

Regarding new appointments/reappointments to the Molokai Planning Commission

I wanted to bring to your attention an issue of real concern and principal. Today you are considering two new appointments and one reappointment. However there are two commissioners that are eligible for reappointment. I question why Lori Buchanan was not considered for reappointment. Before filling her seat I would ask you to investigate this matter. Commissioner Buchanan currently serves as the chair, something no one else wanted to do. She also initiated a TIG to review the rules of MoPC, something that is still in process and will be derailed by her removal. She came in to the commission less than 2 years ago, when the commission was stacked with development interest, realtors, STR consultants, developer drinking buddies. This was a rubber stamp commission. When they all quit because their scheme was exposed the commission was crippled we could barely get quorum lots of cancelled meetings. Commissioner Buchanan restored integrity and public trust in the commission. I can tell you that the public here had no faith or trust at one point. She is incredibly knowledgeable of the processes she shows up. I really see her removal as kind of shady and I'd appreciate a good reason because right now there is none. I'm asking for transparency.

I support Aunty Bridget Mowat being appointed, she is very involved in our community, she actually attends commission meetings on a regular basis and is sometimes the only other person there beside myself. This has been a long time coming for her, I know she had her application in for years and years and has been passed up continuously most likely just because of politics.

I support the reappointment of Laakea Poepoe, He serves as the cultural expert. He too came in when the commission was cancelling meetings because of quorum. He hasn't missed a single meeting, he uses his vacation hours to take off work and go to these meetings even showing up to meetings that get cancelled. He self educates, reads, researches, county laws, state laws, studies, different plans, old newspapers, old minutes, stuff from the archives. He is an advocate for our community plan and community's voice. He puts in the work.

I hope that in general you council will revisit the issue of transparency in the selection process for commissioners.

Thankyou.

Mahina Poepoe

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