

Aloha esteemed Chair Victorino and Members of the Policy and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee:

SUBJECT: PIA-10(11) DESIGNATING PLANNING COMMISSION
SEATS FOR LEADERS OF HAWAIIAN CULTURAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GROUPS

I respectfully submit my testimony supporting Charter amendment PIA-10(11), which would amend the Maui County Charter to restructure the Maui, Lanai, and Molokai planning commissions and require commission members to attend training on Native Hawaiian legal issues.

This amendment would also require that a member of each planning commission have expertise in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. As a commissioner on the State Land Use Commission from 2010-2013 I fully understand the affects this would have on the Land Use process. Although opposition would argue that this requirement would slow down the land use process and perhaps even add to the cost of development and possible affordable housing, I strongly argue that this requirement would actually make the process faster and more efficient.

It was my observation that it was Maui County's lack of sufficient cultural studies that often slowed down the process and sparked community opposition towards various petitions. As the commissioner tasked with reviewing cultural impacts on the LUC, I was often disappointed with the CIS included in the EIS. If there was a cultural expert on the Planning Commission, that person would ensure that the CIS was well done and accurate, alleviating the back and forth transfer of petitions between the County and State.

Speaking to the requirement of commission members to attend training on Native Hawaiian legal issues, I feel that it is imperative that this be done at the County level. This type of training is already required at the State level. Most people born and raised in Hawai'i do not have a working knowledge of the accurate history of this place, much less the real, legal rights of the indigenous peoples of Hawai'i.

While I was at the LUC I witnessed commissioners who truly believed that anyone who talked about kuleana land titles were "sovereignty activists". This motivated our director to send the entire LUC to training at the William

RECEIVED AT PIA MEETING ON 6/1/16

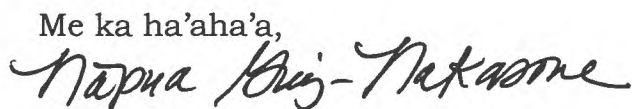
June 1, 2016

Page 2

Richardson School of Law, before Act 169 was signed into law in 2015. My fellow commissioners commented that this training was “eye opening” and they were surprised at how much they didn’t know. Mind you, 3 of the commissioners were attorneys.

I firmly believe this amendment and requirement will also aide in the efficiency of the land use process.

Me ka ha’aha’a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Napua Greig-Nakasone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some capitalization.

Napua Greig-Nakasone