



August 5, 2024

Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Josh Green
Governor, State of Hawai'i
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
<https://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/contact-the-governor/>

Dawn Chang
Chair, Commission on Water Resource Management
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Ph: (808) 587-0400
dlnr@hawaii.gov

Re: Commission on Water Resource Management; Vacant Native Hawaiian Practitioner Seat

Aloha e Governor Green and Chair Chang:

Earthjustice regularly appears before the Commission on Water Resource Management (“Commission”) in our capacity as counsel for community groups from across the islands seeking to protect Native Hawaiian water rights and other public trust water uses. Our office also has decades of experience litigating precedent-setting Hawai'i Supreme Court cases interpreting and implementing our Water Code, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (“HRS”) chapter 174C. Given our years of experience appearing before the Commission and expertise in the Water Code, we send this letter to convey our concern that the Native Hawaiian Practitioner seat remains vacant despite the highly qualified candidates nominated by committee in February of this year. **We write to urge the administration to fill this vacancy now to ensure that Native Hawaiian rights are protected in upcoming Commission decisions, and to maintain the trust of affected communities and the larger public who closely watch the Commission's work.**¹

The legislative history behind the relevant provision of the Water Code confirms that the Native Hawaiian Practitioner seat serves important dual functions, providing technical expertise to the Commission as well as an important mode of community outreach and trust-building. The applicable provision provides that at least one member of the Commission “have substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in

¹ See, e.g., <https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/08/native-hawaiians-and-farmers-are-asking-why-a-key-vacancy-on-state-water-board-is-going-unfilled/>.

traditional Hawaiian riparian usage such as those preserved by section 174C-101,” namely traditional and customary practices.² As the House Committee on Judiciary found when voting to enact this amendment to the Water Code, “it would be beneficial to include on the Commission an individual with experience in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques, enabling the Commission to **better perform its duties.**” H. Stand. Comm. Rep. No. 1503, in 2003 House Journal, at 1653 (emphasis added). As more fully explained by the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs in voting to create the Native Hawaiian Practitioner seat:

Section 174C-101, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), relating to native Hawaiian water rights, requires, among other things, that:

- (1) Traditional and customary rights of ahupua‘a tenants and those descendants of native Hawaiians who inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778 not be abridged or denied; and
- (2) Appurtenant water rights of kuleana and taro lands, along with those traditional and customary rights not be diminished or extinguished by a failure to apply for or to receive a permit under chapter 174C, HRS.

This measure ensures that such mandate is fulfilled. Your Committee’s intent is that the Commission have sufficient expertise in making decisions that could impact native Hawaiian water rights. The intended result is to avoid possible lawsuits stemming from the Commission’s decisions.

S. Stand. Comm. Rep. No. 619, in 2003 Senate Journal, at 1288 (emphasis added).

Since former Commissioner Neil Hannahs’ last day on June 17, 2024, the Commission has been unable to convene in compliance with the legislative directive that the Commission make its decisions with the benefit and insight of a Commissioner appointed because of his or her experience in traditional and customary practices and water management principles. The qualified candidates identified by the nominating committee whose appointment would cure this deficit and bring much needed expertise to the Commission include **Lori Buchanan, Hannah Kihalani Springer, and Makahiapo Cashman.** Testimony submitted by the public to the nominating committee in February, as well as public opinion pieces published in the five-months since, ably capture the value these potential appointees would bring to the Commission’s work, and the broad community support these individuals already enjoy.

In closing, we’d like to highlight that the Governor’s duty to make an appointment from the nominating committee list transmitted in February is a non-discretionary duty, as expressed by the Water Code’s use of the mandatory term “shall.”³ Interpreting similar statutory language

² HRS § 174C-7.

³ *Id.* § 174C-7(b) (“Five members **shall** be appointed by the governor subject to confirmation by the senate in the manner prescribed in subsection (d).”); *id.* § 174C-7(d) (“In

Governor Green and Chair Chang

August 5, 2024

Page 3

governing appointments to the Board of Regents, the Hawai'i Supreme Court held that appointment is a "nondiscretionary duty [that] can be compelled by mandamus notwithstanding the absence of a stated time limit" in the applicable statute.⁴ Unfortunately, the Green administration is currently at risk of a mandamus action compelling appointment because the Native Hawaiian Practitioner seat is unfilled and the administration has not taken any action to make an appointment in the five plus months since the nominating committee finalized its list. Quick action by the administration to appoint a candidate from the February list would eliminate this litigation risk and foster better relationships with key constituencies whose livelihoods and ability to perpetuate cultural practices depend on healthy streams and aquifers.

Thank you in advance for considering this request to immediately appoint a qualified candidate to the Commission's Native Hawaiian Practitioner seat. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Leina'āla L. Ley
Senior Associate Attorney
EARTHJUSTICE

cc: Brooke Wilson (brooke.wilson@hawaii.gov)
Scott Glenn (scott.glenn@hawaii.gov)

appointing a member to the commission, the governor **shall** select from a list submitted by a nominating committee.") (emphasis added).

⁴ *Hanabusa v. Lingle*, 119 Hawai'i 341, 350–51, 198 P.3d 604, 613–14 (2008).



September 17, 2024

Via Electronic Mail

Commission on Water Resource Management
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 227
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
dlnr.cwrm@hawaii.gov

Re: Agenda Item C.2: Application Deadline for CWRM Commissioner – October 11, 2024
(Reissued Application Notice)

Dear Chair Chang and Commissioners:

Earthjustice submits this testimony to publicly raise our concerns with potential irregularities in the nominating and appointment process to fill the Native Hawaiian Practitioner Seat most recently held by Neil Hannahs whose term ended in June of this year. Enclosed is a letter Earthjustice submitted in its capacity as counsel for various Native Hawaiian community groups that have appeared or will appear before the Commission on Water Resource Management (“Commission”) for resolution of pressing concerns related to the pono and legally compliant management of wai across the pae ‘āina.

Consistent with the appointment process outlined in the State Water Code, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (“HRS”) § 174C-7, a duly convened nominating committee transmitted a list of four qualified candidates to the Governor in March, following an extensive candidate search and public interview process broadcast on YouTube. Under the Code, the Governor, in turn, had an **affirmative legal duty** to appoint a new Commissioner from the list of highly qualified and respected candidates identified by the nominating committee.¹ Unfortunately, rather than fulfill this kuleana, the Governor did nothing to fill this vacancy for the last five months. After Earthjustice inquired about the status of appointment in August (letter enclosed), Commission staff responded that the Governor could not make an appointment from the March list because “some of the finalists withdrew their applications” and “a new list is needed.”

The Native Hawaiian Practitioner Seat serves a critical role, ensuring that at least one Commissioner has “substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage such as those preserved by section 174C-101.” HRS § 174C-7(b). **Given the importance of the position, it is imperative**

¹ See *Hanabusa v. Lingle*, 119 Hawai'i 341, 350–51, 198 P.3d 604, 613–14 (2008) (holding appointment is a “nondiscretionary duty [that] can be compelled by mandamus.”).

that the Green administration provide a base level of transparency regarding the appointment process and the need to reopen the application process. Specifically:

- (1) How many of the four finalists from March have withdrawn their applications; and
- (2) When did these candidates withdraw their applications?

These questions are important because nothing in the Water Code authorizes the Governor to call for a second list of candidates when **the first list was complete and legally compliant at the time the Governor received it from the nominating committee in March**. If complete and legally compliant upon receipt, the Governor **must** select a new Commissioner from the remaining candidates before redoing the entire nomination process with a new nominating committee. Further, there is a strong policy argument that the Governor must choose a new Commissioner from the March list regardless of the exact number of remaining candidates if attrition in the candidate pool is due to the administration's own failure to take timely action. Otherwise, an administration could unilaterally control the appointment process and reject qualified candidates through deliberate inaction and delay.²

Transparency regarding these key points will help clear up concerns about irregularities in the appointment process and ensure that the next Commissioner to fill the Native Hawaiian Practitioner Seat enjoys the public trust and confidence necessary for this position to function as intended.

Mahalo for this opportunity to comment. Please don't hesitate to contact us at lley@earthjustice.org or (808) 599-2436 if you have any questions.

/s/ Leinā'ala L. Ley
Leinā'ala L. Ley
Marti Townsend
EARTHJUSTICE

cc: Senator Ronald Kouchi, senkouchi@capitol.hawaii.gov
Representative Scott Saiki, repsaiki@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Enclosure: August 5, 2024, Letter

² The Water Code, of course, provides for a joint appointment process with nominating committee members appointed by the House and the Senate, as well as the executive branch. *See* HRS § 174C-7(d).

From: [Amanda Robson](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, September 20, 2024 11:17:49 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Amanda Leipuanani Robson
Creative Director & Founder
FEAST Celebration Design
www.feasthawaii.com
Director of:
www.hawaiewatercodefilm.com

From: [Vaea Paiman Rodrigues](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 5:44:55 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

From: [Vaea Rodrigues](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 7:42:01 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Marcus Jay Rodrigues

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Kerilyn Dofa](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 7:54:16 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Kerilyn Kaopuiki

From: [BARBARA DOFA](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 7:56:43 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Barbara "Barbie" Dofa

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Alisha Shanti Chauhan](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 7:58:46 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

From: [Megan Chapman](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 7:58:49 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rowena Vila](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 7:58:58 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

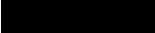
[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [Akiko Kirias](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 7:59:57 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Mahalo,

Akiko Kirias


No trees were harmed in the sending of this e-mail, however a large amount of electrons were terribly inconvenienced

From: [Emily Komatsu](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 8:00:02 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

From: [Kalia](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 8:00:38 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Warmly, Kalia Kelmenson

From: [Lauren Rodrigues](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 8:00:21 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Lauren Rodrigues

From: [Ashley Theresa Stewart](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 8:01:01 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

I am a first generation Kalo farmer on Maui and care about our water resources.

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from.

Mahalo!
Ashley Stewart
Kula, Maui

From: [clifton dodge](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 8:01:03 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from.

Mahalo, Clifton Dodge

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sarah Komatsu](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 8:01:03 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

From: [Jannette A Osterneck](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 8:02:55 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from.

Mahalo!

Jan Osterneck

From: [Carla Platz](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 8:08:44 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Carla Platz

From: [Jasmine](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 8:11:40 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Jasmine Bustamente
ÂME | JHD

From: [Pink Moon Aura Maui](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 9:24:26 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

From: [Trish Huneycutt](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 9:41:40 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ashley Theresa Stewart](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, September 21, 2024 10:01:48 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

From: [Aloha Aina](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Sunday, September 22, 2024 9:19:38 AM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. But we still have work to do. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

James Stolte

VP, Hawaii Farmers Union United, Hana Chapter

From: [Heather Liu](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Sunday, September 22, 2024 2:10:07 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dagyana Romero](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Sunday, September 22, 2024 3:59:23 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tiffany Goodwin](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Sunday, September 22, 2024 8:53:22 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

I am a mother, born and raised on Maui & deeply concerned about the future of our islands. Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!
-Tiffany Goodwin

Sent from my iPhone

From: [ROBIN WALLIN](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Monday, September 23, 2024 8:18:54 AM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

From: [lezley.jacintho](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Monday, September 23, 2024 8:25:00 AM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Lezley Jacintho

From: [Heather Kerrigan](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 7:40:23 AM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Asia Yamanaka](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 12:38:53 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Asia Yamanaka

From: [Madeline Hamada](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Thursday, September 26, 2024 1:54:55 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D., Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

From: [Sally Pickering](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Thursday, September 26, 2024 3:52:59 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sally Pickering
Haiku

From: [Jafarius Farms](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 4:38:26 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Aloha
Jeffrey

From: [Alison Belding](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Thursday, October 3, 2024 5:30:26 AM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D., Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:54:57 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Major Kirias](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:54:41 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Martine Bloquiaux](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:54:49 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent by phone. Please forgive brevity or typos.

From: [Rebecca Woods](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:54:59 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

From: [Sienna Sertl](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:54:51 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Best,
Sienna Sertl

From: [Amy Nicole Sky](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:55:57 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board.

That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately.

You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Amy B.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cheye Velez](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:55:38 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

From: [Danny Rubenstein](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:55:19 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Geronimo Son](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:55:21 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Geronimo Son

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kyle Franks](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:55:30 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nae Roots](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:55:50 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:55:39 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Rachel 'ihilani Berman

From: [Tuanny Comini](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:55:21 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Vincent Kimura](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:55:05 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Vincent Kimura


Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bethany Larson](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:56:30 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [David Pollmiller](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:56:48 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I, David Pollmiller, am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

From: [Dylan Velez](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:56:12 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kilia Purdy-Avelino](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:56:25 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from.

Mahalo!
Kilia Purdy-Avelino

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Brandon Kinard](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:57:13 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. I have recently watched the film *The Water Code* during the HFUU conference and after discussion with attendees and based on my prior conversations, I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately.

You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from and I hope you acknowledge the importance of both skillful members and indigenous representation and respect.

Mahalo!

From: [Lily Diamond](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:57:06 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. As a lifelong resident of Maui who grew up and currently farm in 'Ulupalakua, I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. For this reason, it's urgent that you immediately appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management.

You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Lily

Lily Diamond
www.lilydiamond.com

From: [Amanda Robson](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 7:53:48 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Amanda Leipuanani Robson
Creative Director & Founder
FEAST Celebration Design
www.feasthawaii.com
Director of:
www.hawaiewatercodefilm.com

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 8:25:21 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from mobile Maureen

From: [Joanne Rodrigues](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024 8:59:41 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Michele Weinhouse](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, October 5, 2024 7:38:30 AM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. Part of that responsibility is making sure all voices are heard. Indigenous people have cared for the water and land in Hawai'i for millennium. They are vital to the future Hawai'i's water and need to have direct input and voting rights into the Water Commission. A Native Hawaiian can offer indigenous expertise, knowledge and insight. This will create a more innovative, responsible and better Water Commission. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Michele Weinhouse

Michele Weinhouse

Kapua's Farm Lāna'i, LLC

Cell: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

"Lāna'i grown, Lāna'i nourished"

From: [Keo Hanapi-Hirata](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Saturday, October 5, 2024 8:12:27 AM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from.

Mahalo,
Keomailani Hanapi Hirata (Moloka'i)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Misty Ferris](#)
To: [Governor Josh Green](#)
Cc: [Kaaa, Iwalani HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN WATER COMMISSION SEAT
Date: Sunday, October 13, 2024 3:52:58 PM

Dear Governor Josh Green, M.D.,

Thank you for your work to restore and rebuild Lahaina, and protect the future of water for all Hawai'i residents. I am concerned that the Water Commission is making many important decisions about the future of our water without a key member on their board. That is why I am asking you to please appoint an expert in Native Hawaiian agricultural knowledge to the vacant seat on the Commission on Water Resources Management immediately. You have multiple very well qualified candidates to choose from. Mahalo!



KE KULA NUI O WAIMĀNALO
PO Box 723
Waimānalo, Hawaii 96795

October 17, 2024

Commission on Water Resource Management
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

Aloha e Nominating Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Ke Kula Nui O Waimānalo to express our support for Shaun Wilcox's application to serve as a Commissioner on the Department of Land and Natural Resources Commission on Water Resource Management (DLNR-CWRM).

Ke Kula Nui O Waimānalo is a Native Hawaiian community organization dedicated to perpetuating Hawaiian culture and sustainable practices in Waimānalo. We have worked closely with Mr. Wilcox on several community initiatives related to water resource management and Native Hawaiian rights.

Mr. Wilcox possesses the unique combination of expertise in water resource management and deep knowledge of Native Hawaiian practices that is critical for this position. His understanding of HRS 174C-101 and traditional Hawaiian practices makes him qualified to represent Native Hawaiian interests on the Commission.

We are concerned that this important seat has remained vacant for several months, leaving Native Hawaiians without representation on CWRM. Mr. Wilcox has the skills, experience, and cultural knowledge to effectively fill this role and ensure Native Hawaiian voices are heard in water management decisions.

Ke Kula Nui O Waimānalo strongly urges to fill this critical Commissioner position with Shaun Wilcox. His appointment would greatly benefit both CWRM and the Native Hawaiian community.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Ikaika Rogerson
Board President
Ke Kula Nui O Waimānalo

cc: shaun.w.wilcox@hawaii.gov

From: [Penny](#)
To: [DLNR.CW.DLNRCWRM](#); [Kaaa_Iwalani_HR](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony_Water Commission appointments
Date: Saturday, October 19, 2024 1:03:39 PM

Aloha;

As a former member of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force for the duration of its eight years (2008-2015) who has worked with taro farmers across the state, and as a taro farmer for over 30 years, I am submitting testimony in support of three candidates and providing comment.

There are four interview spots (A, B, I and J) for candidates who have not been named, and, it appears, will be interviewed behind closed doors in executive session. There have been a number of missteps regarding water decisions on Maui recently and the willingness of the committee to consider candidates who do not wish to be publicly named and interviewed reflects very poorly on the state. The level of distrust that your committee has created by shielding these four names magnifies all the bad history over water issues that DLNR and the legislature has enabled for decades. It is my hope that we can move beyond that but it requires fortitude on your part. As a member of the public and a stakeholder in Water Commission decisions, I request as a matter of transparency that those candidates be made public prior to this hearing and we be allowed to submit testimony in their regard prior to any decision-making by the board.

The Water Code states “Each member shall have substantial experience in the area of water resource management; provided that **at least one member shall have substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage such as those preserved by section 174C-101**” As a Taro Task Force member, I feel it is important to remind the committee that being Hawaiian or well-read regarding water issues does not make one qualified for that seat. And, even though water for Lahaina and other dry areas is an important question with some immediacy for the *entire* commission, that seat is *specifically* for a qualified practitioner with knowledge of traditional water rights (stream water rights) and what it takes to successfully farm wetland kalo in Hawai‘i. With no offense meant to anyone sitting or candidate, it means not a land manager, not a consultant, not a coffee farmer, not a marine specialist, not just any cultural practitioner, but one with *specific and substantial* experience related to riparian water usage and raising wetland kalo.

The only person who has ever met those qualifications and been appointed to that seat since the commission’s establishment has been Kamana Beamer. As a former member of the Taro Security and Purity Task Force, I can say that many highly qualified, well-educated taro farmers have submitted their names over many years but have never made it to or past the short list with the exception of Beamer. *It long past time that a candidate who truly meets these qualifications be regularly chosen not just by your committee but by the Governor, as well.*

With that in mind, I encourage you to appoint the following Native Hawaiian candidates to the short list that will be submitted to the Governor; and I urge you to impress upon the Governor the need to fulfill the critically important seat of an expert in traditional Hawaiian water resources management techniques and traditional riparian usage with someone truly of those qualifications.

1. Lori Buchanan

Molokai has lacked true representation on the Commission for most of its existence. Lori has dedicated more than two decades to watershed protection and the fight against invasive species as the director of the Molokai Invasive Species Committee with a clear understanding of the importance of watershed health and management and its connection to water capture, stream and aquifer health. She has taken on increasing responsibilities and roles in upper level decision-making in the Statewide ISCs at both policy and actionable levels. Lori is involved in advocating for her community in many sectors from health and wellbeing to kuleana rights, and she knows what it takes to grow kalo.

2. Moses Haia III

As the former executive director of Native Hawaiian Legal Corp and a practicing lawyer, Moses brings extensive experience in land and water law and kuleana rights. This knowledge will provide the Commission the guidance needed for decisions that may affect holders of kuleana and riparian water rights so that water allocations are fair, and at the same time, uphold the law and case law set forth by the Water Code, Native Hawaiian legal rights, and recent Supreme Court rulings.

3. Lani Eckart-Dodd or Makahiapo Cashman

Lani is a small scale taro farmer on Maui who is a member of Hui o Na Wai Eha and a petitioner in the Na Wai Eha contested water case. As such, she is familiar with the issues surrounding one of the more complex water cases that the state has had to grapple with. She is currently the principal of Ke Kula o Pi'ilani in Wailuku. However, as a petitioner, she may have to recuse herself in regards to any future decisions on that case should she be selected for a seat on the Commission. Makahiapo Cashman is a faculty member at the UH Center for Hawaiian Studies who has extensive experience in a broad range of Hawaiian cultural issues, including Hawaiian kalo cultivar diversity, has experience in lo'i kalo management and is without conflict in any water cases at this time.

Mahalo for your consideration of these issues and the proposed candidate shortlist.

Penny Levin