October 29, 2026

Re: The candidacy of Todd Apo for OHA CEO

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Souza and members of the Board of Trustees,

My name is Ann Botticelli. I am not a beneficiary of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and I respect and support the right of Native Hawaiians to control and direct the assets of the Ceded Lands Trust, so I would not normally offer input into the process you are undergoing.

I am submitting this testimony because I wanted to make sure that the OHA Trustees have as much information as they can about Todd Apo, who I have served alongside on the Board of Bishop Museum and also as a volunteer with the Polynesian Voyaging Society.

Todd would bring tremendous assets to the position of OHA Chief Executive Officer. I have witnessed his thoughtful leadership on several occasions and have found his demeanor in the face of difficult issues to be unfailingly excellent. He approaches every tough decision calmly; he listens to all sides, asks insightful questions and delivers his assessment with clarity and tact. He is absolutely open to all points of view and considers them carefully. He always focuses on the outcome that is best for the enterprise that he is supporting.

At Bishop Museum, Todd's volunteer board service went far beyond attendance at meetings and on committees. He has spent countless hours helping Museum leadership evaluate legal issues and navigate community concerns. He has been helpful in creating agreement when it looked like no agreement was possible. Throughout his time on the board, Todd was a staunch advocate for programs that lift and strengthen the Lāhui.

I believe Todd Apo is a leader that any organization would be fortunate to have at the helm, and I appreciate the ability to offer my mana'o.

Mahalo for the opportunity,

Ann Botticelli

October 29, 2026

Honorable Trustees
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96817

Dear Honorable Trustees:

Re: OHA CEO - Todd Apo

It is exciting to see so many local talents interested in the OHA CEO post. One of those is Todd Apo.

Much discussion has focused on his land use, development, and corporate leadership experience. All of which are important to OHA's future. While on the Honolulu City Council during a difficult financial period for the state, he also proved his ability to turn vision into action, lead with conviction, and compromise for success — even among difficult political personalities.

On housing, he championed parkway expansions in Kapolei supporting DHHL and made it law that beneficiaries rebuilding on homestead lands avoid permit fees — still benefiting families today.

On taxes, he worked to lower rates and expanded the residential circuit breaker for kupuna.

On transit, which sustained Honolulu through a recession, he pushed for the line to serve Ewa, an alignment supported by DHHL, and helped shift the route to serve the airport — the line we ride today.

On outreach, he ensured support at community meetings, established an open conduit between the community and the Council, and empowered community participation across the board.

Having worked with Todd personally, I can say he always took his fiduciary responsibility seriously and carried out the mission with honesty and integrity. As a leader — as a fellow pilot at the controls — he always leads with respect and diligence.

Good work endures. Its impact is felt for generations. I submit this testimony, unsolicited by Todd, because of such an impact. The Board of Trustees needs a CEO who can put their vision into action, who can innovate, who can inspire — who can plant seeds for the benefit of future generations. Todd Apo is that leader.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Charmaine Doran
Charmaine T. Doran
2370 Komo Mai Drive
Pearl City, HI 96782
808-352-6562

Testimony in Support of Todd Apo for OHA Administrator/CEO
November 2, 2026

Aloha Chair Kahele and Members of the Board of Trustees,

I know the Trustees have a difficult job ahead of them, but it is one of the most important decisions you will make for the future of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the generations who will depend on its leadership.

I am not Native Hawaiian, but my husband, my keiki, and my moʻopuna are. Their future matters deeply to me. At a time when Native Hawaiian programs, resources, and rights are being challenged like never before, we need strong, thoughtful leadership. More than ever, we need to stand together, find common ground, and fight for what is right so that our keiki and their keiki have the opportunity not just to survive, but to thrive.

I have had the privilege of working with Todd Apo, and I know firsthand that he is a problem solver, a thoughtful listener, and someone who genuinely cares about the well-being of the Native Hawaiian community. He understands the importance of OHA's mission and is passionate about ensuring that its resources and programs make a meaningful difference in the lives of its beneficiaries.

What I especially appreciate about Todd is his ability to listen to different perspectives, even when people disagree. He doesn't shy away from difficult conversations. Instead, he creates an environment where people feel comfortable sharing their ideas, concerns, and opinions without fear of being dismissed. He listens, looks for common ground, and focuses on finding solutions rather than dwelling on differences.

I believe this is exactly the kind of leadership OHA needs today. The Trustees may not always agree, but you share a common responsibility to the Native Hawaiian people. Todd has the temperament, experience, and ability to help bridge differences, rebuild trust, and bring people together around that shared purpose.

The decisions made today will have consequences far beyond our lifetimes. This is not just about selecting a CEO. It is about choosing someone who can help move OHA forward, strengthen its mission, and create opportunities for future generations.
I believe Todd Apo is that person, and I respectfully urge the Trustees to select him as OHA's next Administrator/CEO.

Mahalo for your service and for your thoughtful consideration.

Elizabeth Lum

Elizabeth Lum

Testimony to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Board of Trustees

Meeting of November 2, 2026

Re: Appointment of CEO: One Reconciled Solution

Submitted by: **Anthony La'akapuakawailani Lenchanko**
Island/District: Oʻahu / Lualualei

It is the new OHA. It is what the new OHA needs. It is what the new OHA needs *now*.

Aloha Chair and Trustees,

My name is Anthony La'akapuakawailani Lenchanko. I am testifying with regard to the appointment of OHA's next CEO.

The 5–4 majority vote stands today. It appears the board is divided. Yet, either side of the vote provides their own solution for continuity. They differ *seemingly* in the choice of candidate.

*I propose a **reconciliation** of both solutions.*

The Reconciled Solution

1. **The Chair is appointed CEO.** The Chair/CEO carries out every lawful majority decision, 9–0 or 5–4, regardless of personal vote.
2. **The Chair is recused from self-appointment.**
3. **A Lead Independent Oversight Trustee,** separate from the Chair/CEO, leads CEO evaluations, audits, and the CEO contract, and reports to the full board. Trustees will see in the Chair's public conduct on the board the direction the CEO is taking the office.[1]
4. **A separate CEO contract,** apart from trustee pay, approved with the Chair recused and made public. The contract follows the Chair's seat.
5. **OHA's legal counsel can confirm the details.**

*This **solution** offers a clear and unambiguous **pathway** forward.*

Including the Next Board and the Lāhui

Today's decision to appoint a Chair/CEO will not be made moot 24 hours later. It carries forward with the new board, so every beneficiary remains part of OHA's decisions through 2030.

Protecting the Trust

By contrast, a vote today to appoint an independent CEO is not a guarantee of the position. The new board will have the last word. So why put that finalist, the board, and our beneficiaries through the cost and uncertainty of a multi-year contract, paid with trust dollars, that a new board may wish to undo? A Chair/CEO who is already a trustee carries no such risk. If the new board chooses differently, leadership changes by a vote. No buyout. No lawsuit.

Mahalo a nui to the finalists for stepping forward to serve. The beneficiaries still need your expertise. Please do not let this reconciled solution sway your enthusiasm for our lāhui.

I therefore respectfully ask the board to adopt this Chair/CEO solution today.

It is the new OHA. It is what the new OHA needs. It is what the new OHA needs *now*.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

[1] This model is used by major institutions. At JPMorgan Chase, Jamie Dimon has served as CEO since 2006 and Chairman since 2007, and the company's 2026 proxy statement confirms he continues in both roles, with Stephen B. Burke as Lead Independent Director. At Citigroup, Jane Fraser has served as CEO since 2021 and Chair since October 2025, with John C. Dugan, former U.S. Comptroller of the Currency, as Lead Independent Director. According to Citi's 2026 proxy statement, all 18 of the largest U.S. banking organizations have a CEO who also serves as Chair.

Anthony La'akapuakawailani Lenchanko Contact: lenchanko@gmail.com

Approximate oral delivery time: about 3 minutes



Ko`olau Foundation
Post Office Box 4749/46-005 Kawa St., #205
Kane`ohe, HI 96744

November 2, 2026

TO: Trustee Kai Kahele, Chair, And Members
Board of Trustees, Office of Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Mahealani Cypher, President
Ko`olau Foundation

Re: Testimony Regarding Item IIA – Joint Committee on Budget & Finance & Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment – recommended candidate for appointment as OHA CEO

Aloha Chair Kahele and Trustees:

The Ko`olau Foundation extends its deep appreciation to all of you for deferring decision-making and allowing further discussion on the preferred candidate for the chief executive officer (CEO) position of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). We personally know all three of your final candidates and find them exceptional choices.

As stated to you in a prior message, in our view, OHA needs the skills of ALL THREE of these excellent candidates. Our recommendation is that this Board consider hiring all three of them to provide their particular skills that would advance OHA's goals and strategic mission.

In our view, SUMMER SYLVA is your best choice to serve as CEO because of her diverse experience, both in careers and community advocacy, as well as her exceptional people skills which enable her to provide the strong leadership and "big picture" management needed to serve as chief of this office. She has outstanding leadership skills and a strong pilina with our communities and has demonstrated her strong commitment to `Ea he Moku, the "overarching vision and destination" of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

We recommend Kaulana Park be hired by OHA to help implement your "Quality Housing" strategic direction, based on his experience and knowledge with development of housing during his years with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

We recommend Tod Apo be hired by OHA to help implement your "Kaka`ako Makai" projects, due to his experience and expertise in developing the Howard Hughes Corporation projects in Kaka`ako as well as his work with Aulani.

We appreciate your serious consideration of our recommendations. OHA needs all three.

Mahalo.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF TODD APO
FOR KA POUHANA

Chief Executive Officer, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Submitted to the OHA Board of Trustees

Aloha e nā Kahu Waiwai o ke Keʻena Kuleana Hawaiʻi,

I am the Executive Director of Hui Iwi Kuamoʻo, a Native Hawaiian organization who is the successor in interest to Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna O Hawaiʻi Nei, who combined are responsible for 194 national and international repatriations of iwi kūpuna, moepū and nā mea kūpuna. When Dr Kamanaʻopono Crabbe was CEO, we did great work together. When Stacy Ferreira was CEO, we were on the cusp of creating a Repatriation Commission to help determine how best to distribute repatriated mea kūpuna. Under the current CEO, all that stopped and for all intents and purposes, is dead. A glaring example is the financial support for the recent repatriation of a mea kupuna from Germany whose fiscal disparity poorly reflects on current OHA leadership: our small non-profit organization paid $75,000 to make it happen compared to OHA's $8,800. Enough of this lack of support. I am therefore calling for a leadership change at OHA starting with the CEO.

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of Todd Apo for the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

OHA stands at an important crossroads in its responsibility to advocate for the rights, interests, and well-being of Native Hawaiians. The agency requires a leader who possesses executive experience, sound judgment, integrity, and a genuine commitment to advancing the interests of the Hawaiian people.

I believe Todd Apo possesses the leadership qualities necessary to guide OHA forward. His experience in public service, governance, and organizational leadership provides a strong foundation for managing the agency's substantial responsibilities and strengthening its relationships with beneficiaries, community organizations, and government institutions.

Of importance is the need for OHA to demonstrate unwavering leadership in protecting Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights and practices, safeguarding our cultural heritage and advocating the return and proper care of iwi kūpuna, moepū and nā mea kūpuna.

OHA's next CEO must also restore and strengthen public confidence through transparency, accountability, collaboration, and measurable results that directly benefit the Hawaiian people. I believe Todd Apo has the ability to provide this leadership and respectfully urge the Board of Trustees to select him as OHA's next Chief Executive Officer.

Ola nā iwi,

Edward Halealoha Ayau

Edward Halealoha Ayau
Executive Director and Kumu

Hui Iwi Kuamoʻo

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF TODD APO

FOR KA POUHANA

Chief Executive Officer, Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Submitted to OHA Board of Trustees

Aloha e nā Kahu Waiwai o ke Keʻena Kuleana Hawaiʻi,

My ʻohana and I strongly support the selection of Todd Apo as Administrator/CEO of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Some have pointed to Todd's experience in the development sector as a reason to question his suitability for this position. Our experience with him gives us every reason to believe otherwise. I would like to share what that experience meant for our ʻohana and our iwi kūpuna in Kakaʻako.

While serving as Senior Vice President of Community Development for The Howard Hughes Corporation, Todd honored his heritage through his commitment to protecting the iwi kūpuna of that area. He engaged the descendant community, listened to our concerns, and followed through with actions that protected our kūpuna.

He helped ensure that roads were realigned so kūpuna could remain in the ground. He helped ensure that building designs were shifted to avoid disturbing them. He supported the establishment of burial preservation areas around their resting places, protecting their journey and their moe loa.... eternal sleep.

In our ʻohana's experience, our kūpuna were afforded a level of protection during his tenure that we had not experienced before. These decisions had lasting consequences for our kūpuna and for the descendants who carry the kuleana to care for them.

It takes conviction to carry that kuleana into rooms where development plans, financial interests, and political pressures influence decisions. Todd demonstrated to us that he could navigate those spaces while remaining accountable to his people and his kūpuna. His experience in development gave him the ability to help secure meaningful protections, and he used that ability.

That is why my ʻohana and I support him. We have seen how he responds when our cultural responsibilities require changes to a project. We have seen him listen to descendants and help turn those conversations into protection on the ground.

Todd has proven to our ʻohana, through his care for our kūpuna, that he accepts the responsibilities we carry to those who came before us and to those who will continue after we are gone. That commitment is central to the leadership I want to see at OHA.

I encourage the Board to select Todd Apo as its next Administrator/CEO. You have before you a candidate whose actions have earned our trust.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our support.

Ola nā iwi,

Mana Kaleilani Cáceres, ʻohana Cáceres

Aloha e Chair Kahele and Trustees,

My name is Michael Keolalaulani Gora-Senghor. I am Kanaka Maoli, a beneficiary of this Office, and a U.S. Navy veteran.

On November 2 you will choose the next Administrator and Chief Executive Officer. I am writing to ask that, before you vote, each finalist state publicly where they stand on one question and explain why it matters.

The question

In 2015 this Office received a study by Professors S. James Anaya and Robert A. Williams, Jr. It concluded that no international body was "readily available" to answer the question of Hawai‘i's legal status. That conclusion has shaped our people's thinking for a decade. But the study never considered Article 96 of the United Nations Charter, under which the General Assembly can ask the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion. It takes one member state to sponsor the request and a majority vote, with no veto and no need for the consent of the United States. Mauritius used this path for the Chagos Archipelago: the Court found in its favor in 2019, and in 2025 the United Kingdom signed a treaty returning the islands.

The study also left out much of what makes our case distinct. A page-by-page measurement found that about one in four of its words concern Native Hawaiians; more than a third of its pages describe other Indigenous peoples; and the Hawaiian Kingdom's claim receives about three pages, fewer than the Maine Indian Claims Settlement. It names none of the Kingdom's treaties, including the 1849 treaty of "perpetual peace and amity" with the United States.

Our Pacific neighbors have shown what works. French Polynesia was removed from the United Nations list of non-self-governing territories in 1947. In 2013, three Pacific nations, Solomon Islands, Nauru, and Tuvalu, carried its case to the General Assembly, and it was restored to the list over France’s objection. Puerto Rico shows the other side of the lesson. Removed from the list in 1953, its people have testified before the UN’s Special Committee on Decolonization for more than fifty years, and the committee has supported them almost every year, yet the General Assembly has never taken up the question, because no government has carried it there. Testimony builds a record; a sponsor and a sound legal question are what move the General Assembly. Hawai‘i, listed in 1946 and removed in 1959, has done neither.

Why the CEO's position matters

The next CEO will lead this Office through decisions that will shape our people for a generation, and will be the person who carries out whatever the Board decides on this question. A commitment made in public, before the vote, is one the beneficiaries can hold their leader to. Whichever finalist

you choose, our people deserve to hear, in their own words, whether they will help us ask the question that has never been asked.

What I ask of the Board

1. On November 2, before the vote, ask each finalist, Summer Sylva, Todd Apo, and Kaulana Park, to state publicly whether they will support the Office in commissioning a framework for asking the General Assembly to request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legal status of Hawai‘i.
2. Schedule a public meeting dedicated to Kanaka Maoli testimony on this question.
3. Place the attached response in the record beside the 2015 study, and consider the requests in its Section 11: commissioning the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation and the University of Hawai‘i to compile the framework; at least two public meetings and a public briefing before anything is submitted; an updated study from two independent sources; and support, beginning now, for returning Hawai‘i to the United Nations list of non-self-governing territories.

I have shared the response with Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies and with Ka Huli Ao at the William S. Richardson School of Law, and I welcome every correction that makes it stronger.

Attached:
1. The Unfinished Question: A Response to the 2015 Study on the Native Hawaiian People, with an exhibit measuring the study page by page
2. OHA Commissioned Study on the International Law and Policy Relating to the Situation of the Native Hawaiian People (2015)

A quick note: I am not a lawyer, and nothing in this email or the attachments is legal advice.

Mahalo nui for your time and for your service to our people.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Michael Keolalaulani Gora-Senghor

October 31, 2026

Greetings to the leadership of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs,

Mahalo to each of you for your service to the lahui—those living on our homelands, those kanaka overseas, and our kupuna—in all their shape-shifting forms. We are surrounded and held in aloha.

I am writing to you in full support of Todd Apo's candidacy for Chief Executive Officer at OHA. He is a frontline champion for the Hawaiian people. Todd has built a distinctive career to date, being of service to both for-profit and nonprofit entities, as well as serving in local government roles. From those experiences, I know he will make an exceptional leader at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Todd is an excellent communicator and facilitator. I have witnessed firsthand his ability to bring differing interests to consensus through a refined skill set that he has honed through decades of experience. At this stage in his career, Todd could lead many organizations, and I am beyond grateful that he has stepped forward to offer his expertise to our people, working alongside each of you at OHA.

I grew up in a large Hawaiian family, with lots of opinionated aunties, uncles, and cousins. As a child of Emma Akana Aluli, the youngest Aluli sibling, my role, along with those of all my sisters and brother, was to listen and learn. I have learned so much through observation, and I know leadership when I witness it and feel it. I can say confidently that Todd Apo is a leader for our people. I feel grateful that he has the capacity and commitment to be of service through a leadership role at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The kanaka of today need a kanaka leader for today.

I look forward to the future of Hawai'i with gratitude and in anticipation of what is ahead. Mahalo to each of you for your service, and mahalo for your consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Maile Meyer

October 30, 2026
Written Testimony in Support of Todd K. Apo

Subject Line: TESTIMONY – BOARD MEETING - CEO SELECTION

Submitted to Chair Kaialii Kahele and the Honored Members of the Board of Trustees

Aloha Chair Kaialii Kahele and Honored Members of the Board of Trustees,
I respectfully submit this written testimony in support of Todd K. Apo for the position of Administrator/CEO of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

I have known Todd for several years and have come to appreciate his diverse experience in administration, leadership, and community service. Throughout that time, he has demonstrated professionalism, sound judgment, strong work ethics, and a genuine commitment to serving the Hawaiian community.

Todd's leadership experience and understanding of community needs would greatly complement the vision and mission of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. I believe his knowledge, integrity, and ability to work collaboratively would help strengthen OHA's programs and services and support the organization's continued efforts on behalf of Native Hawaiians.

Todd brings a valuable combination of administrative experience, leadership skills, and community awareness. He understands the importance of accountability, effective management, and meaningful engagement with the people OHA serves. I am confident that he would approach the responsibilities of Administrator/CEO with dedication, respect, and a strong sense of purpose.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for your consideration and support in voting for Todd K. Apo as Administrator/CEO of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Gene Ross K. Davis