

**PC Committee**

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**From:** Kilia Purdy-Avelino <kpurdyavelino@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 9:58 PM  
**To:** PC Committee  
**Subject:** Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner & Conservationists on Planning Commission

Aloha Planning Commission,

My name is Kilia Purdy-Avelino. I am from Molokai. I am a Hawaiian Language/Hawaiian Studies Instructor with my Masters Degree in Indigenous Language and Culture Education.

I support the bill to require two seats on the Maui, Moloka'i, and Lana'i Planning Commission for a Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner and Conservationist.

First of all, there are many kupuna practitioners that we (myself along with our homeschool program of 10 families and over 20 students), have been blessed to learn from. Some of these practitioners are the pioneers in what they do. For example: Mac Poepoe is well known across the state for promoting "pono" fishing practices going back to traditional ways of fishing and also for his movement of the CBSFA (Community Based Subsistence Fishing Areas); Herbert Hoe started the 'Ai Pono program before the idea of eating local was popular; Bobby Alcain was featured in videos relating to kalo in the 90s, and he continues to farm kalo, food plants, and medicinal plants, as he was also trained in la'au lapa'au under Papa 'Auwae. These are just a few of the practitioners that we learned from.

As far as conservationists, I'd like to believe that Molokai was the very first to make great strides in this area; many of the initial conservation efforts done by our own people, without money in the equation. Molokai started the 'Aha Kiole, now state-wide, whose mission is the protection of our natural resources. I mean, Molokai is known as the "last of the Hawaiian islands" because of our ability to protect and conserve our resources.

I know that Molokai has many qualified practitioners and conservationists. And, I know that this seat can and will be filled!! It would be in the best interest of our environment and our people to require these seats on the Planning Commission.

Mahalo,  
Kilia Purdy-Avelino

*"A'ohē hana nui ke alu 'ia!"  
No task is too great when done together!*