

## PEA Committee

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**From:** Mahina Lopes <mahinal@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 10, 2017 7:05 PM  
**To:** PEA Committee; Yukilei Sugimura; Stacy S. Crivello; Alike A. Atay; Robert Carroll; Elle Cochran; Donald S. Guzman; Riki Hokama; Kelly King; Mike White  
**Subject:** Testimony-Dec11-PEA-2(19)

December 10, 2017

Testimony for agenda item PEA-2(19), December 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 meeting.

Aloha Committee members,

At the November 13th 2017 PEA committee meeting, I testified from Molokai in opposition of the appointments of both parties listed on agenda item PEA-2(19). My testimony of opposition was applied to both potential appointees Sprinzel and Adolpho. At that time, I shared two concerns, one is with commitment to attendance, a concern that I still have not only with prospective new commissioners, but with existing ones as well. The attendance problem was only worsened by the resignation of 3 commissioners within the month of September, which resulted in the cancellation of 2 consecutive meetings immediately after calling the meetings to order. The other concern is the frustration and dissatisfaction of not being able to see the list of MoPC applicants. I do not know either applicant personally and would have given the same testimony regardless of who they were, as my concerns were generalized and applicable to anyone. Just to be clear my testimony at that meeting had nothing to do with Monsanto (\*minutes can prove this). I am still opposed to appointing Mr. Adolpho to the MoPC for concerns stated at the Nov. 13 meeting, as well as an additional concern described below.

In recent days it has been brought to my attention that Mr. Adolpho used social media to voice his frustration with the individuals who testified in opposition to his appointment. In a post on his page, he bases an unsubstantiated suspicion as the absolute reason for public opposition to his appointment. In this post he writes: (quotations shortened for relevance, full quotations and conversation thread can be provided if requested or accessed on Facebook as this post is currently public)

*"A couple of months ago, I was asked by the mayor's office to fill a vacant seat on the Molokai Planning Commission. Since then I have learned that there are some people (6 to be exact) on Molokai that testified against me receiving that seat, with the thinking that I have ill intentions for our community. This has led to the idea that there is "major opposition from the island of Molokai" for a few members of the Maui county council. If this was indeed the feelings of the community, then I would not only withdraw, but seriously self evaluate on what I have done to cause such a notion...however, i honestly believe that the statements made by these few individuals, have everything to do with me working for Monsanto (which...yeah, dont work there anymore...), and nothing to do with my character..."*

This post received replies that included:

*"...it's a shame when people want to disparage you simply because they associate you with Monsanto, and completely dismiss the entirety of your character, your roots, and your genuine love for our island..."*

*"It is sad and very unfortunate that people allow others to influence them in making decisions simply because they associate someone with Monsanto, and not for who that person really is!!"*

This statement made by Mr. Adolpho intentionally and publicly accuses testifiers of hiding ulterior Anti-Monsanto motives behind the guise of other concerns and works to invalidate and dismiss legitimate testimony. I do not recall any testifiers citing his Monsanto employment history as a reason for their opposition yet Mr. Adolpho imposes this false narrative and promotes it as truth, he put words in the mouths of testifiers that they never said, and further he solicited public support based on this allegation against testifiers which is misleading and demonstrates questionable ability to represent the public in a fair and neutral way. Mr. Adolpho had the opportunity to conduct proper due diligence before publicly accusing testifiers of possessing these suspected ulterior motives. Further Mr. Adolpho provides no proof to back up his claim.

The Molokai Planning Commission uses findings of facts and conclusions of law to render decisions that are founded in solid evidence to support positions. This behavior by Mr. Adolpho calls into question his ability to operate by that procedure. This is not a guessing game where commissioners get to manipulate and interpret my testimony to mean what they want it to. I said I have concerns about attendance, yet it means that I am against someone's ill intentions, that I am anti-Monsanto? That is completely illogical and unacceptable decision making. As a commissioner, public scrutiny must be not only accepted but welcomed from members of the public you plan to serve as a public servant. Questioning a public servant with reasonable concerns cannot be met with any hostility or accusations..

I do not support appointing any individual to the MoPC who promotes misinformation by taking their own speculation and touting it as truth in order to advance their position. I do not support appointing any individual who has already intentionally misrepresented members of the public before even serving, which is what Mr. Adolpho has done.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Mahina Poepoe