

February 20, 2024

Commission on Water Resource Management
PO Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Mr. Shaun Wilcox, for nomination to the Commission of Water Resource Management Board. I offer this testimony of support on a personal level.

I am employed by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Resource Management Division and have worked with Mr. Wilcox since 2016. Mr. Wilcox is the Irrigation District Manager for the Island of Oahu and is responsible for overseeing the maintenance and operation of the Kahuku and Waimanalo Irrigation Systems. These irrigation systems provide agricultural water to farmers, supporting the state's goals of increasing agricultural production and sustainability. Mr. Wilcox's knowledge of the water systems and dedication to the delivery and stewardship of water are exemplary.

As the District Manager, Mr. Wilcox oversees a staff of workers and is the on-the-ground face for the farmers, community, and the department. He sees firsthand the importance and value of water as a resource to the agricultural community. His professionalism and commitment to water protection and management are exhibited in his actions every day. I have observed him to be a diligent and respectful steward, taking every step he can to protect and preserve this valuable resource.

Mr. Wilcox is intelligent, generous of heart, tireless, and fair. I strongly support his nomination to the Commission of Water Resource Management Board.

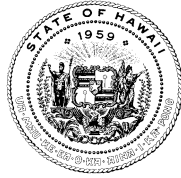
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janice Fujimoto', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Janice Fujimoto

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 Luma Ho'okele

KATIE L. DUCATT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN
Ka Hope Luma Ho'okele

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

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

February 22, 2024

Ref: PO-24-028

Commission on Water Resource Management
Nominating Committee
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 227
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Re: Nomination for a Commission Member to Hawai'i's Commission on Water
Resource Management**

Aloha Nominating Committee Members:

This testimony expresses both concern and optimism regarding your committee's nomination for the position on the Commission on Water Resource Management reserved for a candidate with expertise in Native Hawaiian water resource management. At the outset, I want to acknowledge this Nominating Committee's immense kuleana to select the most qualified candidate for this "practitioner seat," which is even more important given the matters pending before the Commission now.

The Water Commission's administration directly affects the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' ability to fulfill its purpose under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, which was enacted by the United States Congress to improve the lives of native Hawaiians. DHHL is charged with developing lands for our homesteading program, which requires the allocation of sufficient water particularly in areas designated for water management.

DHHL's kuleana extends beyond homestead development, given the importance of water to improving the lives of native Hawaiians. Considering the well-known impact water has on Kānaka 'Ōiwi's ability to persevere and thrive in Hawai'i, DHHL respectfully urges this Committee to carefully consider each applicant's ability meet the requirements of having substantial experience or expertise in: (1) traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques; (2) traditional Hawaiian riparian usage; and (3) water resource management. This expertise is critical to ensure that the Water Commission upholds its fiduciary duty not only to DHHL and its beneficiaries, but the Kānaka 'Ōiwi community at large.

Finally, everyone in Hawai'i benefits from having a Commissioner with this expertise contributing to water resource management decisions. The lack of such knowledge can lead to legal and other challenges to Water Commission decisions, such as water use permitting, which prolongs the process for everyone involved.

Nominating Committee Members
February 21, 2024
Page 2

Given the complex decisions facing this Commission with designation of the Lahaina Aquifer Sector and pending water use permit applications, for example, this experience is needed now more than ever.

We respectfully urge this Nominating Committee to carefully consider the applications before it and nominate applicants who possess the expertise, experience, and aloha to 'auamo the Water Commission's extraordinary kuleana as Kahuwai Pono. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kali Watson".

Kali Watson, Chairman
Hawaiian Homes Commission



NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Written Only

Statement of
Gregory P. Barbour
Executive Director
Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
before the

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Friday, February 23, 2024
9:00 am
CWRM Conference Room, Kalanimoku Bldg.
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 227

in consideration of

RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF MS. HANNAH SPRINGER AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

I am pleased to provide testimony in strong support of Ms. Hannah Springer as a member of the Commission on Water Resource Management. I have worked closely with Ms. Springer over the past several years as a member of our ad hoc group Kaiāulu o Kekaha. She is very qualified and has the ability to fill this important position.

Ms. Springer has a strong understanding of historical development in Hawaii based on a clear understanding of government and professional relationships in conjunction with Hawaiian customs and practices. She has shown the ability to provide leadership in facilitating discussions with various stakeholders to develop community partnerships. Her background and experience will contribute to the CWRM's ability evaluate projects, strategic direction, and

objectives. She can see the “big picture” and has a broad vision to understand how the pieces of our future fit together.

We formed our ad hoc group Kaiāulu o Kekaha or “cultural hui” composed of kupuna from West Hawaii, lineal descendants from the ahupua’a on the lands which NELHA is situated, Aha Moku and others to assist us in how we can increase consideration of new projects in regard to community wide benefit and fit and to better understand how to formalize this process within a Ka Pa’akai framework. As such, I have spent time together with Ms. Springer in deep conversations about resolving tensions between traditional and customary practices and rights codified in law and rule; the mechanics of seawater pumping, transmission, and other aspects of usage; as well as prevailing marketplace expectations. She has shown the ability to provide leadership in facilitating discussions to foster potential community partnerships and affords her with perfect qualifications for CWRM. During our monthly meetings, I have always valued her opinion on critical issues facing NELHA. Her practical realistic assessment of issues and straight-forward thinking has been invaluable in this regard.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

**Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement
91-1270 Kinoaiki St., Bldg. 1
Kapolei, HI 96707**

Testimony for the Nominating Committee Meeting of the Commission on Water Resource Management
Selection of Nominees for Anticipated Vacant Position

RE: Concerns Regarding Lack of Transparency in Nominee Selection Process

February 23, 2024

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) writes to express our concern about the lack of transparency in the nomination selection process for the practitioner seat on the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM). It is a heavy kuleana to protect and manage the waters of the State of Hawai'i for present and future generations, and the Nominating Committee ought to put forth candidates who will properly represent Native Hawaiian water management traditions, practices, and perspectives.

Since time immemorial, Native Hawaiians have understood the importance and precarity of water across our pae 'āina. For the land and its people to thrive, we must have access to safe and clean water. This has always been true but has become even more critical in light of the August wildfires. CWRM's kuleana is not one to be taken lightly and should be treated with the utmost care and respect. The Commission needs an expert in Native Hawaiian resource management who can properly advise on how to care for our most prized resource. Ola i ka wai, water is life, and it must be protected.

Accordingly, the lack of transparency and material notice – particularly with respect to the identity or qualifications of any of the candidates – in the Nominating Committee's selection process deprives the public of their right to meaningful participate by making it impossible to provide testimony for or against any of the Candidates. This should be of grave concern to not just Native Hawaiians, but the greater public as well, as we will all be affected by the Committee's decision. Ultimately, by depriving the public of the opportunity to meaningfully participate in this process, the Committee deprives itself of the opportunity to consider the voices of the people they serve, rendering it incapable of making fully informed decision.

Since his appointment, Neil Hannahs has served as an invaluable member of the CWRM and will be leaving an impactful legacy. His expertise in traditional and customary Hawaiian water resource management techniques, riparian usages, and customary cultural practices have been critical in CWRM's decision-making process. He has shown that it is imperative that the practitioner seat is filled by a lo'ea, someone with actual experience and knowledge that is trusted by the Native Hawaiian community. Ma ka hana ka 'ike, the knowing is in the doing.

For these reasons, we humbly request that the Committee only select candidates that have the requisite knowledge and experience to properly mālama wai and carry out CWRM's kuleana as kahuwai pono.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Madelyn McKeague
Policy Manager, CNHA

Chris Yuen
[REDACTED]
Ninole, HI 96773
Email: [REDACTED]

Re: Supporting Nomination of Hannah Springer to CWRM

February 22, 2024

Dear Members of the Nominating Committee for the Commission on Water Resources Management:

Hannah Kihalani Springer is a superb candidate for CWRM. There are few with her combination of on-the-ground knowledge of land and water, of Hawaiian culture, and with her deep personal commitment to the stewardship of the 'aina and the water that gives it life.

When I was planning director for Hawai'i County in the early 2000's, Hannah served on our Planning Commission. Sometimes people with great ability, like Hannah, have difficulty working collegially with others, but that was not the case with Hannah. She won the respect of all the commission members. She asked great questions and helped bring consensus to what were often very difficult decisions. I remember her and the other commissioners skipping dinner and working until 10 p.m. to work out a compromise on Kohanaiki, which had been a controversial community issue for more than 15 years. And she served on related advisory groups, like our Mauka Lands Working Group, dealing with watershed issues.

Hannah helped to spearhead the "Try Wait" community initiative that resulted in the Kaupulehu Marine Reserve. I was a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources when the Board approved this proposal in 2016. It was a remarkable blend of community organizing and solid science. It takes tremendous perseverance for a community to stick together, overcome the bureaucratic hurdles—which are often excessive—and finally see the project approved.

Hannah has seen the process of public decision-making from both sides of the table. She's been a community advocate sitting on one side, trying to persuade members of a public board, like she did in "Try Wait." And she's been on the other side as a decision-maker, with the Planning Commission and on the OHA board and others. This gives her a valuable perspective that helps her to understand and emphasize with the public. And she knows how to shepherd public dreams through the system to help them become a reality.

CWRM has always been an extremely important agency, but never more than now. I hope that the Nominating Committee selects Hannah as one of the people to put forward for the Governor's consideration.

Yours truly,

Chris Yuen



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**
Before the Nomination Committee for the Commission on Water Resource Management
**On the Nomination for a Commission Member to the State Commission on Water
Resource Management**

February 22, 2024

Nomination Committee
Commission on Water Resource Management
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 227
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Nomination Committee Members,

We are writing on behalf of Lahaina Strong, an organization that was initially formed in 2018 following the Hurricane Lane fire in Lahaina and re-energized last year after the devastating Lahaina fires on August 8. Lahaina Strong has been at the forefront of relief and advocacy efforts. Our organization is the largest grassroots, Lahaina-based community organization, with over 20,000 supporters, engaged in emphasizing the importance of local voices and community-driven solutions to the disaster. Our testimony outlines some of the concerns we have around this nomination process and actions the Committee can take to ensure it is fulfilling its duty in support of the proper administration of Hawai'i's Water Code.

Our first concern is the lack of experience the members of this Committee have in the areas you are tasked to assess each candidate on. While we do not doubt that each member has experience or expertise in water management, there is a clear lack of representation on the Committee with regard to traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and traditional Hawaiian riparian usage. Although we are alarmed, we believe this provides the Committee an opportunity to determine the candidates that meet the high standards required of the nominee for this Commission seat based on the materials submitted by each candidate and interviews.

Our second concern is the lack of transparency and notice provided to the community throughout this nomination process. In the notice for the first meeting held in January, there was no information on the applicants, which inhibited the community from providing effective testimony to the Committee. Further, we were not aware of notice for this meeting until

Wednesday, February 21, only two days before the meeting. Although we later found out that notice was timely posted on the OIP website and physically at the Kalanimoku Building, we expect more accessible notice to be posted on the CWRM website where the public regularly checks for notices regarding the Water Commission, especially for interested parties on the neighboring islands. Notice only posted in those two places is not aligned with the spirit of the Sunshine Law. Please reconsider your notice practices in the future.

Even with these concerns, we remain optimistic that this Committee will do what is pono and nominate the most qualified candidates for this position. In the wake of the fires, the world learned about the history of water mismanagement in Maui Komohana that led to the disaster in Lahaina. More importantly, a forward-looking approach to water management grounded in the traditional Native Hawaiian practices has been echoed by Native Hawaiians, community members, and environmentalists many times over since the fires. We have yet to see how the Commission will respond to these calls for action. What we do know is that the Commission needs someone in this practitioner seat position who is a true loea – expert – in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and traditional Hawaiian riparian usage, now more than ever. To better understand what is at stake in this decision, we encourage this Committee to read a letter written by Kekai Keahi, Ke‘eaumoku Kapu, and Archie Kalepa in the Star Advertiser editorial column on February 18, 2024.

The kuleana of “Ke Kahuwai Pono,” the motto of the Water Commission, extends to you all as members of the Nomination Committee. Therefore, please do what is pono and select candidates that have the right experience and expertise to represent this seat with distinction and properly manage our precious water resources for future generations.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai!

Jordan Ruidas, Pa‘ele Kiakona and Courtney Lazo
Lahaina Strong



Kamehameha Schools®

State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources
Commission on Water Resource Management

Time: 9:00 a.m.
Date: February 23, 2024
Place: CWRM Conference Room, Kalanimoku Bldg.
1151 Punchbowl Street, Rm 227 & Online via Zoom

TESTIMONY of Jason Jeremiah
Kamehameha Schools, ‘Āina Pauahi Group

RE: **NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**, Agenda Item A. Interview of Applicants

Aloha e Nominating Committee of the Commission of Water Resource Management:

I am providing testimony on behalf of Kamehameha Schools (“KS”) in connection with the anticipated vacant position on the Commission on Water Resource Management which the individual must have substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage such as those preserved by the Water Code.

Water resources are inseparable from ‘āina and a source of life for our ‘āina and lāhui. Water is an integrated resource that is essential to healthy ecosystems from the uplands to near shore marine waters. Resilient, thriving communities depend on a holistic management approach that embraces water resource use in a reasonable, prudent, and sustainable manner that does not unduly compromise traditional and customary rights, dependent ecosystems and species, or future generations.

KS approaches its real estate portfolio of ‘Āina Pauahi (KS Hawai‘i lands) through culturally-rooted stewardship. This includes stewardship of a diverse portfolio of approximately 371,000 acres of land on five islands. Through ‘ōiwi stewardship, our organization strives for outcomes such as *Waiwai* (wealth, prosperity), *Lawa Kūpono* (sustainability), and *Honua Ola* (well-being) in order to build resilient communities across Hawai‘i for the betterment of our Lāhui (Native Hawaiian community).

The careful and thoughtful management of surface water and groundwater resources are critical for successful integrated management of *wai* throughout Hawai‘i. KS supports the use of water and water infrastructure development for reasonable and beneficial uses. We also honor the cultural and ecological integrity of our natural streams, springs, wetlands, and other waterways. We do believe that a meaningful balance can be struck to satisfy both on and off-stream uses. With degraded landscapes, diminished recharge, climate change, sea level rise, and so many other challenges, landowners, government agencies and other stakeholders must have the courage to make balanced hard decisions.

For this specific vacancy on the Commission, KS asks this nominating body to recommend a list of Native Hawaiians with high integrity, knowledge and experience in water resources management infused with ‘ōiwi perspectives of being a good *kahuwai*, a steward of water. These individuals shall be knowledgeable of the Water Code and especially the traditional and customary practices and usage of *wai*. It is critical that these individuals possess the appropriate skillsets and mindset to help guide the Commission in its duty to preserve and protect *wai* and make decisions that will honor our ‘āina and its resources into future generations to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide our testimony.

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMITTAL

February 22, 2024

Nominating Committee
Commission on Water Resource Management
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
e: iwalani.hr.kaaa@hawaii.gov

Re: Urging Appointment of a True Loea to the Water Commission

Aloha mai kākou!

I was hoping to attend your Nominating Committee meeting to urge you to appoint a loea – a true expert – to our Water Commission. Unfortunately, I was just informed that you will be meeting tomorrow at 9am. I have work and other kuleana and am unable to attend in person or by Zoom. So, I am attaching an opinion piece that I helped to author and that was published in Sunday's Honolulu Star Advertiser as my testimony. Please review it carefully. If you love Lahaina as we do, please nominate a real expert in traditional and customary Native Hawaiian resource management practices to the Water Commission.

Ola i ka wai,
Kekai Keahi

The Honokowai Reservoir in Lahaina, a state-regulated dam, is among the water resources on Maui.

Water agency needs Hawaiian expert

By Kekai Keahi, Ke'eaumoku Kapu and Archie Kalepa

ISLAND VOICES

We have a lot to be hopeful for despite losing much of our beloved town and many loved ones to the fires six months ago. From the restoration of traditional 'ulu forests to the return of freshwater to the wetlands of Moku'ula and Mokuhinia, we can both see and know in our na'au that we are on the right path to rebuilding Lahaina as local families hope to see it.

For over 150 years, Lahaina residents have suffered the excessive diversion of streams away from their natural courses. Today, nearly 80% of Maui Komohana's water supply is controlled by private corporations with a well-documented track record of hoarding and wasting water in leaky reservoirs and luxury infinity pools.

This was the status quo on Maui's west side until 2022, when the state Water Commission unanimously designated Maui Komohana as a water management area, which built on an earlier decision that increased minimum flows for many of our streams. Both decisions responded to overwhelming community support, and respected and uplifted the doctrine that water is a public trust resource. Commissioners were celebrated for heeding the science and law, while also honoring the traditional and customary management practices of Lahaina's kupa.

We want the Water Commission to follow through on its decisions as it begins the challenging work of evaluating requests for water use permits. Permitting water uses is highly tech-



Kekai Keahi, from left, is president of Ka Malu o Kahalawai and a water protector; Ke'eaumoku Kapu, president of Kuleana Ku'ikahi LLC, is lead of the Na 'Aikane o Maui cultural monitors for the Lahaina wildfire; Archie Kalepa is a retired lifeguard captain, renowned waterman and cultural adviser.

nical, and requires considerable expertise. That is why we are seeking a true lo'ea — an expert — in traditional and customary resource management practices to serve on the commission.

Only one of the Water Commission's five volunteer seats is designated for someone with expertise in traditional and customary Native Hawaiian resource management practices. Ma ka hana ka 'ike: the knowing is in the doing. Lo'ea in Native Hawaiian resource management have studied traditional and customary practices, as well as successfully maintained actual lo'i kalo and loko i'a that serve their communities' needs. They understand what it means to live in a reciprocal relationship with essential resources like water, and know that without wai there can be no waiwai — in Lahaina or anywhere else.

At this moment, a nominating committee is evaluating more than a dozen applications to fill this crucial seat on the Water Commission. Its job is to recommend three candidates from which the governor will choose one nominee. That nomination is

reviewed by the state Senate and either confirmed or denied.

It concerns us that the nominating committee itself lacks significant expertise in Native Hawaiian water management

practices, and has not truly engaged the public in the evaluation process. The committee has not disclosed the names of any potential nominees and the majority of the interviews have been held in executive session, outside of the public eye.

The committee has asked for public testimony, but we cannot provide meaningful input when we do not know the identities or qualifications of those being considered for this crucial seat. We urge these decision-makers to be receptive to community input throughout the nomination process, especially those with expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

Despite these significant concerns, we remain hopeful that those responsible for making this appointment will hear Lahaina's united call to appoint a real expert in traditional and customary Native Hawaiian resource management practices. If they love Lahaina as we do, then they will nominate and confirm a true lo'ea to the Water Commission. Ola i ka wai, water is life, and the next commissioner will hold the fate of our wai and waiwai in their hands.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

Commission of Water Resource Management
Nomination Committee Meeting
Friday, February 23, 2024 — 9:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports the nomination of Shaun W. Wilcox to serve on the Commission of Water Resource Management (CWRM).

Dear CWRM Nomination Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy, clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports the nomination of Shaun W. Wilcox to serve on CWRM. Mr. Wilcox has substantial professional experience in agricultural water systems across the state. He has served in pivotal roles at the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, working his way up from an Irrigation System Service Worker I to the current O'ahu Irrigation District Manager—a role in which he has been serving for the past 9 years. Mr. Wilcox also serves as the Director, Windward O'ahu Soil and Water Conservation District (within the State Department of Land and Natural Resources), an entity dedicated to promote a vibrant agricultural industry with soil health and watershed stewardship.

Agricultural water system infrastructure (irrigation systems) is an essential component of our state's efforts to achieve its goals of increasing local food production and food security. For generations to come, local food production will depend on these systems and their ability to provide water for local farmers and ranchers. As Hawai'i looks to preserve and manage our precious water resource as well as increase our local agricultural production, CWRM will need to have informed, well-experienced individuals on its commission to provide critical perspective to lead our state toward a more resilient and sustainable future. Mr. Wilcox will be that key voice on CWRM.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Email: communications@ulupono.com

Commission of Water Resource Management
Nomination Committee Meeting
Friday, February 23, 2024 — 9:00 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports the nomination of Dana Okano, Ph.D. to serve on the Commission of Water Resource Management (CWRM).

Dear CWRM Nomination Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy, clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports the nomination of Dana Okano, Ph.D. to serve on CWRM. Through her work at the Hawai'i Community Foundation, Dr. Okano has substantial experience addressing freshwater issues in Hawai'i. As the program director for the Foundation's Fresh Water Initiative, Dr. Okano has worked with stakeholders from across the water sector to find solutions to increase water conservation, groundwater recharge, and the utilization of recycled water.

Dr. Okano will provide CWRM with a voice for collaborative solutions to our most pressing water issues.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

999 Bishop Street, Suite 1202 | Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 ☎ 808.544.8960 📠 808.432.9695 | www.ulupono.com



Commission on Water Resource Management
Nominating Committee Meeting

February 23, 2024

9:00 a.m.

CWRM Conference Room

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) provides these comments for consideration of the Nominating Committee for the Commission on Water Resource Management.

For Native Hawaiians, water is life. There cannot be waiwai (wealth or abundance) without wai. This is what has driven the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in all our endeavors to protect and advocate for Hawai‘i’s water. We have come before the Commission on Water Resource Management many times before—both on issues as well as in contested cases. At one point, we also provided recommendations to the Commission to ensure members have adequate ‘ike, or knowledge, about traditional, customary and riparian rights as well as kanaka resource management.

The Commission on Water Resource Management has the kuleana to make determinations on issues of traditional and customary Native Hawaiian and appurtenant rights, especially as it relates to water use permitting. This Commission’s purview can impact not just the future of our ‘āina and wai but the ability of Native Hawaiians to live, thrive and practice our culture here in our homeland. It is vital that this Commission have someone who is a true loea – a traditional and customary practitioner and expert in water resource management broadly – to ensure this knowledge informs every single one of the issues and decisions that come before them.

The seat you are considering nominations for is required to have substantial expertise or experience in traditional Hawaiian water resource management and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage. This is by design. Individuals and organizations, including OHA, advocated for this very position to exist because of its vital importance.

The decisions this Commission makes, especially in regard to Lahaina water use, aquifers and permitting, are in sharp focus. As you consider the nominees today, OHA urges this committee to remember that the eyes of Hawai‘i and especially Native Hawaiians are watching. We urge you to uphold your legal mandate and ensure that the full breadth of Native Hawaiian traditional water resource management and traditional,



Commission on Water Resource Management
Nominating Committee Meeting

customary and riparian rights are prioritized in your selection. OHA insists that this nominating committee select someone that truly understands the great expanse and depth of wai management and use here in Hawai‘i historically, presently and into the future.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to help inform your decision on this important selection process.

From: [zhantell dudoitN](#)
To: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Lori Buchanan to the State commission on water resource management
Date: Friday, February 23, 2024 8:34:25 AM

Aloha and Mahalo for this opportunity to strongly support candidate K (Lori Buchanan) to the state commission on water resource management. I think she will bring beneficial and necessary, insight and experience to this critical decision making body.

Mahalo, Nui
Zhantell Lindo - Molokai

Sent from my iPhone

Wai'anae Valley Homestead Community Association

P.O. Box 601, Wai'anae, HI 96792

Ka Moku'āina 'O Hawai'i
Ka 'Oihana Kumuwaiwai 'Āina
Ke Kahuwai Pono
PO Box 621
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809

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Aloha,

23 Pepeluali 2024

I am writing in support of Lori Buchanan for consideration on the State Water Commission.

I believe her presence on the culture seat would be a great asset to DLNR. Her substantial knowledge in all things kanaka would help in the aspects of the Water Commission. Being a mana wahine from a cultural and 'aina protectors based 'ohana brings her knowledge and caring for our 'āina and wai to the forefront of what is needed to move us forward.

Having never served on the commission brings new ideas to the table. Lori speaks truth, she is concise with her visions and goals, she keeps her 'āina, wai, kanaka and culture at the forefront of all her decisions and I believe that is what we need for this position.

I kindly ask that Lori Buchanan be chosen for the position on the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Mahalo,



Jan Makepa, Pelekikena

'A'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia.

There is no task too great when done together.



**O'AHU
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION &
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

PO Box 209, KUNIA, HAWAII 96759

808-622-9026

WWW.OAHURCD.ORG

February 23, 2024

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

VIA EMAIL: iwalani.hr.kaaa@hawaii.gov, dlmr.cwrwm@hawaii.gov

CWRM Conference Room, Kalanimoku Bldg.

1151 Punchbowl Street, Rm 227

Re: Testimony in Support of Shaun W. Wilcox as candidate for CWRM

Dear Members of the Nominating Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Shaun Wilcox's candidacy to join the Commission on Water Resource Management. As the Executive Director for O'ahu Resource Conservation and Development Council, I have worked closely with Shaun for a number of years in his professional capacity as Agricultural Resources Manager and in his role as a Director on the Windward O'ahu Soil and Water Conservation District. During this time, I have been consistently impressed with his diligence, good judgment and unwavering commitment to the stewardship of our precious soil and water resources. Perhaps more importantly, Shaun's grounded expertise as a water resource manager, experienced farm operator and cultural practitioner grant him an invaluable perspective and ability to understand and balance the needs and priorities of the communities he serves. His dedication and willingness to step forward and lead with humility are clear in his ongoing body of work as a volunteer and professional in Windward O'ahu and beyond.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further insights into Shaun's qualifications and character. As citizens and leaders, we would do well to entrust Shaun with the responsibilities of a position on CWRM to address the urgent priority to build our climate and food system resiliency.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Dave Elliott
Executive Director

From: [Sequoya](#)
To: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Water Commission appointee
Date: Friday, February 23, 2024 11:49:06 AM

Aloha,

I'm writing in support of Lori Buchanan for the position on the State Water Commission. I worked closely with her as a board member of Ho'ahu Energy Cooperative Molokai and know firsthand that she is extremely knowledgeable and dedicated, and holds an excellent perspective of the big picture.

As a very involved Molokai resident and homesteader, Lori is very aware of the environmental challenges faced not only on Molokai but the State as a whole. I think that she could bring a great deal as a member of this commission and wholeheartedly recommend her for this position.

Sincerely,

Sequoya
Certification Coordinator
Pu'u O Hoku Ranch
Molokai Hawai'i

From: [Lu Ann Faborito](#)
To: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lori Buchanan - nomination
Date: Friday, February 23, 2024 1:36:39 PM

it is a pleasure to support the nomination for our homestead from molokai to sit on the seat and represent our concerns. Not just for the but statewide as a very civic, engaged individual who is very accustomed to helping to lobby for issues affecting the native Hawaiian community, and for safety and health issues for the public in general, we are happy to support her nomination

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Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito
Hoolehua Homeateader
Aloha

From: [Kelly, Debra - FPAC-NRCS, HI](#)
To: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Applicant Lori Buchanan for State Water Commission
Date: Sunday, February 25, 2024 12:58:15 AM

Aloha Ms. Kaaa,

Please excuse this late testimony in support of Lori Buchanan as an applicant for a seat on the State's Water Commission. My name is Debra Kelly and am the Administrative Assistant/Conservation Specialist for the Molokai-Lanai Soil & Water Conservation District for the past 30 years. I have had more than 25 years experience working with Lori in several instances where she has shown positive influences in working with our community, first with agriculture students with Maui College on the campus of the Molokai Farm, as the lead in the Molokai - Maui Invasive Species Committee, and the Molokai Planning Commission. Lori is very diligent seeking information of our environment and uses her knowledge to protect and preserve our natural resources. She will definitely be a positive member in serving on the Water Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide support for Ms. Lori Buchanan.

Debra Kelly
Molokai-Lanai Soil & Water Conservation District
Admin Asst/Conservation Specialist
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