

WR Committee

From: Scott Parker <parker96768@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 11:14 AM
To: WR Committee
Cc: Mike White; Robert Carroll; Stacy S. Crivello; Alike A. Atay; Elle Cochran; Donald S. Guzman; Kelly King; Riki Hokama; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Testimony for the Water Resources Committee Meeting of Tuesday, 20 March 2018
Attachments: Parker Testimony to the Maui County Council Water Resources Committee 031918.pdf

Aloha mai kākou,

I submit the following (and attached) testimony for the Water Resources Committee Meeting of Tuesday, 20 March 2018.

Please feel free to let me know if there are any questions,

Mahalo,

Dr. Scott K. Parker

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Dr. Scott K. Parker

PO Box 880208

Pukalani, HI 96788

19 March 2018

Water Resources Committee

Maui County Council

200 S. High Street

Wailuku, HI 96793

O kauka Scott Kaleiolani Parker ko'u inoa.

Ke keiki a Leland Iaua o Charleen.

Dr. Scott K. Parker
PO Box 880208
Pukalani, HI 96788

19 March 2018

Water Resources Committee
Maui County Council
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

O kauka Scott Kaleiolani Parker ko'u inoa.
Ke keiki a Leland laua o Charleen.
No Makawao mai au
Noho au ma Waikapū.

Aloha!

I submit this letter to you in my capacity as a private citizen, a Native Hawaiian, and voting resident of Maui County.

Although I am a bit disappointed, I am not shocked at the actions of Committee Chair Atay in his most recent fishing expedition against those who work to protect our watersheds. It's a known fact that he and his office have been quite toxic to those who work tirelessly to rid the island and our native ecosystem of invasive species. And, as a Kanaka Maoli myself, He Hawai'i au mau a mau, I am appalled at his actions in direct opposition to the work taking place to protect my native heritage, that which originates from the kumulipo - our native Hawaiian forests, flora, and fauna.

To think that being opposed to genetically modified organisms allows someone a blank check to then be critical of other entities who utilize both human and scientifically adapted, specific treatments of our forests and communities is incomprehensible. Do you not realize that our native species are under attack? Do you not realize that due to human introduction and manmade impacts, our native birds, snails, plants, and trees are all being slowly but surely wiped out? Do you not realize that the influx of non-native species like the fire ant and coqui frog are hurting our ecosystem and ruining neighborhoods and property values?

I continue to be appalled by the bullying tactics of members of this committee and council who call themselves Hawaiian but then refuse to acknowledge that our Hawaiian ecosystem is under attack. And that the proven work and methods of our watershed and conservation partners are not the enemy. The enemy is those that oppose their work to help keep our heritage, our connection to the kumulipo, our native Hawaiian ecosystems intact. What will it take for Kanaka Maoli, like the Committee Chair and others on the council, to realize that we cannot continue to wage war and be hostile to the very supports we need to fight back against this alien invasion hurting our heritage?

I ask you this...when was the last time any of you have taken time to walk through the Waikamoi Preserve, or Pu'u Kukui, or the West Maui, East Maui or Leeward Haleakala watersheds? When was the last time you took a moment to stop and listen to the sounds of the 'I'iwi or 'Ākohekohe or the Kiwikiu? When was the last time you stood under a thousand year old 'Ōhia and looked up in awe at its beauty?

When too was the last time you walked through a Native forest and realized that the introduced Tahitian ginger is suffocating our native species and that no amount of humanly possible manual labor alone can remove them? When was the last time you saw the devastation that Rapid 'Ōhia Death is having on Hawai'i island and that in a matter of time that could also be our island and our forests? When was the last time you understood how aggressive Miconia is and how it's continued spread through our watersheds is actually hurting our ability to provide water for future generations?

I can respect people's opinions, but what I cannot respect is people's personal vendettas against proven and safe science and the people who work day and day out, tirelessly trying to protect my Native Hawaiian heritage from being eliminated. And that is what causes me to rise up as a Hawaiian and speak out.

There's no way I can stand idly by and let this body continue to manipulate facts and science when the reality is that each and every day our Native plants, birds, and entire ecosystem is under threat of elimination. And while you debate in these posh offices and chambers, people - both Kanaka Maoli and malahini alike - are on the front lines in weather and natural conditions most people would consider unbearable, working without a desire to be in the spotlight or to win awards. They do what they do each day because they know that my - that our Native heritage - must be kept alive for not just now, but perpetuity.

I ask you to listen to their voices, to the proven science that our conservation partners share with you. They speak for not just me, but they speak for all our native forests that are being attacked by invasive species. They speak for the keiki who will rely on these forests to provide for their well-being when we are no longer walking this 'āina. They speak for the heritage of my kupuna and the kumulipo. They do what others don't want to do - they truly aloha 'āina.

Mahalo nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott K. Parker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott K. Parker, Ed.D.

cc: Mike White, Chair, Maui County Council
Robert Carroll, Vice-Chair, Maui County Council
Stacy Crivello, Presiding Officer Pro Tempore, Maui County Council
Alika Atay, Member, Maui County Council & Chair, Water Resources Committee
Elle Cochran, Member, Maui County Council
Don S. Guzman, Member, Maui County Council
Kelly T. King, Member, Maui County Council
Riki Hokama, Member, Maui County Council
Yuki Lei Sugimura, Member, Maui County Council