

PIA Committee

From: Denise Fernandez
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2016 4:02 PM
To: PIA Committee
Subject: PIA Committee Meeting, August 29, 2016 - Testimonial form
Attachments: R Kaye Written testimony.pdf; M Peary testimonial form.pdf; R Kaye testimonial form.pdf; J Ornellas testimonial form.pdf; D DelaCruz testimonial form.pdf; S Kaye Written testimony.pdf; S Kaye testimonial form.pdf

Please find the attached testimonial forms and written testimony for Sally Kaye and Robin Kaye.

Denise

RE: Nomination Process for the Lana`i Planning Commission

As a former member and Chair of the Lana`i Planning Commission (LPC), I can't stress enough how important it is to have a cross-section of community members, to insure a healthy tension of differing viewpoints and a robust discussion of and consideration for all matters that come before the commission. This is the only home rule the community has, and "stacking" the commission with individuals that bring an inherent conflict of interest, by virtue of their employment, serves no one.

In 2009, the LPC members were a retired attorney, a MECO employee, a retired DOT employee, a social services provider, a farmer (with a lease from C&C), a county of Maui employee, two at large community members and one C&C employee. A review of our minutes over several years confirms many robust and sometimes contentious discussions, but not a single vote to disapprove a company application.

The nomination you are considering today reflects the 4th attempt to seat an ILWU member on the LPC, three of whom have never previously attended a single community meeting. This is especially troubling when there still exists a variety in the pool of individuals who have formally applied to serve, but their applications have gone unacknowledged and they've been passed over for no discernible or transparently-disclosed reason.

If one does receive a letter from Mayor Arakawa acknowledging an application to serve on a board or commission, it clearly states, "you may not meet the qualification needed for a particular board or commission on subject area expertise, such as, engineering, architecture, veterinary licenses or other professional expertise" and the applicant is urged to be patient during the selection process. Most of those that have applied over the past 3 years have received nothing.

The growing lack of trust in government, evident at the national and state level, is growing locally, how can it not? When the Planning Department is aware of an impending LPC vacancy in May or June, but no one is nominated until July 8, three days after a new application is abruptly submitted on July 5, there is something very, very wrong with the process. I urge you to reject membership in the ILWU as sufficient qualification to serve on the LPC. The appearance of impropriety and evident conflict of interest inherent in "stacking" the LPC may result in multiple ethics challenges.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify remotely.

Sally Kaye
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