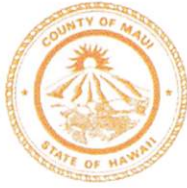


RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

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June 12, 2024

Honorable Alice Lee, Chair
and Members of the Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

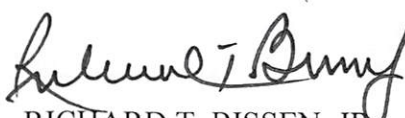
Dear Chair Lee and Council Members:

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF KUMU
HULA KAPONO'AI MOLITAU AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF 'ŌIWI RESOURCES

Pursuant to Section 8-21.2 of the Charter of the County of Maui (effective July 1, 2024), please consider this my formal notice of appointment of Kumu Hula Kaponō'ai Molitau as the Director of the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources, effective July 1, 2024.

Thank you for our attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 270-7855.

Sincerely,


RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor, County of Maui

Attachments



Kumu Kaponoa'ai Molitau

Helu Ke'ena: 1980 Main Street Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i 96793

Helu Kelepona: 808.385.9117

Leka Uila: nahanona@gmail.com or kaponoi@native-intel.com

E pili ana ia'u

I am a traditionally trained and culturally grounded Kumu Hula here on Maui of Hālau Nā Hanona Kūlike 'O Pi'ilani which I have taught for the past 21 years. For the past 20 years I have been the Kahuna Nui of Pu'ukoholā Heiau, the head of state that Kamehameha I built to begin unification of the Hawai'i. I am also the founding business owner of Native Intelligence in Wailuku Maui.

Ka 'Oi Hana

MASTER KUMU HULA, NĀ HANONA KŪLIKE 'O PI'ILANI, MAY 2003-PRESENT

Master Kumu Hula of prestigious school of Hawaiian cultural intellect that specializes in Hula; the art of Hawaiian Dance, Oli; Hawaiian Chant and oral voice transmission, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i; Hawaiian Language, the official language of Hawai'i, Loina Hawai'i; Master of Hawaiian Protocols and Ceremonies.

KAHUNA NUI, NĀ WA'A LALANI KAHUNA O PU'UKOHOLĀ, AUG. 2004-AUG.2023

High Priest of Hawaiian Ceremonies, Hawaiian Protocols and established behavior at Pu'ukoholā Heiau and Mailekinikulanaola in Kawaihae, Hawai'i. Established protocols for Ho'oku'ikahi which engages traditional practitioners from around Hawai'i, delegates from different Polynesian countries, and Federal Dignitaries from the Department of Interior and other federal agencies that work with the National Park Service.

OWNER & CEO OF NATIVE INTELLIGENCE, MAY 2009-PRESENT

Established in May 2009, Native Intelligence is the lead for championing ancestral cultural intellect and promoting the native intellect of Hawai'i host culture. It is a cultural resource center guised in retail where our community and visitors can come to learn, be inspired, and to get involved in uplifting our local community.

‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I, KUMU HULA, KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS MAUI, AUG. 2010-JUNE 2015

Worked to establish the Papa ‘Ewalu ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Program as well as their E ‘imi mau program for Kamehameha Schools Maui Campus Middle School. The haumāna thrived in an environment that nurtured their identity as kanaka and propelled them to numerous awards in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and Hula Competitions in the annual Malia Craver Hula Competitions where under my directions garnered many awards in Hula and Oli. Many haumāna have gone on to pursue post high school education in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and ‘Ike Hawai‘i.

HAWAIIAN CULTURAL SPECIALIST IV, STATE OF HAWAI‘I KAHO‘OLAWÉ ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION, JULY 2004-JULY 2009

Head of Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission as their Hawaiian Cultural Specialist IV which worked with many organizations from around Hawai‘i to access Kaho‘olawe and learn about the many places around Kaho‘olawe. I’ve conducted ceremonial protocols for many sacred spaces on Kaho‘olawe for the KIRC as well as collaborated with Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ōhana for their cultural accesses during Makahiki season. Help to edit and complete the Kaho‘olawe Island Use Plan which is still used today by KIRC.

Ka Ho‘onauao Hawai‘i

‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I: HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE, 1985-1989

I began learning the mother tongue of Hawai‘i at the age of 12 under the direction of Kumu John Keola Lake who was the head of Hawaiian Language Department of St. Louis School. I became a fluent speaker by 16 which enabled me to advance my learnings in Loina Hawai‘i.

LOINA HAWAI‘I: HAWAIIAN DISCIPLINES OF PROTOCOL, BEHAVIOR, AND SPIRITUAL MANAGEMENT, 1989-PRESENT

Learned from the age of 16 to conduct traditional customary practices that revolved around Hula, Hawaiian Chant, Oratory, and Hawaiian Spirituality. Kumu John Keola Lake was my master Kumu until his passing. Currently teaching a cohort of practitioners that have been training for the past 16 years.

KUMU HULA, MASTER HULA TEACHER: ‘AILOLO CEREMONY AND ‘ŪNIKI RITES, 1994
PU‘UKOHOLĀ HEIAU

Kumu Hula at age of 23, youngest in the State of Hawai‘i to be given that acknowledgment.

KAHUNA NUI, HIGH PRIEST OF PU'UKOHOLĀ HEIAU, AUG.2006

Elevated as Kahuna Nui of Pu'ukoholā Heiau by John Keola Lake and Sam Ka'ai.

**ENTERING PHD OF INDIGENOUS STUDIES AT AWAIANUIARANGI UNIVERSITY,
WHAKATANE, AOTEAROA, AUGUST 2024**

**Pursuing my PHD Indigenous Studies on Heiau and Cultural Protocols. A three year
program that I hope to defend in December of 2027 in my mother tongue.**