

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

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



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, CHAIRMAN**  
**HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION**  
**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
**HEARING ON MARCH 6, 2025 AT 1:00PM IN CR 224**

**IN SUPPORT OF**

**GM 591**

for consideration and confirmation to the  
Hawaiian Homes Commission,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, **LAWRENCE LASUA**,  
for a term to expire 6-30-2028

March 5, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Lawrence Lasua as Commissioner for the island of Moloka'i on the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC).

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is confident that Mr. Lasua will fulfill his fiduciary duties as a Commissioner on the HHC through his strong reverence for the beneficiaries of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended (HHCA), Hawaiian Home Lands (HHL), and DHHL.

Mr. Lasua is a trusted community member of the island of Moloka'i whose resume is as diverse as the challenges and obstacles faced by DHHL and its beneficiaries. From his past work for Kalaupapa with the Department of Health to his skills in banking and accounting, DHHL takes comfort knowing that Mr. Lasua will aid in keeping DHHL accountable concerning various kuleana (responsibilities) including, but not limited to community engagement, potential partnerships, and budgets/budget analysis.

DHHL is confident that Mr. Lasua's expansive experience concerning system operations, analysis, and management will aid DHHL in management policies and practices that will allow for streamlined efficiency in operations and accurate record keeping for DHHL. The issues facing the island of Moloka'i and the beneficiaries who

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands  
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reside or may be applying to reside on Moloka'i, run the gamut from flooding, to water access, to invasive axis deer issues and DHHL is confident that Mr. Lasua has the diverse skills and grounded mana to represent the island of Moloka'i and fulfill the mission of the HHC.

DHHL looks forward to continuing to work with Lawrence Lasua 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.

**GM-591**

Submitted on: 3/4/2025 1:29:45 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Tancayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am in FULL Support of GM 591.

Mahalo,

Michelle

**GM-591**

Submitted on: 3/4/2025 1:31:33 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erman Tancayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in STRONG Support of GM 591

Mahalo!

**GM-591**

Submitted on: 3/4/2025 1:38:05 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ivan Pauole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In SUPPORT of GM 591

**GM-591**

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 11:16:37 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Germaine Meyers	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee.

My names is Germaine Meyers. I'm a Nanakuli Hawaiian Homestead Lessee.

I'm in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM591 for the confirmation of Lawrence Lasua's appointment to the Hawaiian Homes Commission as the Molokai Commissioner.

Interim Molokai Commissioner Lasua is a Molokai Hawaiian Homestead Agricultural Lessee. As an interim Commissioner, he's fully participated in Commission meetings and have shown sensitivity to the voices of the DHHL beneficiaries and most especially to fulfilling his fiduciary duties as a Commissioner.

Please vote **YES** in **SUPPORT** and confirmation of Commissioner Lawrence Lasua.

Ke Akua pu,

God Bless All of You

**LATE**

**GM-591**

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 2:01:53 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leatrice Burrows-Nuuanu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support Archie Kalepa's confirmation to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

TO: The Hawaii Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Subject: Support for Lawrence Lasua's appointment to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

From: Hawaiian Homes Commissioner Walter Kaneakua

I support the appointment of Lawrence Lasua to the Hawaiian Homes Commission based on his professional and personal commitment during the past decades to the Molokai Native Hawaiian community. He is immersed in service and sacrificed a life on the mainland to return to Hawaii. His credentials speak for themselves, and as a colleague on the Commission, I've witnessed his dedication to the mission for Hawaiians under the initiatives of the 1920 Hawaiian Homes Act. He actively engages the audience to guide his thoughts and employs superb patience, thoughtfulness, and knowledge to shape important decisions. I serve with him on a Permitted Interactive Group, observing his expertise for the environment and financial stability that fuel a devotion to our people.

Please recommend him to the whole Senate with confidence in his reputation and record of sustained service to the Hawaiian community.

*Walt Kaneakua*  
Walter K. Kaneakua



**LATE**

**GM-591**

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 5:49:41 AM  
Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Lehua Kauka	Testifying for Kalamaula Homesteaders Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kalamaula Homesteaders Association

P O Box 1025

Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748

March 6, 2025

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Senator Tim Herbert M. Richards, III, Chair

Senator Joy A. Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Committee Members:

Senator Les Ihara Jr

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole

Senator Samantha DeCorte

Re: GM 591 Hawaiian Homes Commission. Gubernatorial Nominee

My name is Lehua Kauka, Board President, Kalamaula Homesteaders Association, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Kalamaula Homesteaders Association in strong

support of the nomination of Mr. Lawrence Lasua to the Department of Hawaiian Homes Land (DHHL) Commission.

We believe Mr. Lasua's experience working within the Hawaiian community, his knowledge of the challenges facing Molokai, and his history of service to Hawaiian homesteading make him an excellent choice for the DHHL Commission. He shares a commitment to preserving and enhancing the rights and opportunities of Hawaiians on Molokai and all of Hawaii Nei.

Lawrence Lasua is a lifelong Kalamaula Homesteader and today Lawrence and his 'ohana resides on one of the first thirteen Kalamaula homestead lots awarded in 1922 to his grandfather, Daniel Hipa. Ho'opulapula.

The Kalamaula Homesteaders Association represents the voice of many Native Hawaiians living in the Molokai District. We understand the importance of ensuring that our voices are heard in decisions affecting our lands, our homes, and our heritage. On behalf of the Kalamaula Homesteaders Association, we respectfully ask for your support to confirm Lawrence Lasua's nomination.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Submitted By:

Kalamaula Homesteaders Association

Lehua Kauka, Board President

Board of Directors:

Brent Nakihei, Hamau Howe, Stacy Helm Crivello, Mike Kahinu, Kalani Johnston

**LATE**

**GM-591**

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 6:39:23 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Kaleikini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenavetura and honorable members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs. I strongly support the consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Mr. Lawrence Lasua to the Hawaiian Homes Commssion.

**LATE**

**GM-591**

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 6:58:18 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dennis L. Neves	Testifying for Hawaiian Homes Commissioner	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

**LATE**

**GM-591**

Submitted on: 3/6/2025 8:15:22 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Makai Freitas	Testifying for Hawaiian Homes, West Hawai'i Commissioner	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Lawrence Lasua to the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Mahalo,

Makai Freitas