



MOLOKAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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April 12, 2019

THE SENATE
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Friday, April 12, 2019 @ 1:15 PM
Conference Room 229
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

SUPPORT GM 689, GM 690 & GM 691.

Aloha Honorable Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

As a representative organization of the neighbor-island of Molokai with dozens of members who employ hundreds of our neighbors, friends and families, we are respectfully submitting testimony to **SUPPORT** agenda items GM, 689 & GM 690, appointing members Faith Tuipulotu and Jill Coombs, respectively, to the Molokai Irrigation System User Advisory Board (MISUAB).

Faith Tuipulotu has had a long and distinguished career in agriculture on Molokai and will bring her many years of experience to the MISUAB and the many items and issues they are tasked with overseeing and making decisions upon.

Jill Coombs is a plant scientist with 16 years experience in agriculture and will bring her unique perspective and expertise to the table in helping the MISUAB oversee and make decisions on the items that come before it.

The backbone of our island economy is agriculture, and having an experienced and knowledgeable board to oversee our island's agricultural water source is crucial in keeping our island economy in balance.

The experience of these two nominees, along with the experience of the existing board members will help to ensure good sound decisions will be made to keep the Molokai Irrigation System healthy and safe and viable.

We support our working families and our business community provides the jobs to do so. Please help us to continue supporting the financial health and well being of our island business community and residents by supporting these appointments.

For these reasons, among others we humbly ask you to support the above appointments.

Sincerely,

Robert Stephenson, President & CEO

Mr. Adolph Helm
Anahaki Farms
P.O. Box 391
Hoolehua, HI 96729



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The Thirtieth Legislature
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SUPPORT for GM 689, GM 690

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

Mahalo, for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Adolph Helm and I have been working on Molokai in the field of agriculture for over 40 years. Currently our family farm business Anahaki LLC is located on the island of Molokai in the Hoolehua homestead area. The farm mainly produces specialty teas and other crops for the local and U.S. mainland market. For farmers on Molokai to succeed it is imperative that the Molokai Irrigation System (MIS) continue to provide irrigation water to its customers consistently, efficiently and cost effectively.

To better serve the customers and improve the MIS operations the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board (MISWUAB) was created. The MISWUAB members represent Homesteaders as well as Non-Homestead users. They play a key role in the success of agriculture on Molokai. The MIS is the primary water source for farmers on Molokai and having people who care about agriculture and the wellbeing of the MIS serve on the MISWUAB is important.

I humbly request that you support Faith Tuipuluto (GM 689) and Jill Coombs (GM690) nomination to serve on the MISWUAB. Both have the passion and aloha to serve on the MISWUAB as well as a long and positive history working in agriculture on Molokai. They also share a common vision in supporting the island's agriculture economy and would bring outstanding leadership skills to the MISWUAB including knowledge useful to improve the MIS. Thank you for your consideration please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach me via email at helmadolph@gmail.com or call 808 658-1270.

Much Mahalo,

Adolph Helm
Anahaki LLC

GM-690

Submitted on: 4/8/2019 7:26:45 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amber Ichinose	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

I am submitting testimony as an individual with ties in Moloka`i in support of GM690, for the consideration and confirmation to the Molokai Irrigation System Water User Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Jill Cooms, for a term to expire 06-30-2023. We trust in your leadership and representation.

GM-690

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 1:40:04 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Piilani Augustiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi I have known Jill for about 2 1/2 years. I feel she would be an awesome person to serve on the MIS committee and ask you to please consider her. She is well known in our community and understands the uniqueness of our island and how important the MIS is to all of us, especially to farmers.

I thank you for your consideration!!

GM-690

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 8:29:42 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ANDREA TALON	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of Jill Coombs being nominated for the MIS Advisory Board. Jill has a deep appreciation for our island, our resources and our culture. She has a full understanding of our Molokai water systems and would be a great voice on the board.

Jill has a very impartial demeanor in any situation which makes her a great leader. She is very thoughtful of business needs but also always has our community's best interest at heart. I trust that she will be a valuable asset to the MIS board.

GM-690

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 10:28:39 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Korpi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Jill Coombs is of the highest moral character. She is a model Mother, Wife and one of the kindest friends I have ever had. She is highly educated in her professional field. She cares deeply for the wellbeing of her community and our precious natural environment. Her career already has a direct impact on all aspects of life listed above and there are few people on Molokai, if any, who would be a better choice to serve on the MIS Board.

Respectfully,

Captain Eric C. Korpi, USAF

GM-690

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 12:35:37 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dawn Bicoy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

The Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board (MISUAB) has chronically dealt with a lack of volunteers to serve on its board, this has made it impossible to conduct the business it has been tasked to do without proper quorum. Confirming these exemplary nominees will finally allow the MISUAB to have quorum and address its purpose – to advise the Department of Agriculture on matters of concern to the users of the system; provide support for improvements to the irrigation facilities; participate in long-range planning of the system; and act as liaisons between the users and the Department of Agriculture.

I would like to **SUPPORT** the following Gubernatorial Nominees for the Molokai Irrigation System Users Advisory Board, these model nominees would not only allow for quorum to be met, they would compliment the existing members and create a balanced board representing all voices of Molokai agriculture and its Molokai Irrigation System users:

GM 689 Faith Tuipulotu

Faith is an exemplary leader in the agriculture community here on Molokai. Her perspectives will bring a uniquely diverse voice to the table. Faith not only works for CTAHR, she is an Organic Inspector for HOFA and ICS and offers Organic certification services throughout the State, is the President of the MKK Homestead Farmers Alliance, and is the Chairman for the MKK Lanai Soil and Water Conservation District Board. Faith truly embodies what it means to be an advocate of agriculture. She walks the walk.

GM 690 Jill Coombs

Jill is another stellar example of what agriculture means here on Molokai. Jill currently is the Enablement Lead for Bayer Molokai, which centers much of her focus around conservation, stewardship, and sustainability. Jill has her degree in Plant Science and has been working on behalf of agriculture for over 16 years. Jill is a member of the Molokai Farm Bureau and is very passionate about keeping agriculture viable on

Molokai, something all active farmers here on Molokai are concerned with on a daily basis.

Dawn Bicoy,

Resident of Maunaloa, Molokai, Hawaii

Currently serves as:

Molokai County Farm Bureau, Government Affairs Committee Chair

Molokai Filipino Community Council, Secretary

LATE

GM-690

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 2:17:37 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alicia Bicoy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a Molokai resident, I feel that Jill Coombs would be a great asset to the Molokai Irrigation System Advisory Board. Molokai is her home and one that she has farmed on for many years. Her experience and expertise can help to better manage our MIS. Thank you. ADB

LATE

GM-690

Submitted on: 4/12/2019 7:47:03 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kali Arce	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairman,

I am in support of having Ms. Jill Coombs be selected as an Molokai Irrigation Systems Advisory Committee to represent the Non Homestead Users. I have known her professionally for two years as my former supervisor at Bayer and knew of her as a very competent, outspoken leader at Mycogen prior to coming on the Bayer. I believe she is equipped with an understanding of agriculture production at a commercial level on Molokai and comes to the table with some engineering background. Jill is also familiar with the farming enterprises that use the MIS system and the current physical status of the MIS System. The MIS System also abuts Bayer Molokai property which is advantageous because she will always be in the know of the levels and of any thing going on at the site. I know she is fair and practical in her decision making and will make valid recommendations that will be for the benefit of the system and the users. Again, I humbly ask you please consider Ms. Jill Coombs as a Molokai Irrigation Systems Advisory Board Member.

Your Truly,

Rogerene "Kali" Arce

GM-690

Submitted on: 4/11/2019 9:40:33 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Coombs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Jill Coombs is a very active member in both the Molokai and agricultural community. She has a good understanding of the Molokai Irrigation System and is very aware of it's importance to the farmers of Molokai. She is a down-to-earth, well rounded individual and a creative problem solver. The entirety of her professional career on Molokai has been spent in the agricultural industry, so she's very in tune with problems faced by the Molokai agricultural community. I think she would be an excellent candidate to serve on the MIS advisory board.

LATE

GM-690

Submitted on: 4/12/2019 10:28:20 AM
Testimony for WTL on 4/12/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amber Kaahanui	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Jill is an active member in our community, especially in regards to agriculture. She would be a great asset to the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board.