

PIA Committee

From: sara tekula <spectekula@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 3:25 PM
To: PIA Committee
Subject: Please Approve Councilwoman Elle Cochran's Proposal for PIA 10(11)

Aloha kākou,

I am writing today regarding PIA 10(11), which requires that at least one member of the commission shall have a background in conservation and natural resources AND that one member of the commission shall have demonstrated expertise in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

Additionally, I support the requirement all members of the planning commissions would be required to participate in a native Hawaiian law training course within one year of appointment.

These are incredibly important changes to the County Charter that are being proposed by Elle Cochran. Ideally, your group will pass this, send it to the County Council, and allow them to vote to make it something we can vote on in the 2016 General Election.

Please consider supporting Councilwoman Cochran's proposal, as I believe it will prove to the community that our planners and decision makers are knowledgeable about the unique set of circumstances Hawaiian residents are faced with. Having these qualities - intimate familiarity with Hawaiian culture as well as having extensive knowledge of conservation and the natural resources in Hawai'i - represented on planning commissions will ensure that truly representative, informed conversations can be had in the decision making process.

I believe that making a step in this direction will prove to the community that the concerns of nature, of our host culture, and of Hawaiian law, are priorities for our decision makers, and will ensure that these concerns are given a voice in our unique community.

Mahalo piha for your consideration,
Sara

Sara Tekula

Makawao, HI

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He ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka
The land is the chief, man is its servant