

PC Committee

From: Kilia Purdy-Avelino <kpurdyavelino@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 08, 2017 8:14 PM
To: PC Committee
Subject: County Planning Commission

Aloha mai,

My name is Kilia Purdy-Avelino, raised in Ho'olehua, Molokai and currently residing on the same homestead. My great-grandmother was of the original homesteaders of Ho'olehua.

I hold a Masters degree from UH Hilo in Indigenous Language and Culture Education. I am a Hawaiian Language/Studies lecturer at UH Maui College, Molokai and work part-time under Alu Like, Inc. as a Program Specialist for the Native Hawaiian Library.

I am active in our community. I currently serve as President of the Ahupua'a o Moloka'i that is made up of 7 homestead Associations; I am Vice-President of Hui Malama o Mo'omomi which manages the area and resources of Mo'omomi, Moloka'i's north-west coastal area; and, I voluntarily coordinate a homeschool program serving 9 families, 22 children.

I am writing this email in support of the bill to require a Hawaiian cultural practitioner on the planning Committee with the qualifications as stated, being sure that the statement does include the wording, "one or more of the following [qualifications]." This seat is important as a person with this knowledge will understand things some times unseen, that others without this knowledge that only see physical and tangible things, will miss or dismiss. One with the knowledge of language will be able to understand a place through its name and be able to research its history in old Hawaiian language documents. A person with this knowledge will understand protocol and the importance of relationships, not just amongst people, but relationship with the land and its natural resources, and a spiritual relationship as well.

The benefits of requiring a seat for a Hawaiian cultural practitioner outweighs its downfalls. In fact, I do not see any reason for not requiring a Hawaiian cultural practitioner as it will only enhance the quality of planning that this commission does.

na'u me ka ha'aha'a,
 na Kilia Purdy-Avelino

*"A'ole hana nui ke alu 'ia!"
 No task is too great when done together!*