

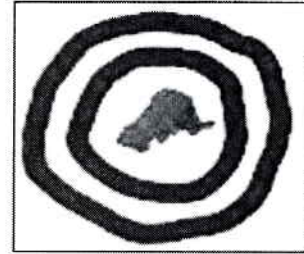
# LATE TESTIMONY

## GM23

Hokulani Holt-Padilla  
Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission

# LATE

Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana  
P.O. Box 39  
Kaunakakai, Hawai'i 96748



**Senate Committee on Water and Land**

October 30, 2013 at 2:30pm

Conference Room 225

Testimony is SUPPORT OF GM 23  
Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee HOKULANI HOLT-PADILLA  
to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

by

Joshua Kaakua

Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana

Aloha e Chair Solomon, Vice-Chair Galuteria and members of the Senate Committee on Water and land. My name is Joshua Kaakua of Waimanalo, O'ahu and I am presenting testimony on behalf of the Protect Kaho'olawe ('Ohana) in SUPPORT of GM 23 Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee HOKULANI HOLT-PADILLA, to serve as the Native Hawaiian organizations representative on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).

Kanaloa Kaho'olawe will be very fortunate to have Hokulani Holt-Padilla serve as a Commissioner. She is committed to the ongoing stewardship and restoration of a healthy functioning native cultural ecosystem on Kaho'olawe. She provides this stewardship through her expertise and work in many capacities on Maui and our pae 'aina.

Hokulani currently serves as the Cultural Program Director of the Maui Arts and Cultural Center, is a lecturer at the University of Hawai'i Maui College, and the Kumu Hula of the internationally acclaimed, Halau Pa'u o Hi'iaka. She also a coordinator of Na Pua No'eau Center, a director of Punanaleo, and the cultural specialist for the Maui Historical Society and the Baily House Museum.

Her work with the 'Ohana began in 1981 on one of the first Court sanctioned accesses with her halau. She served as an access coordinator, supervised the construction of both the pā hula (hula platform) Ka 'Ie'ie, dedicated in 1987, and the thatching of the first hale halawai – meeting house in Hakioawa, rededicated as Nāmakapili in 2012.

She was employed by KIRC as its first Cultural Specialist and coordinated the development of the KIRC's Cultural Plan (Aha Pawalu). Also, through her efforts, she successfully promoted and facilitated the growth of cultural learning on the island

during the U.S. Navy cleanup to ensure that sensitive sites and features on the island were not harmed.

Looking ahead, Kanaloa Kaho'olawe is entering a new chapter in its history. The prospect of a Native Hawaiian governing entity, the evolving priorities of government, the shift towards energy independence, food security and sustainability, and the impacts of global climate change are among the issues facing the island as well as the Pae 'Āina. Consequently, new approaches to the management of the Reserve and policies that guide access and programs on the island will need to be revisited. At the same time, the foundational principles - the island's unique geography, natural resources, and historical and cultural significance, must be protected and sustained. Hokulani's knowledge, experience, counsel and long-standing community respect are greatly needed and will significantly support the planning for this new future. As an acknowledged leader of our generation, it is important for Hokulani to serve on the KIRC and to advocate the kinds of programs that will best serve the island Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe, itself.

The KIRC will be well served to have Hokulani Holt Padilla as a Commissioner for Kanaloa Kaho'olawe as our Governor's nominee, representing Native Hawaiian organizations, Maui Nui, and our Pae 'Āina.

I thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Hokulani Holt Padilla to confirm her appointment to the KIRC. Mahalo and Aloha Aloha 'Āina