DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LAND USE COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Statement of
Daniel E. Orodenker
Executive Officer
State Land Use Commission

Before the
Senate Committee on
Water and Land

Monday April 11, 2022
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Room 229 Virtual Video Conference

In consideration of

GM 857

REGARDING THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF MELVIN KAHELE TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2026

Chair Inouye; Vice Chair Keith-Agaran; and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Melvin Kahele's appointment to the Land Use Commission. Mr. Kahele is highly experienced in issues associated with affordable housing having sat on the HHFDC for some time. His insights into this critical issue facing the community as well as his understanding of the workings of affordable housing development will bring a much-needed perspective to the Commission

Mr. Kahele is well respected by labor and the development community. His insights will be a welcome addition to the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Kahele's appointment. We are honored to have him and look forward with pleasure to his participation.

IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

April 6, 2022

Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Senate
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honorable Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

Re: Support for Melvin Kahele. – GM857 Land Use Commission

I would like to state that we are in strong support of Mr. Melvin Kahele to the State of Hawaii, Land Use Commission.

Mr. Kahele on his time on Hawaii Housing and Finance Development and as an integral member of the construction industry understands the need to balance affordable housing and land management. Mr. Kahele knows that without water or taking care of the public trust doctrine we will not be able to have a livable Hawaii. I have known Mel both professionally and personally and we can say that he is truly a man of honor, integrity and compassion. Professionally, Mel has been at the forefront of multitude of planning and public trust knowledge in Hawaii. He ensured that we all know our duties to protect Hawaii's resources. He additionally, relayed the meaning of Hawaii and Aloha at every meeting or event.

Mel has always been part of the community. His dedication to Hawaii can be seen through his leadership in various organizations. He truly believes that we must assist and better Hawaii for our future and support the working men and women of Hawaii.

I strongly support Mel Kahele. to be on the Land Use Commission. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincrerely,

T. George Paris
Managing Director

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HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of
Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai‘i Lodging & Tourism Association

Senate Committee on Water & Land
Governor's Message 857
April 11, 2022

Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee, mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Hawai‘i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's oldest and largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai‘i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers—supports Mr. Kahele's nomination to serve as a member of the State Land Use Commission. HLTA has enjoyed a positive working relationship with Mr. Kahele and feels he is well suited to serve as a member of the Commission.

A lifelong resident of Hawaii who was born and raised on the Windward Coast and has resided in Kapolei for 40 years, Mr. Kahele would bring a wealth of knowledge and diversity of experience to the Commission. His professional resume includes service in the United States Army, decades as a foreman in the gas industry, and a stint as the president of the Teamsters Union, Local 996. He also possesses numerous qualifications including certification as Associate Professor of Contract Negotiations, is a graduate of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Leadership Academy and the Center of Labor Education & Research.

In his current role, he serves as an advocate for the Ironworkers Union, Local 625 which works on significant projects around the state and has an exemplary record of community service. As a key member of Local 625, Mr. Kahele has been deeply involved with many of these projects and initiatives. Moreover, as a volunteer member of numerous professional and community organizations, Mr. Kahele has a proven track record of service to his community. This, coupled with his extensive and diverse professional experience, makes him an excellent candidate for the State Land Use Commission.

For these reasons, HLTA supports Governor's Message 857.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

GM-857
Submitted on: 4/10/2022 12:48:40 AM
Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Azama	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I submit my opposition to appointing Melvin Kahele onto the Land Use Commission because I fear the furthering of private interest influencing decision-making. I am cautious when it comes to former public servants creating their own firms prior to being appointed to a higher position where such can be a conflict of interest.

The next few years of the direction the State goes are crucial to creating the future for my generation. Melvin has been a lobbyist for unions and works for Teamsters while holding public official positions that can benefit his own private practice and friends made along the journey.

Although we do face a housing crisis I do want to remind the legislature there have been a number of different development projects that seek to further urbanize outer islands like Kauaʻi at Kapaʻa and future projects to come. It concerns me that with such in mind in recent years and years to come that the legislature would even consider a man with such a speculative background.

Like I said in my previous testimony I hope you not getting poker chips.

Again I ask you to oppose this nominee.

Mahalo,

Bronson Azama

GM-857
Submitted on: 4/10/2022 12:44:49 PM
Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makaiwa kanui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I represent a family of 2 Native Hawaiian adults and 2 Native Hawaiian youth. We submit this testimony in support of Kuike's appointment to the land use commission. We all know he is committed to aloha āina and his voice will be key. He is a man of integrity, and does what is pono (right).