FROM THE DESK OF MICAH A. KĀNE

November 2, 2026

The Honorable Kaialiʻi Kahele, Chairperson
and Members of the Board of Trustees
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
560 North Nimitz Highway, Suite 200
Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96817

Re: Letter of Support for Todd Kala Apo – Administrator/Chief Executive Officer

Dear Chair Kahele and Members of the Board of Trustees:

I am pleased to offer my personal support for Todd Kala Apo as the next Administrator and Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). Todd brings a combination of executive leadership, public service, and private-sector experience that could serve OHA well. His professional background reflects an understanding of organizational leadership, strategic decision-making, and working with diverse stakeholders.

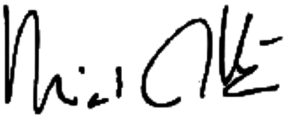
One of Todd's strengths is his experience navigating the complexities at the intersection of government and the private sector. His background provides an appreciation for the respective responsibilities, constraints, and opportunities within each. This perspective could be particularly valuable for OHA, where advancing its mission requires collaboration with government agencies, private-sector partners, community organizations, and beneficiaries.

Todd's experience also provides a foundation for balancing long-term strategic priorities with the practical realities of organizational management and execution. I believe this perspective would be useful in working collaboratively with the Board of Trustees, supporting staff, and approaching organizational priorities with discipline and accountability.

OHA occupies a unique and important position in Hawaiʻi, with significant responsibilities to its beneficiaries and future generations. I believe Todd's experience and perspective warrant favorable consideration as the Board makes this important leadership decision.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Micah A. Kāne
Submitted in my personal capacity

Resolution Testimony: OHA Board of Trustees, November 2, 2026

Hiki mai kaʻi a ka lā i Haʻehaʻe.
Haʻehaʻe ke aloha ma ka hikina.
Ke kaʻina nalu mai la ia Kumukahi.
Kahi malu ma ke kai i ke kualono.

(The sun comes up at Haʻehaʻe. Love rises in the east.
The waves of love proceed toward Kumukahi.
Protection from the sea to the mountaintops.)

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 a beneficiary living on Hawaiian Home Lands in Lualualei. I am testifying with regard to the appointment of OHA's next CEO.

Whereas the 5–4 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.*

Apo/Sylva as co-CEOs? ***ʻAʻole.***

My reconciled solution offers a clear and unambiguous pathway forward with three major points.

1. **The Chair is elected CEO and recused from self-appointment.** The Chair/CEO carries out every lawful majority decision, 9–0 or 5–4, regardless of personal vote. Trustees will see in the Chair's public conduct on the board the direction the CEO is taking the office. The CEO contract is separate from trustee pay, approved with the Chair recused, made public, and follows the Chair's seat. 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.
2. **A Lead Independent Oversight Trustee,** elected by the board and separate from the Chair/CEO, leads an internal controls committee. Committee members share the duties and responsibilities of CEO evaluations, audits, and the CEO contract, each following best practices, while reporting to the full board. These are governance duties, not administrative work. The election of the Lead Independent Oversight Trustee supports the Chair/CEO decision and follows as a separate vote.
3. **OHA's legal counsel can confirm the details.**

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.

Therefore, I 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.

May I add one more point worth noting? This reconciliation follows a structure used by major institutions today. 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.

1. Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Souza, and Members of the Board,

Lately, my son and I have been discussing the moʻolelo of Maihea of Waimalu, which has prompted me to reflect on the kind of leadership our Lāhui needs today.

Long ago, Maihea devoutly prayed to Kāne and Kanaloa, who eventually came from Kahiki and blessed the land with wai, limu, and abundance. They also foretold the birth of his son, Nāulaamaihea.

When Nāulaamaihea turned 15, a whale came ashore at Waimalu to take him to Kahiki. For three weeks, Maihea refused to allow his son to go down to the beach, knowing the whale had come for him. Eventually, Nāulaamaihea made his way to the beach, mounted the whale, and was carried into the deep ocean, beyond the horizon, to learn the ways of the priests of Kāne and Kanaloa.

Fast forward to 1778 and the arrival of Captain Cook. Our people endured devastating population loss, the exploitation of our natural resources, the imposition of white Christianity, and the loss of control over our lands and political power in our own homeland.

Yet we survived. Since the Hawaiian Renaissance of the late 1960s and 1970s, we have made tremendous strides in educating our youth about the true political history of Hawaiʻi, revitalizing our mother tongue, and protecting our natural resources and sacred places.

The world is changing fast, and as Kanaka Maoli, we cannot continue calling for positive change while remaining unwilling to let go of what has not worked for our people. What worked yesterday may not serve us tomorrow.

For years, I have watched OHA struggle under the immense weight of its mission to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians. There have certainly been successes, but in my humble opinion, OHA has also been held back by structural inflexibility, colonial bureaucracy, an unwillingness to move beyond "the way things have always been done," and the unchangeable reality that it remains an agency of the State of Hawaiʻi.

I believe our people are entering a new era of renewal. Like Maihea, who called upon Kāne and Kanaloa but was reluctant to let his son journey into the unknown, sometimes the greatest obstacle to realizing what we have prayed for is our own reluctance and fear.

For decades, our people have been standing up and praying for clean water, the return and restoration of our lands, the protection of our iwi kūpuna, and sovereignty. We have called upon our akua, nā ʻaumākua, and kūpuna, just as Maihea called upon Kāne and Kanaloa. Now we need the courage and leadership to turn those prayers into reality. OHA cannot be

the one agency that holds us back from realizing the potential and promise of a future for which so many of us have sacrificed.

Letting go is difficult. We cannot keep looking for someone to simply administer what exists when what we need is a navigator willing to venture into uncharted waters.

There are several highly qualified candidates being considered in this round. While the other candidates may be capable administrators, what our people need now is leadership willing to traverse unfamiliar waters, as Summer demonstrated during her work in Washington, D.C., and on issues involving Pōhakuloa. She has demonstrated both the vision and the skills to navigate colonial systems of government while building new partnerships with Kanaka Maoli-led grassroots organizations. She has also shown a willingness to work across the diversity of Kanaka Maoli groups, communities, and political perspectives to advance the aspirations of our Lāhui.

OHA is neither the beginning nor the end of the Hawaiian movement. But imagine what could be accomplished if OHA worked in even greater alignment with the aspirations and efforts of our Lāhui.

I urge you to vote for Summer Sylva.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Healani Sonoda-Pale

To: Board of Trustees, Office of Hawaiian Affairs (botmeetings@oha.org)

From: Michael Kaleiokalanakila Crabbe, Pacific Northwest Hawaiian Community and Cultural Leader, Washington & Oregon **/** Kupuna Hui Hui Huewa'a Ka Na'auao Ohana

Date: November 2, 2026

Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of Summer Sylva for Permanent CEO of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Dear Chair Kahele and Honorable Trustees of the Board,

I am writing to express my wholehearted, unreserved support for the nomination of **Summer Lee Haunani Sylva** as the permanent Chief Executive Officer (*Ka Pouhana*) of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). Having observed her executive stewardship, deep legal background, and unwavering commitment to Native Hawaiian self-determination, I believe she is the undisputed candidate to lead OHA into its next chapter.

Summer Sylva's career represents a rare synthesis of top-tier academic rigor, executive capability, and grassroots authenticity. A graduate of Cornell Law School, her professional trajectory reflects over two decades of high-impact leadership across the legal, governmental, and public policy sectors. As the former Executive Director of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (NHLC), she led complex legal strategies that safeguarded trust lands, water rights, and traditional customary practices. Her subsequent appointment as Senior Advisor for Native Hawaiian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior elevated her advocacy to the federal level, demonstrating her ability to navigate administrative frameworks and build intergovernmental coalitions. Furthermore, her peer leadership as former President of the Native Hawaiian Bar Association underscores her standing as a respected authority within Hawai‘i's legal community.

The most compelling evidence for her permanent appointment lies in her immediate, proven track record within OHA itself. Having served first as Chief of Staff to the Board of Trustees and currently as Interim CEO (*Ka Pouhana Kūikawā*), Ms. Sylva has effectively managed an organization of over 130 employees and an annual operating budget of $70 million to $80 million. She stepped into executive leadership without a learning curve, delivering institutional stability, operational continuity, and disciplined fiscal management across multi-million-dollar grant programs and land holdings. Her insider perspective bridges the gap between policy formulation and administrative execution.

Beyond her formal credentials, Ms. Sylva's character and temperament set her apart. She leads with *pono*, integrity, and a deep sense of accountability to the beneficiaries we serve. Her lifelong record of community service—advocating for homesteaders, cultural

practitioners, and vulnerable families—reflects a heart rooted in genuine stewardship for our lahui. She has built trusted, enduring relationships across diverse professional, business, and community networks, positioning her uniquely to unify divergent stakeholders, foster collaboration, and represent OHA with dignity before county, state, and federal governing bodies.

Summer Sylva possesses the character, executive experience, strategic vision, and cultural authority required to champion OHA's mission. I urge the Board of Trustees to affirm her leadership and confirm her as permanent CEO.

Sincerely,

Michael Kaleiokalanakila Crabbe

Kupuna Hui Hui Huewa'a Ka Na'auao Ohana/

Pacific Northwest Hawaiian Community and Cultural Leader, Washington & Oregon

PUʻUHONUA O WAILUPE
Testimony in Strong Support of Summer Sylva
OHA Board of Trustees

November 2, 2026

Regarding Agenda Item II.A.1

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Souza and Members of the Board,

My name is Healani Sonoda-Pale, and I submit this testimony on behalf of Puʻuhonua o Wailupe in strong support of Summer Sylva for the position of Administrator and CEO of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

We are especially grateful for Summer's willingness to partner with Puʻuhonua o Wailupe in the protection and preservation of a known ancestral burial ground in Wailupe. Because of her efforts and the support of her staff, we are in the process of establishing the first-of-its-kind puʻuhonua, a place of refuge for our precious iwi kūpuna on Oʻahu.

Summer's leadership is inclusive, collaborative, and respectful of community voices. She understands the importance of working alongside lineal descendants and cultural practitioners to mālama iwi kūpuna and protect our sacred places.

We urge the Board of Trustees to appoint Summer Sylva. We cannot afford to take two steps backward on issues that are critical to Kanaka Maoli. We need leadership that builds upon the progress already made, strengthens community partnerships, and remains committed to protecting our rights, ʻāina, and iwi kūpuna.

We look forward to continuing this important work together for the benefit of our lāhui and future generations.

Mahalo nui loa,

Healani Sonoda-Pale
Co-founder and Board Member
Puʻuhonua o Wailupe