*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. LAMBERT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawaii 'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRPERSON,
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025 AT 1:00PM IN CR 224

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE (GM) 773, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SHAYLYN ORNELLAS,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029**

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support** of GM 773, the nomination of Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas to the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC). Shaylyn Ornellas has been nominated to serve as a Commissioner pursuant to Section 202 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended (HHCA).

Born and raised on the island of Kaua'i, Ornellas brings a diverse array of knowledge and skills to the HHC including professional management with real estate, sales & marketing, teaching, and public relations. DHHL is confident that Ornellas will fulfill her fiduciary duties as a Commissioner due to her experience in engaging and serving the community through education, health care, and business. As the body tasked with setting policies for DHHL and its beneficiaries, Ornellas's wide range and depth of perspective will aid the HHC in making decisions that will promote balance for the HHC, the DHHL, the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust, and the beneficiaries to the HHCA.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

KA'ĀINA HULL, DIRECTOR

JODI A. HIGUCHI SAYEGUSA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony of Ka'āina Hull

Planning Director, Planning Department, County of Kaua'i

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ka'āina Hull", is written over the printed name.

Before the
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
April 10, 2025 at 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 773
Relating to Shaylyn Ornellas, Hawaiian Homes Commission

Dear Honorable Chair Richards, Honorable Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in strong **SUPPORT** of the Governor's nomination of Shaylyn Ornellas to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Born and raised on Kaua'i, Shaylyn's commitment to Kaua'i and to native Hawaiians is evident in her array of community and educational undertakings. I have personally worked with Shaylyn on a number of community-based fronts, including on Kaua'i's Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Fund Commission. As a member and the Chair of this Commission, Shaylyn prioritizes the acquisition of not just coastal accesses, but more specifically the often overlooked but equally as important mauka hunting and gathering accesses as well. She is unyielding in her preservation pursuits for public accesses and easements of historic and culturally important lands. Never one to shy away from hard discussions, her voice will be instrumental in the Hawaiian Home's Commission's rehabilitation of the native Hawaiian people through homesteading and housing initiatives.

I respectfully urge the committee to **SUPPORT** G.M. No 773 and confirm Shaylyn Ornellas to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Testimony of
Derek S.K. Kawakami
Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Thursday, April 10, 2025
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of
GM 773 Shaylyn Ornellas
Gubernatorial Nominee for the
Hawaiian Homes Commission

Honorable Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Ms. Shaylyn Ornellas's nomination to the Hawaiian Homes Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2029. She is well qualified to fulfill this responsibility given her knowledge, leadership, and desire to serve.

Ms. Ornellas is an incredibly driven professional with experience as an educator and a vast array of business skills. I have known her to always dig deep into every venture where she sets her focus.

In her decade-long tenure as a commissioner on the County of Kaua'i's Public Access, Open Space, Natural Resources Preservation Fund Commission, she has served with dedication and determination in preserving access of our natural environment for the benefit of our residents.

I am confident in Ms. Ornellas's ability to serve on the Hawaiian Homes Commission with the mission to provide homesteads for native Hawaiians. I respectfully urge you to **Advise and Consent** to her nomination and forward to the full Senate for their consideration.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony.

OFFICE OF BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

ELLEN CHING, ADMINISTRATOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony in Support of GM 773 Shaylyn Ornellas

Before the
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Thursday, April 10, 2025
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Honorable Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to submit this letter in **strong support** of Shaylyn Ornellas nomination as Kaua'i's Representative to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

As Kaua'i County's Administrator for the Office of Boards and Commission, I have worked closely with Shaylyn for the past six (6) years. Currently, Shaylyn is the Chair of Kaua'i's Public Access, Open Space, Natural Resources Preservation Fund Commission. Every year, one-half of one percent (0.5%) of real property tax revenues are placed in a fund. The Commission reviews proposals and recommends the purchase of land or property entitlements to be acquired via the fund. The purpose of the acquisition must be for:

- Public recreation and education,
- Beach and mountain access
- Preservation of
 - ♦ Historic or cultural lands and sites
 - ♦ Habitats and ecosystems
 - ♦ Forests, beaches, coastal areas, and agricultural lands
- Protecting watershed lands
- Conserving land
 - ♦ For open space and scenic values
 - ♦ To reduce erosion, floods, landslides, and runoff.

Shaylyn has served as Chair on multiple occasions. During her tenure, she advocated for and spearheaded a number of initiatives, and several properties were acquired. She is passionate, committed, and she does her homework. She's a proven leader and a valuable member of the Commission and in the community. Specifically, her expertise in property management is invaluable whether it is for preservation or housing purposes.

As Kaua'i's representative and a member of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, I have no doubt that Shaylyn will be a tremendous asset and will bring the same high level of focus and dedication to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Thank you for your time and I ask for your favorable consideration. Should you need more information, please feel free to contact me at eching@kauai.gov or (808) 245-4922.

Respectfully,

Ellen Ching
Administrator

HO`OMANA PONO, LLC
Mamua Kānaka

Attn: Honorable Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, Chair, Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Honorable Joy A. Buenaventura, Vice Chair, Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Member, Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Member, Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Honorable Samantha DeCorte, Member, Hawaiian Affairs Committee

March 5, 2025

Re: **GM773 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the HHC**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Hawaiian Affairs & Water!

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** the consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Shaylyn Ornellas.

Kehau has a skill set that is needed on the HHC being that of a Native Hawaiian Realtor with a demonstrated history in the Real Estate & Resort Industries. She's skilled in Public Relations, Advertising, Sales & Marketing and Business Consulting.

Kehau is the Owner of Ke`ala Collective & been a realtor since 2012. Other titles Kehau has held is as Manager for Oasis Water Systems, Inc., Chair of the Public Access/Open Space Commission for the County of Kaua`i, as well as a Teacher for Kamehameha Schools.

Please "advise and consent" the appointment of Shaylyn Kehaulani Ornellas to the HHC. Mahalo Nunui.

De Mont Kalai Manaole

De MONT Kalai Manaole, Co-Manager
Ho`omana Pono, LLC 86-044 Hoaha St.
Wai`anae, HI 96792
Phone: (808) 726-5753
Email: hoomanaponollc96792@gmail.com



Monday, April 7, 2025

Aloha Ladies & Gentlemen:

I am pleased to offer my strong support for Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas Kimura as a candidate to represent Kaua'i as the DHHL Kauai Commissioner.

I've had the privilege of working closely with Ms.Ornellas Kimura for over 13 years as the Director of Operations of the Kaua'i Board of REALTORS. Throughout this time, I have witnessed her unwavering passion and commitment to the causes she cares deeply about. She has selflessly volunteered countless hours to various organizations, exemplifying her dedication to making a positive impact.

Her active involvement with organizations such as the Kilauea Neighborhood Association and Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea further demonstrates her strength and determination to serve and represent Kauai with integrity and passion.

I am confident that Ms. Ornellas Kimura would be an outstanding representative for our island as the DHHL Kauai Commissioner.

Thank you for your time in reading my support letter for Shaylyn Ornellas Kimura.

Sincerely,
Toni Ishimoto, ePRO
Director of Operations



P.O. Box 1023, Kilauea, HI 96754

April 6th 2025

To the senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs ,

Subject : Regarding GM 773-Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee

We are pleased to provide this letter of support for the DHHL nomination of Shaylyn Ornellas for the island of Kaua'i.

My name is Yoshito L'Hote, CEO for 'Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea, a 501c3 non profit that is been developing the 75 acre Kilauea Community Agricultural Center for the last 10 years. We had the privilege to have Shaylyn on our board for two terms when she resided in Kilauea.

During that time we found her to be engaged and productive in the development of the ag Center. Her passion for malama 'Aina, Hawaiians, and Kaua'i shines thru her well spoken and decisive actions. She creates solutions and is active in getting people on board. As a mom she cares for her kids and ohana and is well liked in the community, here and around the island. Her pride as a Hawaiian makes her a perfect candidate for this position and being related to the majority of the Hawaiian on the island will give her the reach and connection to be efficient at her job.

So in closing, we, at AHK, are all in support of this nomination as we seek to advance the DHHL agenda and see more Hawaiians on the land successfully reconnecting to 'Aina. Shaylyn will be a great addition to the Department.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Sincerely, Yoshito L'Hote CEO for 'Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea

KA LĀHUI HAWAI'I

WWW.KALAHUIHAWAII.NET

TESTIMONY OF KA LĀHUI HAWAI'I
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

April 10, 2025

IN SUPPORT OF GM 773

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Committee Members,

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i submits this testimony in strong support of Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas' confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission representing the island of Kaua'i.

Ms. Ornellas brings a wealth of experience and a deep, authentic connection to Kaua'i. She has strong familial connections to homestead communities like Anahola and Kekaha, and her 'ohana also owned kuleana lands in Pila'a—connections that have shaped her aloha for the 'āina and her dedication to serving the lāhui. At this pivotal moment—when the diaspora of Kānaka Maoli continues to grow and housing insecurity has become a crisis—we need commissioners who lead with 'ike Hawai'i, accountability, and a fierce commitment to keeping our people on our lands.

Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas has a long history of public service, including her current role as Chair of the Kaua'i Public Access, Open Space & Natural Resources Preservation Fund Commission and past service on the State Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council. Her background in education, small business, and real estate, paired with her work in community organizing, positions her as a capable and culturally grounded voice for Kaua'i beneficiaries.

Importantly, Ms. Ornellas is not a DHHL beneficiary herself, allowing her to serve without personal interest and with a commitment to fairness and transparency. Her actions consistently reflect the values of aloha, kuleana, and lōkahi, and her leadership is grounded in the well-being of future generations of Kānaka.

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i strongly urges this committee to confirm Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas, a keiki o ka 'āina of Kaua'i. Her appointment will bring strength, compassion, and pono to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.
Ka Lāhui Hawai'i

Me ka 'oia 'i'o,



Healani Sonoda-Pale
Ka Lāhui Hawai'i

4th April 2025

Letter of Support

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the appointment of Shaylyn Ornellas as the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) Commissioner for Kaua'i. Shaylyn is a dedicated advocate for the Native Hawaiian community, with deep ties to the island and a clear understanding of the needs of our homesteaders.

She brings both lived experience and professional insight to the role, approaching her work with humility, empathy, and action. Shaylyn's leadership is rooted in aloha and a deep commitment to our people and 'āina.

I am confident she would be a powerful and thoughtful voice on the DHHL Commission, and I fully support her appointment.

Mahalo,

Taelee Kimura

Taelee Kimura

GM-773

Submitted on: 4/5/2025 6:47:57 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Ono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senate Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura & members of the committee, I am writing in **strong support** of Ms. Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas to represent Kauai as the DHHL Kauai Commissioner.

I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Ornellas for over 10 years, while I was employed as the Executive Director of the Kauai Board of REALTORS.

Ms. Ornellas is very passionate and dedicated in the community and organizations that she volunteers countless hours to. In fact, I had the opportunity to serve with her for years on the Kauai Public Access Open Space & Natural Resources Preservation Fund Commission for over 4 years.

Her full commitment and dedication to organizations like the Kilauea Neighborhood Association and Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea and the entire community she represents shows her dedication and strength to represent Kauai as a DHHL Commissioner.

Mahalo for allowing me this opportunity to support a very dedicated kanaka wahine.

Sincerely,

Karen Ono, Kauai Resident

GM-773

Submitted on: 4/7/2025 6:21:58 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doreen Canto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of Ms. Ornellas.

Michael A. Dahilig

P.O. Box 719

Lawai, Hawaii 96765

Testimony before the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee

**GM 773 For consideration and confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, SHAYLYN ORNELLAS, for a term to expire 06-30-2029**

April 10, 2025 at 1:00 PM Conference Room 224

Honorable Chair Richards and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Ms. Shaylyn Ornellas' nomination to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. As a nominee, she is well qualified to fulfill this responsibility given her professional and life experiences, her temperament, and desire to serve.

I have known Ms. Ornellas in various community capacities for close to two decades, largely in her work with the County on land use, development, and permitting – including her service on the Kauai County Open Space Commission. I can attest to her empathetic and collaborative style, intellect, and good character. Her experience in understanding how Hawai'i works makes her unique skill set easily transferable to the trust role vested with this unique commission.

Also, her command of business experience, living on Kauai, and aloha lends to her ability to understand how housing people with a native sense of place can either result in positive or negative impacts to the beneficiary community and the community at-large.

The recent volatility in our state, and across the globe, requires members of the commission to have a command of knowledge stretching from the technical to the emotional while deliberating the impact their decisions can have to each individual beneficiary while keeping an eye on the bigger picture – a skill and empathy she definitely has.

I have known Ms. Ornellas to be even keeled in temperament, deliberative, yet able to crack a joke and appreciate a good-humored moment when the clandestine opportunity arises.

I have confidence in Ms. Ornellas' ability to make sound and deliberative trust decisions on behalf of the Hawaiian Homes beneficiaries and respectfully ask this honorable committee to **ADVISE AND CONSENT** to her nomination. Mahalo for your consideration.

GM-773

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:52:12 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raquel Runnels	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support Ms. Shaylyn Ornellas for DHHL Kaua'i Commissioner - she is a staunch supporter of Mauna Kea and a Keiki o Ka 'Āina with deep roots to Kaua'i. Her 'Ohana was the family who lost their kuleana land to Zuckerberg. Her professional experience makes her a perfect candidate for this position GM773

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my full support for Shaylyn Ornellas' appointment as the DHHL Kaua'i Commissioner. Shaylyn's strong leadership, deep connection to our community, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of Native Hawaiians make her an outstanding choice for this role. Shaylyn's family has long been an integral part of the Kaua'i community, and she carries forward their legacy of service, hard work, and cultural preservation. Her dedication to the people of Kaua'i, combined with her excellent work ethic, ensures that she will be a steadfast advocate for DHHL's mission. I have seen her consistently demonstrate a passion for uplifting our community, and I am confident she will continue to do so as Commissioner.

I wholeheartedly support Shaylyn's appointment and look forward to the positive contributions she will make to the DHHL and the people of Kaua'i.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mahie Hochuli". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mahie" and last name "Hochuli" clearly distinguishable.

Mahie Hochuli

Chairperson and Members Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 204
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 773 – Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee

Dear Chairperson and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I am writing to convey my wholehearted and unwavering support for Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas as a nominee for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). As you deliberate on her nomination, I urge you to recognize the unique qualifications and profound dedication that make Shaylyn an unparalleled candidate for this vital role. Shaylyn's extensive background in community service is a testament to her unwavering commitment to uplifting our Hawaiian families. Her tireless advocacy for Native Hawaiian rights reflects not only her passion but also her deep understanding of the intricate challenges that our communities face.

Shaylyn embodies the spirit of service and resilience that is so essential for effective leadership in the DHHL. What truly sets Shaylyn apart is her proven ability to inspire collaboration and engage stakeholders from various backgrounds. Her knowledge of the DHHL's mission, coupled with her innovative approach to problem-solving, equips her to navigate the complex landscape of land and resource management with grace and effectiveness.

She has the vision and tenacity to drive transformative change that will benefit all Native Hawaiians. I have personally witnessed Shaylyn's commitment to amplifying the voices of our Hawaiian community members, ensuring that their needs and concerns are prioritized. Her integrity and dedication to service are qualities that will undoubtedly lead to a more equitable and prosperous future for the Hawaiian people of Kauai.

I, Shelly Kauai Carvalho, wholeheartedly urge you to support Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas in her nomination for this pivotal position. Her leadership will not only honor the principles of our Hawaiian culture but will also pave the way for meaningful progress within the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Thank you for considering this important nomination. Your support for Shaylyn will resonate deeply within our communities here on our island of Kauai and will be a significant step forward for our collective future.

Sincerely,


Shelly Kauai Carvalho

P.O. Box 327

Eleele, HI 96705

4th April 2025

Letter of Support

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write in support of Shaylyn Ornellas for the position of DHHL Commissioner representing Kaua'i. Shaylyn is a trusted and respected member of our community, and I have witnessed firsthand her deep dedication to serving our lāhui.

She brings a grounded, community-centered approach to every space she enters, combining her personal connection to Hawaiian Homelands with a strong professional background. Her ability to listen, advocate, and take thoughtful action makes her an ideal candidate for this role.

Shaylyn's leadership is thoughtful, steady, and rooted in aloha. I believe she would be a valuable voice for Kaua'i and our Native Hawaiian 'ohana across the pae 'āina. I fully support her appointment and hope she is given the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sariah Mokuahi". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sariah" and last name "Mokuahi" clearly distinguishable.

Sariah Mokuahi

From: [Shelea Koga](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Saturday, April 5, 2025 3:03:28 PM

You don't often get email from sheleakoga@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Shaylyn Ornellas, who has served as the Chair of the Open Space Commission with dedication, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to our island community.

Shaylyn has been a cornerstone of the Commission's work, guiding conversations and decisions with clarity, fairness, and a deep respect for both the land and the people it serves. Her ability to lead thoughtful dialogue, build consensus, and keep our meetings both productive and grounded in purpose has been invaluable.

Her leadership style is marked by patience, professionalism, and a collaborative spirit. She brings a strong understanding of the cultural and environmental values that shape our work, and her insight has helped move important initiatives forward. Shaylyn approaches each issue with a balanced perspective, always considering both community needs and long-term stewardship goals.

As she continues her service to the community, I am confident that Shaylyn will be an incredible asset to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Commission. Her deep respect for place, people, and process will undoubtedly support the mission and values of DHHL and serve the beneficiaries well.

It has been a privilege to work alongside Shaylyn and witness the care and heart she brings to every role. She is a natural leader, and any organization would benefit greatly from her involvement.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like further insight into her contributions.

Mahalo,

Shelea Koga

From: [Aisea Taukave](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: Shaylen Ornellas nomination
Date: Sunday, April 6, 2025 7:47:03 AM

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To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Shaylen Ornellas in her nomination to the senate for Hawaiian affairs. Having had the experience of working with her, I can attest to her exceptional qualities as a dedicated professional, a visionary leader and a person of unwavering integrity.

During our time working together for the Princeville Corporation in Kauai, she consistently demonstrated an extraordinary work ethic and a sharp intellect. She approaches every challenge with determination and creativity often exceeding expectations.

Her ability to navigate complex situations while fostering collaboration among diverse viewpoints is quite remarkable. I personally believe she embodies the values of empathy, fairness and Aloha or service to others!



Her commitment to the critical issues facing the kupuna of our island is further testament of her desire to advocate for meaningful change. I have no doubt that her unique blend of skills, experience and character will make her an invaluable asset to the position!

Mahalo nui for considering her nomination! Ps feel free to contact me @ taukaisea@yahoo.com if you require further information.

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)



April 6, 2025

Re: **GM 773 – Shaylyn Ornellas, DHHL Nominee**

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

I am writing to support the nomination of SHAYLYN ORNELLAS as a Kauai Commissioner to serve on the Department of Hawaiian Home Land (DHHL) Commission. I have known Ms. Ornellas for most of my life in a professional and personal capacity. I previously served as a councilmember and Prosecuting Attorney for Kauai. I have been practicing law in the State of Hawaii for over 36 years. In my law practice, I have had the opportunity to confer with many employees at DHHL the Attorney General's Office and Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. Ms. Ornellas would be a tremendous asset to those individuals, as she is very intelligent, compassionate and hard-working. Her expertise in Hawaiian land issues would be a huge asset to the Commission. She would bring a wealth of experience that few can surpass.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information.

Sincerely,

/s/ Shaylene Iseri

Owner of Law Office of Shaylene Iseri
P.O. Box 3133
Lihue, Hawaii. 96766
Phone: 808-977-0345
Email: Shay4justice@gmail.com



From: [ThomaSyna Bungula](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 – Letter of Support for Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas, DHHL Kaua'i Nominee
Date: Sunday, April 6, 2025 10:31:47 AM

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Dear Chair Richards and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas to serve as the Kaua'i Commissioner on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, as referenced in GM 773.

Ms. Ornellas brings a wealth of experience, dedication, and integrity to this important role. Her deep roots in the Kaua'i community, along with her extensive background in public service, education, business, and advocacy, uniquely qualify her to represent the interests of beneficiaries with fairness, transparency, and cultural grounding.

Her commitment to impartial and community-centered representation is especially commendable. As a Native Hawaiian who is not a DHHL beneficiary, she offers a balanced and unbiased perspective—dedicated to uplifting both lessees and waitlisters without personal interest. Her focus is on service, collective well-being, and strengthening the lāhui.

I am confident that Ms. Ornellas will bring thoughtful leadership and a collaborative spirit to the DHHL Commission. I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm her nomination.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

ThomaSyna L. Bungula

Maintenance & Damage Manager - Avis Budget Group

Anahola Homestead, Kauai

From: [Elizabeth Lis](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Sunday, April 6, 2025 10:44:57 AM

You don't often get email from lisohana@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Senate Committee members,

I am writing you today in support of Shaylyn Ornellas' nomination to the DHHL commission.

I have known Shaylyn for many years in both a professional and personal level. I have found her to be very passionate and dedicated to the community. She is detailed oriented and knowledgeable. I believe she would be an excellent addition to the commission.

Best regards,

Betsy Lis

808-635-6532

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [nakeliipio](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Cc: Nakeliipio@gmail.com
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee. Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Date: Sunday, April 6, 2025 1:11:48 PM

You don't often get email from nakeliipio@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha,

I am pleased to submit a letter of recommendation on behalf of Shaylyn Ornellas to represent Kauai on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Commission.

Growing up on hawaiian homesteads in Keaukaha, witnessing the airport expansion (Resulting in family, friends and neighbors being relocated to Panaewa), I can attest to the importance of a Commissioner's voice of knowledge and assertiveness. Past Commissioners such as Abbie Napeahi (Grand Aunt), Eleanor Ahuna, Ann Nathaniel, Thomas Contrades, Crystal Rose, Micah Kane, Thomas Kaulukukui Jr., Ian Lee Loy, and David Ka'apu have been admirable advocates for our lahui.

I believe that Shaylyn will stand up for our lahui in a similar fashion.

I have known Shaylyn from childhood, she and her siblings growing up with my children. As the oldest child in her family, her leadership, example, morality and involvement in community activity has been praiseworthy.

She will speak up for what's right, stand with the underprivileged and is akamai. Her heart is pono. She has a variety of current and past community service and representation; highly qualified to inform and fight for the homesteaders.

I hold a personal opinion that she will serve honorably; eventhough she does not presently reside on Hawaiian Homes land or is a lessee. She has spent a lot of nurturing upbringing on homestead lands with ohana in her early years, as well as, presently. This perspective of representation is invaluable and truly an unique asset in these challenging times.

Her "portagee" blood enhances her steadfastness and commitment; IYKYK [No intentions whatsoever of being racial; just a straight compliment].

Shaylyn will serve well; I stand in support of her nomination and humbly request your kind consideration.

Respectfully,

Alexander M. M. Keliipio

(Born & raised in Keaukaha Hawaiian Homesteads; graduate of The Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama; retiree from the County of Kauai-Fire Department with 34 years of service; presently residing in Wailua Homesteads, Kauai for the past 46 years).

From: rbnkeawe@gmail.com
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773-Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Sunday, April 6, 2025 1:43:10 PM

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It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas. Over the last 30 years, I have known her as a teenager when I was a Church Youth Leader. I also had the great privilege of being a counselor when she was an involved student leader at Kapaa High School. Gratefully our life paths have brought us back into contact. The bright, articulate, personable youth has grown into a woman with wisdom, energy, and value for her culture. She has increased leadership skills that were already on display as a young woman. I think what truly makes her a perfect candidate for this position is her ability to listen and relate to people from different socioeconomic, educational, and community backgrounds.

I am grateful to have seen her potential as a youth come to fruition as an adult. I think she will make an excellent DHHL Commissioner for Kauai.

With much aloha,
Robyn Kaleilani Keawe

Sent from my iPhone

From: [sandy defries](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Sunday, April 6, 2025 1:47:22 PM

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Measure Status Details for GM

Subje
Shayl
Ornell
DHHL
Nomir

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Sandra Lei Momi DeFries and I have been living in Anahola Hawaiian Homes for 48 years. I am part Hawaiian and my husband is a Native Hawaiian.

I am very honored to speak in behalf of Shaylyn Ornellas and supporting her nomination for Kauai Commissioner for Department of Hawaiian Home Lands as referenced in GM 773. She comes from a very good and respectable family and my Ohana has known her family over 40 years. Shaylyn is a very thoughtful, kind, good hearted, hardworking and knowledgeable person and always strives to be the best in everything she does and every job she pursues and accepts.

Mahalo,

Sandra Lei Momi DeFries

From: [Fig Mitchell](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Sunday, April 6, 2025 2:27:42 PM

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Aloha,

I would like to express my support of nominee Shaylyn Ornellas. I have known her for many years and throughout that time I have observed her dedication to her family and her community. I know she will represent the people of Kaua'i with heart and integrity.

Mahalo nui loa

Fig Mitchell

From: [Momi Mitchell](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Sunday, April 6, 2025 2:27:58 PM

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Aloha,

I am writing to you to ask you to consider nominee, Shaylyn Ornellas, for the Kaua'i seat on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Commission. I have known Shaylyn all of my life as we grew up together in the same community. She has always been passionate about caring for the people and community she was raised in. Shaylyn is a hard worker, very ambitious, and will be a voice to the people she represents.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Momi Mitchell

Sent from my iPad

From: [NANI WATS](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Sunday, April 6, 2025 5:59:10 PM

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Aloha Chair Richards and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing to convey my strong support for the nomination of Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas to serve as the Kaua‘i Commissioner on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, as referenced in GM 773.

Shaylyn brings a wealth of experience, dedication, and integrity to this important role. Her deep roots in the Kaua‘i community, along with her extensive background in public service, education, business, and advocacy, uniquely qualify her to represent the interests of beneficiaries with fairness, transparency, and cultural grounding. Shaylyn is also very level headed and has always emulated empathy and compassion toward those around her. For example, Shaylyn took the time to check in with my family after we lost my brother , grandparents and mother. She has always made herself available if we needed anything and continues to check in with us to this day.

In conclusion, all of her many accomplishments and personal contributions highlight Shaylyn’s commitment and impartiality toward community-centered representation. As a Native Hawaiian who is not a DHHL beneficiary, Shaylyn offers a balanced and unbiased perspective—dedicated to uplifting both lessees and waitlisters without personal interest. Her unwavering focus continues to be on service, collective well-being, and strengthening the lāhui.

I am more than confident that Shaylyn Ornellas will bring thoughtful leadership and a collaborative spirit to the DHHL Commission. I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm her nomination.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Puanani Pi‘ilehua Hurley Wataoka, Pharm.D.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ceslee Enos](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 8:39:05 AM

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Aloha Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Kanoelehua Enos and I am a native Hawaiian. I hail from the hills of Papakolea, Oahu. However, for the past forty-five years to present, I am Anahola, Kauai! There were only two occasions requiring me to leave Kauai; once to serve a church mission and once again to earn a college degree in education. Upon completion of both, I returned to Anahola to care for my elderly parents. And now as a high school teacher, I am entrusted with educating children from my homestead. At the end of the day, my home in Anahola is where I take refuge!

To continue living this healthy lifestyle on our homestead, I look to devout individuals such as Shaylyn Ornellas to honorably represent DHHL. She is the epitome of fairness and of sound decision making. Her personal interactions within our community and professional history of service speak for itself. I believe that her words and deeds are dedicated to Kauai's people! I look forward to her leadership!

Best,
Ceslee K. Enos, M.Ed.

Kapaa High School
4695 Mailihuna Road
Kapaa, HI 96746
(808) 821-4400

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From: [Lori Email](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: Reference GM 773- Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL nominee
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 10:50:05 AM

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Aloha my name is Lori Cadawas I'm writing this letter of support for Shaylyn Ornellas for DHHL Kauai Commissioner. I've known her for over 25 years I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the outstanding work and positive impact she brought to our island. She goes above and beyond to get the job done. She's so capable of representing DHHL in the best way possible. I strongly encourage you to seriously consider her for our DHHL Kauai Commissioner. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.
makoa47@hawaiiintel.net Thank you for your time.

Lori Cadawas

From: [Lahela Correa](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Cc: [Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 12:15:58 PM

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Aloha my name is Lahela Correa.

I am of Native Hawaiian descent, my roots come from Hā'ena, Kaua'i.

I am writing this letter in support of Anakē Shaylyn Ornellas.

I believe with her skills and experience she will be a great asset to be on the board of DHHL.

her service and dedication to the community of native Hawaiians will show.

May you please consider her and allow her to be a representative.

With Aloha,

Lahela Correa

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Fern Holland](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee in the subject line
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 8:53:05 PM

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Aloha Honorable Senators,

I am submitting this email as a letter of support for the nomination of Shaylyn Ornellas for the Kaua'i seat on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Commission.

I appreciate the governors nomination of Ms Ornellas and believe she has what it takes to serve the Hawaiian community and beneficiaries of Kaua'i well.

I submit this letter as an individual Councilmember and lifelong Kaua'i resident is support of her appointment.

Mahalo for your consideration and thank you for your service,

Fern

Fern Ānuenue Holland
Councilmember
Parks & Recreation/ Transportation Committee Chair
Public Safety & Human Services Committee Vice Chair
Kaua'i County Council
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766
Cellular: (808) 634-6242
Telephone: (808) 241-4095
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349

From: [Tuni Cummings](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 11:55:54 PM

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Aloha,

I want to offer my support for Shaylyn Ornellas as DHHL representative. She is a positive active community member on Kauai she would be a great person to represent the DHHL. Please consider her for the position.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Kahealani Cummings
Sent from my iPhone

From: [eLena Gillespie](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM773 SHAYLYN ORNELLAS, Hawaiian Homes Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee
Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 12:55:53 AM

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To Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

I wholeheartedly support the nomination of SHAYLYN ORNELLAS to the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Shaylyn Ornellas is committed to providing open, community-centered advocacy. The time for fair unbiased representation is now. Please confirm her nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

/ eLena Miwako Javinar GILLESPIE /

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Kilauea Kauai HI 96754

~~egillespie@hawaii.rr.com~~

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Sent April 8, 2025 12:55am HST

From: [Tahnee May](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL
Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 7:17:57 AM

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Dear Member of the Senate,

I am expressing my strong support for the nomination of Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas to serve as the Kaua'i Commissioner on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands as Reference in GM773.

Her commitment to the community is especially commendable. As a Native Hawaiian who is not a beneficiary she is balanced and unbiased . Her focus is n focus is on service and strengthening the ILāhui.

I am confident Ms. Ornellas will bring great leadership to DHHL Commission. I urge the Committee to confirm her nomination.

Thank you for your time

Tahnee Leolani May

From: [Hochuli, Christopher](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773- Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 7:27:33 AM

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Hello,

I am writing in support of Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas' nomination by Governor Joshua Green for a seat on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Commission. I have personally known Shaylyn for over 25 years and I have always known her to be passionate about the causes that directly affect Hawaiians and she cares deeply about her culture and her people. Being born and raised on Kauai, and spending almost her entire life on her home island has given her unique perspective in understanding the effects that Global warming has on the oldest Island of the 7 main islands, how the high costs of housing are pushing more of our children away from their home roots (her oldest child is living on the mainland to survive), and the impact of unchecked tourism which seems to favor the visitors over the people that call Hawaii home by birthright. Perhaps one of the best qualities of Shaylyn for this particular role is while she is sensitive to the above issues, she is extremely bright and pragmatic and cares not about advancing "her" ideas, but finding the best solutions wherever they come from and work to implement them for the betterment of Hawaii.

I enthusiastically recommend and have zero reservations in support of Shaylyn Ornellas for this important role.

Aloha, Chris Hochuli

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

-

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From: [Deshaynee Iseri](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: Letter of Support For GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 8:07:45 AM

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To the Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Deshaynee La‘akaimakana Iseri, and I am writing to express my heartfelt support for Shaylyn Kehauani Ornellas as the nominee for DHHL Kaua‘i Commissioner.

As someone born and raised in Anahola, I understand the deep value of having a representative who not only knows our community but is truly *of* our community. Shaylyn’s pilina to Anahola, Kekaha, and to the people and places that shape our lāhui gives her the insight, compassion, and cultural grounding needed for such a significant role.

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands exists to carry out the legacy and vision of Prince Kūhiō, to uplift and empower Native Hawaiians through access to ‘āina and opportunity. The awarding of Hawaiian Home Lands leases is not just about housing; it’s about restoring our people’s rightful place on the land, supporting the wellbeing of our ‘ohana, and perpetuating our identity for future generations. That work requires leadership that is pono, connected, and committed to the greater good.

Shaylyn embodies these qualities. Her impartial stance as a non-lessee, combined with her extensive experience in public service and advocacy, uniquely positions her to represent both beneficiaries and those still waiting with fairness and clarity. I trust that she will help guide DHHL forward in a way that is transparent, inclusive, and rooted in aloha for our people.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Shaylyn Kehauani Ornellas as DHHL Kaua‘i Commissioner. Mahalo for your time and consideration of this important appointment.

Mahalo,
Deshaynee La‘akaimakana Iseri
DHHL Beneficiary

Letter of Support for Shaylyn Ornellas

Dear Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Shaylyn Ornellas for the Kaua'i seat on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Commission (GM 773). I have had the pleasure of knowing Shaylyn for many years as both a friend and a business acquaintance, and I can attest to her exceptional qualifications and deep commitment to the community.

Shaylyn has received the nomination from Governor Green, which is a testament to her dedication and hard work. She is profoundly passionate about education and has served on numerous boards, demonstrating her ability to lead and make informed decisions. Her contributions to various organizations have shown her unwavering commitment to improving the community and addressing its needs.

Furthermore, Shaylyn has deep roots in the community and brings a fair understanding of all sides of an issue to the table. Her balanced perspective and thoughtful approach to problem-solving make her an ideal candidate for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Commission.

I am confident that Shaylyn Ornellas will serve with integrity and dedication, and I wholeheartedly support her nomination. I urge you to consider her for the Kaua'i seat on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Commission.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ruth Belmonte

03/07/2025

Aloha Honorable Governor Green,

I would like to introduce myself as Evelyn Takenaka. I am a product of the Anahola, Kaua'i community, having spent most of my childhood on the homestead. I regularly attended Hawaiian Homes meetings with my mother and advocated for the first pastoral lands on the neighbor islands. I attended meetings well before it became "kosher" and the thing to do, however I found it to be most helpful and rewarding for all. The State, DHHL and our Hawaiian communities are facing real challenges, today and definitely in the coming years as there are more Hawaiians living outside Hawai'i than within its shores. We need solid representation at the Commission level, and I write to you in support of DHHL commission candidate, Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas.

Shaylyn was nurtured and raised on the Hawaiian homestead lands of Anahola, Kaua'i and knows its perils and blessings. She has many relatives who live in both Anahola and Kekaha, on west Kaua'i. She is highly qualified and has served on several boards and commissions including the Open Space commission for the County of Kauai. She has held that position for several years and under 2 Mayors now. Shaylyn has vast experience in business, real estate, responsible growth and strategic planning, skills vital in being a successful and effective leader and someone we need to represent Kaua'i at DHHL.

Shaylyn is dynamic, passionate and full of conviction in Hawaiian issues and listens well to others, key components of a good leader. She will work well with Chair Kali Watson in furthering the initiatives of the Dept. and is fully committed to the causes and positions she chooses to engage in. I hereby deem Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas the most qualified and deserving person to represent Kaua'i on the DHHL Commission.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Takenaka
Wailua, Kauai

From: [onalani21](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 10:08:37 AM

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To whom this may concern,

We are writing in great & full support of Shaylyn Ornellas's candidacy for Dept of Hawaiian Home Lands Kauai Commissioner. We believe Shaylyn will be an exceptional candidate for this position because of her countless years of tremendous involvement in our communities & her dedication to serving and strengthening our Lāhui.

My wife and I have been residents of Kekaha Hawaiian Homes for 14 years. We trust that Shaylyn will continue to support lessees and waitlisters and advocate for a better DHHL system for years to come.

Please highly consider Shaylyn Ornellas for the Dept of Hawaiian Home Lands Kauai Commissioner position.

Mahalo,

Palani & Dayla Camacho

XXXXXXXXXX

Kekaha, HI 96752

(808) 651-7887
XXXXXXXXXXXX

From: [Nancy Kanna](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee; LETTER OF SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 11:31:26 AM

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To Whom it May Concern:

I write you in SUPPORT of Shaylin Kehaunani Ornellas as Kauai representative DHHL Commissioner.

I have known Ms. Ornellas for the past 9 years as we've both served on the Kauai Public Access, Open Space & Natural Resources Commission. Ms. Ornellas has brought incredible integrity and thoughtfulness in her role as Open Space Commissioner. Coupled with her business background, community outreach and advocacy skills and her passion for the Hawaiian People, I believe Ms. Ornellas is the perfect choice as the Kauai Representative of DHHL Commissioner.

Thank you for considering her for DHHL Commissioner.

With Aloha,
Nancy Kanna
Hanapepe, Kauai
(~~808) 852-XXXX~~)

From: [Ayau, Shyla](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Cc: [SKO](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 12:20:46 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer my full support for Shaylyn Ornellas as a nominee for the Kaua‘i seat on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) Commission.

Shaylyn is a dedicated, community-minded leader with a deep understanding of the issues that impact Hawaiian beneficiaries and families on Kaua‘i. Her roots in the community, coupled with her professionalism, integrity, and cultural grounding, make her an ideal representative for this important role.

Her ability to bring people together, navigate complex systems, and advocate with both heart and clarity will make her a tremendous asset to the Commission. Shaylyn is someone who listens, cares, and acts — always with the best interest of the lāhui at heart.

I have no doubt that her voice on the DHHL Commission will bring strength, balance, and much-needed perspective to the table. I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of her appointment.

Mahalo for your time and for your continued service to our communities.

Me ke aloha,

Shyla Ayau

From: Valerie
To: HWN Committee
Subject: Re: GM 773 Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas
Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 1:30:22 PM

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Sorry, I accidentally sent you the letter below before it was completed. I would love to complete our testimony. One of the activities she has been involved in is through Open Spaces. She has diligently researched and reviewed the loss of cultural practices of limu collecting here on Kauai. Many of the homeowners have blocked off access to our beaches by growing plants to block public access to the beach. Some of them have even built stonewalls and fences to keep the Hawaiians from accessing the ocean. There are practitioners who spend their time teaching our students here on Kauai to keep the knowledge of limu harvesting and growth. This is a cherished tradition to her as her aunt was a limu collector and taught others the Hawaiian tradition of preserving limu. Another of her concerns has been access to open up and preserve designated trails used for hunting from Moloa'a to Hanalei. As outsiders swallow up land on the north shore, they too build, fence and plant obstacles for our hunters to keep them from feeding their families and others in the community. Shaylyn comes from a generation, past and present, of hunters and gatherers. I believe she and others who share her dreams will slowly regain access to our mountains which is rich in food both pigs and other kinds of food that are abundant on our island. I would appreciate your support as I feel her knowledge and experience will assist our state, especially our Hawaiian community, in getting the native people to acquire a piece of land to call their own. Land ownership allows our Hawaiian community to be more stable and prosperous. Mahalo for your time. Raymond and Valerie Ornellas

Sent from my iPad

> On Apr 8, 2025, at 1:04 PM, Valerie <~~XXXXXXXXXX~~@gmail.com> wrote:
>

> We are writing in support of Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas who is the eldest of our five children. We feel she will be an asset for the Hawaiian community throughout the islands. Her many experiences both within the field of business and our Kauai community allows her to be capable of assisting the Hawaiian Homes Commission. Her resume speaks for itself as we have watched Shaylyn be an advocate for many causes here on our island. She is willing to listen, study and support the concerns of others.

> Sent from my iPad

From: [Mele Cole](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 11:03:45 PM

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Aloha!

My name is Twanda Mele Cole, and I have had the pleasure of knowing Shaylyn **Kehaunani Ornellas** personally while working with her in the real estate industry!

She has always impressed me with how much her family has ingrained in her the true meaning of Aloha and 'Ohana as I see how she is with her own children. I've witnessed her as personally committed to helping our local community with their dreams of home ownership; something we do not see as often as we should!

Like Shaylyn, I am also Hawaiian and not a DHHL beneficiary. I do believe she has the heart and will bring great and impartial perspective and insight should she be appointed to the Kaua'i seat on the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Commission! All you need to do is speak with her and you will come to the same conclusion!

Mahalo for taking the time to read my letter of support for Shaylyn! I have no doubt you will find you made the right decision by appointing her!

Mahalo!

Twanda Mele Cole

From: XXXXX@XXXXX.com
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL
Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2025 5:14:08 PM

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Aloha! ‘O ‘Āla`i Taya Pa`ahao ko`u inoa. No Wailua Kaua`i mai au. I`d like to support and stand by your decision to nominate Shaylyn for the Kaua`i seat on the department on the Hawaiian Home Lands commission. After recently celebrating our dear deceased ali`i Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana`ole, I was given a reminder of the beauty in the dream he had for our people to have a place on our land. I know that Shaylyn will do right by her culture and values to perpetuate and fulfill Kūhiō`s vision and represent our island well. In our little community she has always done her best to be active and give every aspect her full attention She has shown love always by action and I know that Shaylyn is more then prepared and ready to take on this new responsibility. E ola ko kākou leo. May our voices and opinions carry on. Mahalo no kou manawa. `Āla`i Pa`ahao.

From: [Avis Kaona](#)
To: [HWN Committee](#)
Subject: GM 773 - Shaylyn Ornellas DHHL Nominee
Date: Monday, April 7, 2025 8:50:21 PM

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Aloha Hawaiian Committee!

We are writing this letter to ask for your support of Shaylyn Ornellas as Kauai DHHL nominee. We are pleased to hear that she is being considered for this position and we believe that her experiences within our community have prepared her well. It is refreshing to see young people step up to lead and serve our Hawaiian community. We believe that given the opportunity Shaylyn will be an effective contributor for the DHHL committee. We humbly ask for your vote to consider Shaylyn Ornellas Kauai DHHL nominee.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Leroy and Avis Kaona

GM-773

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:30:26 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Germaine Meyers	Individual	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Honorable Members,

I submit comments only as I don't know Ms. Ornellas.

I'm confused about her appointment since our current Kauai Commissioner Dennis Neves term doesn't expire until June 30, 2025.

If Ms. Ornellas is confirmed by the Senate this month, will Kauai Commissioner Neves be terminated early?

I've never seen a Governor appoint a person's name to the Senate prior to a sitting Hawaiian Homes Commissioner's term expiring.

I sincerely wish the Governor was enthusiastic to appoint people to fill the numerous vacant seats on the Burial Councils on a timely basis. Especially the 5 vacant seats on the 5-member Molokai Burial Council.

Ke Akua pu,

God Bless All of You

KA LĀHUI HAWAI‘I

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LATE

TESTIMONY OF KA LĀHUI HAWAI‘I
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

April 10, 2025

IN SUPPORT OF GM 773

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Committee Members,

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i submits this testimony in strong support of Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas’ confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission representing the island of Kaua‘i.

Ms. Ornellas brings a wealth of experience and a deep, authentic connection to Kaua‘i. She has strong familial connections to homestead communities like Anahola and Kekaha, and her ‘ohana also owned kuleana lands in Pila‘a—connections that have shaped her aloha for the ‘āina and her dedication to serving the lāhui. At this pivotal moment—when the diaspora of Kānaka Maoli continues to grow and housing insecurity has become a crisis—we need commissioners who lead with ‘ike Hawai‘i, accountability, and a fierce commitment to keeping our people on our lands.

Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas has a long history of public service, including her current role as Chair of the Kaua‘i Public Access, Open Space & Natural Resources Preservation Fund Commission and past service on the State Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council. Her background in education, small business, and real estate, paired with her work in community organizing, positions her as a capable and culturally grounded voice for Kaua‘i beneficiaries.

Importantly, Ms. Ornellas is not a DHHL beneficiary herself, allowing her to serve without personal interest and with a commitment to fairness and transparency. Her actions consistently reflect the values of aloha, kuleana, and lōkahi, and her leadership is grounded in the well-being of future generations of Kānaka.

Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i strongly urges this committee to confirm Shaylyn Kehaunani Ornellas, a keiki o ka ‘āina of Kaua‘i. Her appointment will bring strength, compassion, and pono to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.
Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i

Me ka ‘oia ‘i‘o,

Healani Sonoda-Pale

Healani Sonoda-Pale
Ka Lāhui Hawai‘i