

August 1, 2025

Maui County Board of Water Supply  
c/o Department of Water Supply  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Maui, HI

Dear Members of the Maui County Board of Water Supply,

I am honored to recommend Robert "Uncle Bobby" Hale Pahia for service on the Maui County Board of Water Supply. With decades of experience in agriculture, deep ties to the community of Central Maui, and an unwavering commitment to water stewardship, Bobby brings the vision, expertise, and trust needed for this critical role.

Bobby has spent over 34 years cultivating taro and traditional Hawaiian crops on Maui, managing Hoaloha Farms and Hawaii Taro Farm LLC. His deep knowledge of Indigenous agricultural practices and food systems is grounded in both cultural stewardship and scientific expertise, including soil conservation and sustainable crop production. He has consistently used herbaceous cover crops like vetiver to prevent soil erosion and honor 'āina methods that protect soil and water integrity.

As a longtime advocate for water rights, Bobby has served as a witness for Hui 'O Na Wai 'Ehā in East Maui water restoration proceedings, amplifying local voices on matters of stream flow and equitable water access. His leadership embodies integrity, bridging the perspectives of Native Hawaiian farmers, non profit advocates, and community stewards.

What truly sets Bobby apart is his ability to build trust. He nurtures relationships across the farming community, including with emerging ag-tech leaders, members of the Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, and community-based organizations. His advocacy serves not only organizational interests, but also cultivates deeper public confidence in how our water, and 'āina, is managed.

It is rare to find someone with his combination of skills: a lifelong steward of Maui's agriculture and water systems; a profound respect for cultural values; and the credibility to engage elected leaders and water policymakers alike. I believe Bobby Pahia would bring invaluable perspective and steady leadership to the Board as Maui navigates the complex challenges of water resource management, agricultural resilience, and equitable access.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss his nomination further. Thank you for your consideration.

With respect and aloha,

Nicholas Winfrey  
808.793.7220

RECEIVED AT WASBP MEETING ON 8/04/2025