

July 29, 2025

MEMO TO: WASSP-1(12) File

F R O M: Shane Sinenci, Chair   
Water Authority, Social Services, and Parks Committee

SUBJECT: **TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATIONAL DOCUMENT RELATING TO  
INDEPENDENT NOMINATION BOARD NOTIFICATION OF  
ROBERT HALE PAHIA AS AN APPLICANT TO THE EAST MAUI  
REGIONAL COMMUNITY BOARD** (WASSP-1(12))

The attached informational document pertains to Item 1(12) on the Committee's agenda.

wassp:ltr:001(12)afile01:ebm

Attachment

# Resolution

**No.** 25-159

## APPOINTING ROBERT HALE PAHIA AS A MEMBER TO THE EAST MAUI REGIONAL COMMUNITY BOARD

WHEREAS, by correspondence dated and received on July 18, 2025, the Independent Nomination Board transmitted to the Council Robert Hale Pahia's application to fill a vacancy on the East Maui Regional Community Board arising from the resignation of Alan Arakawa on May 22, 2025, for a term expiring March 31, 2028; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the correspondence, redacted to exclude confidential information, is attached as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, Board member Arakawa fulfilled the requirement in Section 8-19.2(1) of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended, that at least one member of the East Maui Regional Community Board have experience in water-resource management and be actively engaged in ranching, farming, aquaculture, or loko i'a in the area where water service is provided; and

WHEREAS, Pahia, as owner of Hawai'i Taro Farm, LLC, operates a 310-acre farm and is actively engaged in farming on Lot 31 of a parcel identified as Tax Map Key (2) 2-2-02:56, which is located in the water-service area; and

WHEREAS, as a Board member, Mr. Pahia would also fulfill the requirement; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 13-2(18) requires the Independent Nomination Board to submit to the appointing authority—in this case, the Council—a list of nominees to fill a vacancy due to a resignation within 60 days of the vacancy's occurrence; and

WHEREAS, the Independent Nomination Board met its July 21, 2025, deadline to submit a list of nominees, so the Council now has 30 days—until August 17, 2025—to approve or disapprove the nomination; now, therefore,

## **Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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

1. That, under Charter Section 8-19.2(1), it appoints Robert Hale Pahia to the East Maui Regional Community Board for a term expiring March 31, 2028;
2. That it finds that Mr. Pahia's membership fulfills the Charter's requirement for at least one Board member to have experience in water-resource management and be actively engaged in ranching, farming, aquaculture, or loko i'a in the area where water service is provided;
3. That it expresses its gratitude to the Independent Nomination Board for its correspondence and to Mr. Pahia for their willingness to be considered for public service and actively participate in County government; and
4. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Robert Hale Pahia, the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of the East Maui Water Authority, the Director of Water Supply, and the Chair of the Independent Nomination Board.

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane M. Sinenci". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S'.

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SHANE M. SINENCI

Jennifer Sullivan, Chair  
Chad Viela, Vice Chair  
Viola Diego  
Gina Gormley  
Stephen Kealoha  
Cory Lehano  
Kilia Purdy-Avelino  
Kanoë Shimizu  
Dwight Burns



RECEIVED  
2025 JUL 18 PM 4:11  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

**INDEPENDENT NOMINATION BOARD**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[Board.INB@mauicounty.gov](mailto:Board.INB@mauicounty.gov)

July 18, 2025

The Honorable Alice L. Lee  
and Members of the Council  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Lee and Members,

**SUBJECT: Status of the East Maui Regional Community Board List**

Pursuant to Section 13-2(18) of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended ("Charter"), please consider the Independent Nomination Board's ("INB") notice that as of, July 18, 2025, the INB is transmitting list of applicant with their application for consideration to fulfill the current vacancy on the East Maui Regional Community Board, due to the resignation of Alan Arakawa on May 22, 2025.

As the appointing authority you will need to submit a nominee pursuant to Section 13-2(18) of the Charter.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact our Board staff, Jody K. Yoshida at, [board.INB@mauicounty.gov](mailto:board.INB@mauicounty.gov) or 808-270-7415.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jennifer Sullivan*

JENNIFER SULLIVAN  
Chair, Independent Nomination Board

JS:rh

cc: Jonathan Scheuer, Chair of the EMRCB (w/o enclosures)  
Alice L. Lee, County Council Chair  
David Raatz, Director, Office of Council Services  
Cynthia Lallo, Chief of Staff (w/o enclosures)  
Yukari Murakami, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Enclosures



BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

APPLICATION

(Please print or type)

For Office Use | Date Stamp

**RECEIVED**

By Boards & Commissions, 6/10/25

Name: Pahia Robert Hale  
(Last) (First) (Full Middle Name)

City of Residency: Kula Island: Maui Length of Residency in County of Maui: 44

[ ATTATCH AN ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NEEDED FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ]

Briefly explain your interest in being a member of a particular board, commission or committee.

My interest in being involved on the board of AHA WAI O MAUI HIKINA is because of the importance of decisions to  
chart a course of action concerning an important, if not the most important resource that dictates the future of all  
residents on the island of Maui.

Currently serving or previously served on, any federal, state, or county board, commission, or committee? (Name & yrs. served)  
I have served a two year term as a member of the State Committee with the USDA Farm Service Agency.

I am a current member of the Kula Agriculture Park Committee under the Maui County Department of Agriculture.

List any community service and/or professional organizations or activities you're affiliated with or a member of.  
I currently serve as a Board Member on the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce.

Provide a brief summary of your skills, qualifications, expertise or knowledge.

I have been an employee of the (CTAHR) College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources for nineteen years and  
currently the President and Owner of Hawaii Taro Farm LLC. I operate a three - hundred acre farm that consists of  
twenty-seven individual farming enterprises. I possess a extensive knowledge of water/ irrigation systems.

Provide any other relevant personal or professional background information that would be beneficial to your preferred board, commission or committee.

The lack of political will to enact legislation and policy to support the current and future needs for food security in

Hawaii evolves around water availabilty. Hence, My interest in being a member of AWOMH.

**Consent to be Nominated and Certification of Truthfulness and Accuracy of Information:** I hereby acknowledge and attest that the above statements and information I have provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I authorize the Office of the Mayor and Independent Nomination Board, along with its employees and agents to investigate and obtain information regarding my suitability to be nominated and serve as an appointee of the County of Maui.

**Commitment to Attendance\*:** I will commit to attending all regularly scheduled board/commission meetings to the best of my abilities. \*See Maui County Code, Section 2.41.090 for rules on board attendance.

Signature Robert H. Pahia

Date June 01, 2025

**SAVE THIS FORM**

**SUBMIT via EMAIL (click button below) and ATTACH SIGNED FORM  
OR, PRINT FORM & Submit via USPS to the address listed at the top.**

**SUBMIT FORM**



Application Supplemental information for  
'Aha Wai O Maui Hikina East Maui Regional Community Board Seat

Maui County Charter Section 8-19.2 qualifications for Board seat: One member with experience in water resource management who is actively engaged in ranching, farming, aquaculture, or loko i'a in the area where water service is provided.

Which are you actively engaged in:

☐ Ranching  
☒ Farming  
☐ Aquaculture  
☐ Loko i'a

Is your ranching, farming, aquaculture, or loko i'a done in the water service area? (see attached map) : Yes

What is the location address or TMK of ranching, farming, aquaculture or loko i'a

activities: TMK (2) 2-2-02: 56 por. Lot 131

Provide the name, a description of the operation and an explanation of your role in the operation.

Hale o Pahia... I manage and operate a subsistence farm operation that supplies fresh fruit

and specialty crops to my family, extended family, and neighbors. I also make value added products (poi, kulolo, taro chips) for retail sales.

Describe your general experience and knowledge in water resource management.

I have extensive knowledge of water resource management derived from my experience in the agriculture sector here on Maui. I have worked as a Agriculture Research Technician at the Kula Agricultural Research Station under the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) from 1986 - 2005. I then operated Hawaii Taro Farm, LLC from 2010 - to this present day. I currently manage and operate a 310 acre farm that consists of 27 independent farming operations. Water management of this scale demands acute knowledge of irrigation and distribution systems.





## INB – Boards, Commissions, and Committees

### 2025 Nominee List

<b>Board-Commission-Committee</b>	<b>East Maui Regional Community Board</b>
# of Members	11
Appointing Authority	M
Due Date	
Date Submitted	07/18/2025
<b># of Vacancies as of (date)</b>	<b>1 as of 07/18/2025</b> <span style="color: red;">(1 Vacancy)</span>

<b>Member Requirements</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Need</b>	<b>Nominate Y/N</b>
Male	7		
Female	3	Y	
NH Practitioner			
Conservationist			
Residency Area(s):			
E. Maui	6		
Kahului		Y	
Lanai		Y	
Makawao-Paia-Haiku (MPH)	2		
Molokai		Y	
So. Maui		Y	
Wailuku-Waiehu-Waikapu		Y	
W. Maui		Y	
Upcountry (Pukalani-Kula)	1		
Other: 1 Rep of DHHL (no residency associated)	1		
Other: Experience in water resource management, actively engaged in ranching, farming, aquaculture, or loko i'a		Y	
Other: See Legislation			

#### Recommended Nominee(s) (applications included)

<b>Name (Bold = Mass Nominee)</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Initial &amp; Date</b>
Robert Pahia	1	



Additional Comments (Initial/Date):