

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

February 28, 2024

**Committee
Report No.** _____

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, having met on February 6, 2024, makes reference to Resolution 24-15, entitled “APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE INDEPENDENT NOMINATION BOARD FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI.”

Resolution 24-15’s purpose is to approve or disapprove the Mayor’s appointments of Viola Kauakea Diego (Hana) and Kilia Waiomina Iona Purdy-Avelino (Molokai) as members to the Independent Nomination Board.

By correspondence dated January 29, 2024, the Mayor transmitted completed application forms for the nominees.

Your Committee notes that general appointment procedures for boards, committees, and commissions are outlined in Section 13-2, Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended (“Charter”), and Chapter 2.41, Maui County Code.

Your Committee notes that the Maui County electorate, in November 2022, voted to approve the establishment of the Independent Nomination Board commencing in July 2023, to recruit, evaluate, and nominate individuals to serve on boards and commissions established by Charter and by ordinance, and such other offices as specified in the Charter.

Your Committee notes that it previously met on this matter through Committee Report 24-9, which recommended adoption of Resolution 24-1 to approve members to the Independent Nomination Board, with the exception of the Molokai seat, which the Committee recommended be

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disapproved, and the East Maui seat, for which the Mayor did not submit a nominee because none of the applications received were from individuals residing in East Maui. At its meeting of January 26, 2024, the Council adopted the recommendations in Committee Report 24-9.

A representative from the Office of the Mayor provided opening comments for each nominee. Your Committee also interviewed both nominees.

Viola Kauakea Diego is the Mayor's nominee for the East Maui residency area. Ms. Diego is a Relief Night Auditor at the Hāna-Maui Resort and a paratransit driver with Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Ms. Diego is also a board member for Maui Adult Day Care Centers' Hale Hulu Mamo, Hana Senior Center and previously served as the board president of the Hāna Youth Center, Inc. Characterized by the Mayor's representative as honest and humble, Ms. Diego said she is a student of the Hawaiian language. She believes her knowledge of cultural practices, paired with her care for the well-being of Maui County's kūpuna and keiki will be beneficial to the Independent Nomination Board. Ms. Diego said she plans to nominate individuals to various County seats who have integrity and dependability, and who understand the responsibilities of the positions they hold.

Kilia Waiomina Ilona Purdy-Avelino is the Mayor's nominee for the Molokai residency area. Ms. Purdy-Avelino is a teacher at Kanu o ka 'Āina New Century Public Charter School and a Hawaiian studies and Hawaiian language lecturer at the University of Hawaii Maui College. Ms. Purdy-Avelino previously worked as the Native Hawaiian Library Coordinator for Alu Like, Inc. and served as president of the Ho'olehua Homesteaders Association, president of Ahupua'a o Molokai, and a board member of Punana Leo o Molokai Hui Makua. Ms. Purdy-Avelino said her family's lineage is tied to Ho'olehua, Molokai and she knows her community well because of her active involvement in serving its people and 'āina. The Mayor's representative said she is responsible, deeply rooted in her culture, and someone who is passionate about community service.

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Ms. Purdy-Avelino said she would like to see members of the native Hawaiian community and generational ‘ohana represented in appointed positions in the County.

Your Committee expressed support for the nominees and thanked them for their willingness to serve.

Your Committee recommended approval of Viola Kauakea Diego (East Maui) and Kilia Waiomina Iona Purdy-Avelino (Molokai) as members to the Independent Nomination Board and amended Resolution 24-15 accordingly.

Your Committee voted 7-0 to recommend adoption of Resolution 24-15, CD1. Committee Chair U‘u-Hodgins and members Cook, Johnson, Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and Sugimura voted “aye.” Committee Vice-Chair Paltin and member Kama were excused.

Your Committee is in receipt of Resolution 24-15, CD1, approved as to form and legality by the Department of the Corporation Counsel, incorporating your Committee’s recommended revisions and nonsubstantive revisions.

Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee **RECOMMENDS** that Resolution 24-15, CD1, as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled “APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE INDEPENDENT NOMINATION BOARD FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI,” be **ADOPTED**.

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This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



NOHELANI U'U-HODGINS, Chair

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Resolution

No. 24-15, CD1

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE INDEPENDENT NOMINATION BOARD FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI

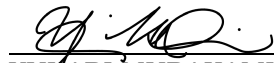
WHEREAS, by correspondence dated January 29, 2024, Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr. notified the Council he nominated the persons listed in Exhibit “A,” as attached, as members to the Independent Nomination Board for the County of Maui, in accordance with Section 13-2, Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended (“Charter”); and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 13-2(15) requires the Mayor’s nominees to be approved by the Council; now, therefore,

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

1. That it approves the appointments of the persons listed in Exhibit “B,” as attached, as members to the Independent Nomination Board for the terms specified;
2. That it hereby disapproves the appointments of the persons listed in Exhibit “C,” as attached, as members to the Independent Nomination Board as nominated by the Mayor;
3. That the Council expresses its gratitude and appreciation to the appointed members 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 the Mayor and the Managing Director.

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGALITY:



YUKARI MURAKAMI

Deputy Corporation Counsel

LF2024-0098

2024-01-25 INB Mass Nom (Term TDB).docx

NOMINATED MEMBERS AND TERMS

Independent Nomination Board

Viola Kauakea Diego
(East Maui)

Term Expiration TBD

Kilia Waiomina Ilona Purdy-Avelino
(Molokai)

Term Expiration TBD

APPROVED MEMBERS AND TERMS

Independent Nomination Board

Viola Kauakea Diego
(East Maui)

Term Expiration TBD

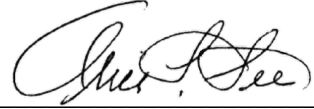
Kilia Waiomina Ilona Purdy-Avelino
(Molokai)

Term Expiration TBD

DISAPPROVED MEMBERS

Independent Nomination Board

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

ALICE L. LEE

Upon the request of the Mayor.