

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

November 19, 2021

**Committee
Report No.** _____

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, having met on January 26, 2021, September 28, 2021, and November 2, 2021, makes reference to County Communication 20-69, from Councilmember Michael J. Molina, relating to membership of the Conservation Planning Committee.

By correspondence dated October 27, 2021, the Chair of your Committee transmitted a proposed resolution entitled "APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE CONSERVATION PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI."

The purpose of the proposed resolution is to appoint the Council's three voting members to the Conservation Planning Committee, for staggered terms of three years each: Mahina Poepoe (Moloka'i), Benjamin Ostrander (Lāna'i), and Samuel Akoi IV (East Maui Community Plan Area).

Your Committee notes that the Council's Governance, Ethics, and Transparency Committee (2019-2021 Council term) met on August 11, 2020, August 25, 2020, September 8, 2020, December 1, 2020, and December 9, 2020. Ordinance 5130 (2020) extended the Conservation Planning Committee's deadline to submit the greenprint to the Council to December 31, 2022.

Your Committee further notes it previously reported on this matter through Committee Report 21-8, which recommended passage of a proposed bill amending the Conservation Planning Committee's membership, by:

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- (1) Removing the need for a Managing Director representative;
- (2) Requiring a representative from the Sustainable Science Management Program at the University of Hawaii, Maui College;
- (3) Requiring a representative from Aha Moku or Aha Kiole;
- (4) Requiring one representative each from East Maui, Molokaʻi, and Lānaʻi;
- (5) Increasing the number of ex-officio nonvoting members to seven; and
- (6) Decreasing the maximum number of staggered terms a representative is allowed to serve to three years.

At its meeting of February 19, 2021, the Council adopted the recommendation in Committee Report 21-8 (Ordinance 5187).

Your Committee noted three applications were received by the October 15, 2021, 4:30 p.m. deadline.

Your Committee discussed the nominations of Mahina Poepoe, Benjamin Ostrander, and Samuel Akoi IV, to fill the Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi, and East Maui seats, respectively.

Ms. Poepoe was born and raised on Molokaʻi. She is employed with Molokaʻi/Maui Invasive Species Committee and ʻĀina Momona, where she is involved in various cultural and conservation projects.

Mr. Ostrander is employed with Pulama Lanai's Cultural and Historical Preservation Department. He moved to Lānaʻi at the age of 10 and is now raising his family on Lānaʻi. He understands the importance of protecting and conserving the island's limited resources for future generations.

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Mr. Akoi is the owner of Ulupono 'Aina, LLC. He is also a member of the Maui Nui Makai Network and East Maui Huliamaahi Project and has participated in various conservation and preservation activities including invasive species sweeps, feral-pig eradications, and nene surveying.

He expressed an interest in preserving 'āina and kai resources for future generations to sustain hunting, fishing, and gathering practices.

Your Committee was satisfied with the nominations and felt that each would be an asset to the Conservation Planning Committee.

Your Committee assigned board terms randomly and recommended Exhibit "A" to the proposed resolution be revised accordingly:

- Mahina Poepoe (Moloka'i), for a term expiring on March 31, 2023;
- Benjamin Ostrander (Lāna'i), for a term expiring on March 31, 2024; and
- Samuel Akoi IV (East Maui), for a term expiring on March 31, 2022.

Your Committee voted 8-0 to recommend adoption of the revised proposed resolution. Committee Chair Molina, Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, and members Johnson, Kama, Lee, Paltin, Sinenci, and Sugimura voted "aye." Committee member King was excused.

Your Committee is in receipt of a revised proposed resolution, approved as to form and legality by the Department of the Corporation Counsel, incorporating your Committee's revisions.

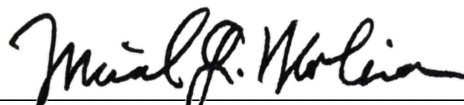
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Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee RECOMMENDS that Resolution _____, attached hereto, entitled "APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE CONSERVATION PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI," be ADOPTED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



MICHAEL J. MOLINA, Chair

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Resolution

No. _____

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE CONSERVATION PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 2.82.040, Maui County Code, the Conservation Planning Committee will consist of nine voting members and seven ex-officio non-voting members; and

WHEREAS, of the nine voting members, the Council's three members must be appointed by resolution and serve staggered terms of three years each; and

WHEREAS, one representative must be a full-time resident of the island of Moloka'i, one representative must be a full-time resident of the island of Lāna'i, and one representative must be a full-time resident of the East Maui Community Plan Area; and

WHEREAS, at least two voting members must have demonstrated expertise in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices as evidenced by one or more of the following credentials: a college degree in a relevant field, such as Hawaiian studies, native Hawaiian law, native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, including traditional environmental practices, or related subject area; work history that demonstrates an appropriate level of knowledge in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, including traditional environmental practices; and substantial experience as a native Hawaiian traditional and customary practitioner; and

WHEREAS, the Council's deadline to receive applications for consideration to the Conservation Planning Committee was 4:30 p.m. on October 15, 2021, transmitted to the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency ("GREAT") Committee; and

WHEREAS, the GREAT Committee received applications from Mahina Poepoe, Benjamin Ostrander, and Samuel Akoi IV, respectively; now, therefore,

Resolution No. _____

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it approves the appointment of Mahina Poepoe as a member to the Conservation Planning Committee representing the island of Moloka‘i, for the term specified on Exhibit “A;”
2. That it approves the appointment of Benjamin Ostrander as a member to the Conservation Planning Committee representing the island of Lāna‘i, for the term specified on Exhibit “A;”
3. That it approves the appointment of Samuel Akoi IV as a member to the Conservation Planning Committee representing the East Maui Community Plan Area, for the term specified on Exhibit “A;”
4. That the Council expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the applicants for their willingness to be considered for public service and actively participate in County government; and
5. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resilience; Mayor; Managing Director; and the Corporation Counsel.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

/s/ Mimi Desjardins

Deputy Corporation Counsel
County of Maui

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APPOINTED MEMBERS AND TERMS

<u>Conservation Planning Committee Members</u>	<u>Term</u>
Mahina Poepoe (Moloka'i)	<u>Expiring 3/31/2023</u>
Benjamin Ostrander (Lāna'i)	<u>Expiring 3/31/2024</u>
Samuel Akoi IV (East Maui)	<u>Expiring 3/31/2022</u>