

RES24-194

Testimony

MISC. COMM. 374

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH)

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH)

Meeting

Meeting Date: Aug 21, 2024 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 11

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Samantha Keaulana-Scott	samantha.keaulana@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2024 @ 02:05 PM
Testimony: Dear Chair Weyer, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and Members of this Committee, I am writing to submit my STRONGEST SUPPORT of the Mayor's nomination (MM129(24)) of Leanne Kealoha Fox to serve on the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu (Climate Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2028. I have known Kealoha for over seven years through her work in the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Aloha Care. Kealoha has been a change leader in initiatives directly impacting Native Hawaiians. I have known her to work closely and well with grassroots communities, various agencies, organizations at the local, state, national, and international levels. Her passion and advocacy for climate resistance is deeply embedded in her relentless passion for Native Hawaiian and Indigenous health. Kealoha's longtime advocacy to decrease inequities and gaps existing across Honolulu are an asset to the Commission's work to shift resources and policy into more just and equitable solutions centering the strength and leadership of frontline local knowledge, abilities, assets, relationships and wellbeing. I urge you to support RES24-194 and confirm Leanne Kealoha Fox to the Climate Commission. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure. Respectfully, Samantha Keaulana-Scott		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Rebecca Soon	rebecca.ji.soon@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 19, 2024 @ 05:38 PM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Elyse Butler	hi@elysebutler.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 20, 2024 @ 10:43 AM
Testimony: Dear Chair Weyer, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and Members of this Committee,		

I stand in strong SUPPORT of the Mayor's nomination (MM129(24)) of Leanne Kealoha Fox to serve on the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu (Climate Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2028.

I have known Kealoha for 5 years through her work at the Institute for Climate and Peace and the Obama Foundation. She is extremely knowledgeable about climate and health issues in Hawai'i, is connected to our island community and dedicated to her work in climate change, healthcare and uplifting balanced relationships between native Hawaiians and 'āina, and she has such a warm heart. Her advocacy shows how much she cares about Hawai'i and the local community and will create equitable and meaningful solutions for the problems facing our islands today.

I urge you to support RES24-194 and confirm Leanne Kealoha Fox to the Climate Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Respectfully,

Elyse Butler

Name: Colby Reed	Email: m.colby.reed@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 20, 2024 @ 10:44 AM
Name: Madelyn McKeague	Email: madelyn@hawaiiancouncil.org	Zip: 96707
Representing: Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 20, 2024 @ 11:08 AM
Name: Leinaala Ley	Email: lley@earthjustice.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Earthjustice	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 20, 2024 @ 12:13 PM
Name: Aimee Barnes	Email: aekbarnes@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 20, 2024 @ 01:27 PM
Name: David Gibson	Email: dgibson@hookakoo.org	Zip: 96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Ho'okāko'o Corporation	Support	Aug 20, 2024 @ 06:27 PM
Name: Theresa Kreif	Email: theresakreif@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 20, 2024 @ 09:31 PM
Name: Carol Hayashida	Email: cjhaya@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 21, 2024 @ 07:34 AM
Name: Christine Park	Email: cmparko1@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Aug 21, 2024 @ 11:25 AM

August 19, 2024

Committee on Housing, Sustainability, and Health

Chair Matthew Weyer

Vice Chair Esther Kiaʻāina

RE: **RESOLUTION 24-194 - Confirming the appointment of Dr. Leanne Kealoha Fox to serve on the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu**

Aloha Chair Weyer and Members of the Committee on Housing, Sustainability, and Health:

I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of the appointment of Dr. Kealoha Fox to serve on the Climate Change Commission.

Dr. Fox is a phenomenal leader in our generation - combining her robust academic work together with a deep understanding of our communities and the lens of indigenous knowledge, in such a way that inspires and offers hope to the most pressing issues of our time. Her service as the President of the Institute of Climate and Peace, an organization that works to solve climate change issues, and as a Commissioner for the Commission on Accelerating Climate Action, each bring important perspectives that will allow her to support the work of the City & County of Honolulu on day one.

I was excited to see that Dr. Fox is willing to ‘auamo kuleana in this way. Her leadership and ‘ike will be a tremendous asset for the important work of the Climate Change Commission. Mahalo for the opportunity to share support for your favorable consideration of her appointment.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca J. 'I. Soon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rebecca" being the most prominent part.

Rebecca J. 'I. Soon

Aloha –

I have been fortunate to work alongside Dr. Fox in a support capacity at AlohaCare for the the past four years, and more closely in a small group committee for about a year and a half. I was aware of her reputation as a leading mind on climate science, technology, and justice, as well as her leadership in bringing Native Hawaiian wellness practices into modern programming for whole body health care. Knowing this, I was admittedly a little nervous to work closely with her. But that feeling was quickly assuaged by her warmth, joyfullness, passion for equity, and generosity of spirit.

I believe her credentials and long history of working tirelessly to advance science, techonology, knowledge, climate justice, and ground support in defense of the land we are called to be responsible caretakers of can be spoken to more eloquently and in greater capacity by many of the folks who have endeavored with her in those pursuits. But I woud regret not speaking up to voice my strong support of her character, judgement, humanity, and passion for leading the Hawai'i of today into a Hawai'i that can not only recover from man-made climate chaos, but also thrive and regenerate and nurture the future generations that will call the 'aina of Hawai'i home.

I fully endorse and support her for this appointment to serve on the Climate Change Commission, and I know beyond a shadow of a doubt, the City and County of Honolulu would and will be well served by her brilliant mind, her genuine kindness, and her righteous pursuit of climate justice for all.

**Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement
91-1270 Kinoaiki St., Bldg. 1
Kapolei, HI 96707**

Honolulu City Council

Resolution 24-194, Confirming the Appointment of Dr. Leanna Kealoha Fox to Serve
on the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu

RE: Support of Dr. Kealoha Fox

August 21, 2024

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement writes in enthusiastic **support** of Dr. Leeanne Kealoha Fox's confirmation on the Komikina Loli Aniau, Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu. Dr. Fox's tenured experience in climate, health, and equity makes her an excellent candidate to continue the great work of her predecessors.

Dr. Fox's extensive training in biomedicine and working as a health professional on O'ahu would contribute to planning for changing health conditions due to climate change. She also brings her deep and purposeful training by esteemed community elders in traditional healing and ancient Native Hawaiian practices of 'oihana maui ola based on the balanced relationships between Kānaka and 'āina. By understanding both contemporary and traditional concepts of health, Dr. Fox has a valuable perspective needed by the Climate Commission.

Dr. Fox's breadth of experience and success is community-centered, demonstrated through her fair treatment and meaningful involvement and representation of the people within the communities we live and serve. Her longtime advocacy to decrease inequities and gaps existing across Honolulu are an asset to the Commission's work to shift resources and policy into more just and equitable solutions centering the strength and leadership of frontline local knowledge, abilities, assets, relationships and well-being.

As a Kānaka Maoli scientist, practitioner and business leader, Dr. Fox will bring expertise on climate, health, and community equity. From her experience as President of the Institute for Climate & Peace, she brings a recognition of just, peaceful, and sustainable solutions for thriving, cohesive communities. Her work as a technical contributor to the 5th National Climate Assessment is also a testament to the knowledge and competence she brings to an incredibly complex issue. For these reasons, we humbly ask that you **SUPPORT RES24-194** and Dr. Leeanne Kealoha Fox's confirmation. Her appointment would be a great benefit to the Commission, the City, and climate change work in Hawai'i.

E mālama,

Madelyn McKeague
Director of Advocacy



Matt Weyer, Chair
Esther Kiaʻāina, Vice Chair
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
Val Okimoto
Augie Tulba

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY, AND HEALTH
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Testimony in Strong Support of Resolution 24-194
Appointment of Dr. Leanne Kealoha Fox to Serve on the Climate Change Commission

Wednesday, August 21, 2024, 1:00 p.m.
City Council Chamber, 530 South King Street

Aloha Chair Weyer, Vice Chair Kiaʻāina, and Members of the Committee. Mahalo for considering this testimony.

Earthjustice is a non-profit law firm dedicated to protecting and restoring Hawaiʻi's natural and cultural resources, tackling the climate crisis, and fostering a just and equitable clean energy transition. Based on our decades of experience advancing the public interest in Hawaiʻi, Earthjustice submits this testimony in **strong support** of the Mayor's nomination (MM129(24)) of Dr. Leanne Kealoha Fox to serve on the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu ("Climate Commission").

Dr. Fox's résumé and credentials demonstrate she is ideally qualified to serve on the Climate Commission and fulfill its primary task of compiling the latest scientific information related to climate change. But the value Dr. Fox brings to the table goes well beyond her qualifications on paper. Earthjustice has witnessed first-hand Dr. Fox's deep commitment to serving individuals and communities that face the greatest degree of peril and loss from climate change, as well as her ability to represent and engage these communities because of her *lokomāikaʻi* (kindness), *haʻahaʻa* (humility), and *hana luhi* (hard work). Our staff and young clients were lucky to get to know Dr. Fox when she served as a *pro bono* expert witness in *Navahine v. Hawaiʻi Department of Transportation*, a youth-led climate lawsuit that culminated in a cooperative settlement with the State to decarbonize the transportation system.¹ Dr. Fox far exceeded our expectations for this

¹ See Ed Sniffen, Isaac Moriwake & Chris Benjamin, Op-Ed., "Together, we can shape climate future," Star Advertiser, July 31, 2024, <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2024/07/31/editorial/island-voices/column-together-we-can-shape-climate-future/>.

role by making extra time and space to understand the youth clients' individual experiences facing climate change harms with compassion, interest, and respect. Dr. Fox continues to extend mentorship and guidance to these youth beyond the lawsuit, as part of her personal commitment to community empowerment and climate action.

As an Indigenous scholar and health expert with training in both Western and Kānaka Maoli epistemologies, Dr. Fox would bring an invaluable perspective to the Climate Commission's vital work in developing guidance for addressing and mitigating climate change harms. It is well recognized that Indigenous communities stand on the frontlines of climate change, with damage to cultural resources and traditional landscapes being some of the earliest warning signs of oncoming climate harms. At the same time, indigenous practices of 'āina momona ("abundant" or "fat" land)—harnessing natural phenomena for human sustenance and improving natural ecosystems—can help inform policy solutions and mitigation measures. Given her training and years of community-based work, Dr. Fox is well situated to sound the alarm on problems facing Hawai'i's most vulnerable communities, and to develop policy solutions that incorporate and empower grassroots and indigenous solutions.

Finally, Dr. Fox's work in the healthcare field, with focus on the intersection between health and climate change, is critical as we continue to face more frequent and intense natural disasters. As the Lahaina wildfire tragedy made clear, mental health is an integral aspect of climate adaptation and disaster planning. Long-term climate planning for O'ahu should assess and integrate the healthcare capacity available to serve our densely populated island. The Climate Commission might also consider assessing resources available to treat likely "climate refugee" populations from U.S-controlled territories across the Pacific that will be hardest hit by sea-level rise and may seek a new home in Hawai'i. Dr. Fox uniquely possesses the diverse knowledge, skillset, and experience to help O'ahu address these challenges.

Mahalo again for considering this testimony in strong support of Dr. Fox's nomination to the Climate Commission. Please don't hesitate to contact us at lley@earthjustice.org or (808) 599-2436 if you have any questions.

/s/ Leinā'ala L. Ley

LEINĀ'ALA L. LEY

ISAAC H. MORIWAKE

KYLIE WAGER CRUZ

EARTHJUSTICE

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH
ATTN: CHAIR WEYER & VICE CHAIR KIA'ĀINA**

Testimony in Strong Support of RES24-194

Submitting for confirmation to the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor Appointee, LEANNE KEALOHA FOX, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Weyer, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Members of this Committee,

I, Aimee Barnes, testifying in my capacity as an individual, stand in strong SUPPORT of the Mayor's nomination (MM129(24)) of Leanne Kealoha Fox to serve on the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu (Climate Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2028. Kealoha's background in and dedication to health, climate, Native Hawaiian practices, and environmental justice make her a prime candidate to serve on the Climate Commission.

I have known Kealoha for several years primarily through her work as President of the Institute for Climate and Peace, in which she works to advance equitable and resilient climate solutions for Hawai'i. Kealoha was an instrumental partner in my work developing the Islands Fund for Climate and Justice, a first-of-its-kind pooled philanthropic fund supporting equitable climate solutions across islands globally. Kealoha's perspective is rooted in Native Hawaiian values and practices, a reflection of her deep and purposeful training by esteemed community elders in traditional healing and ancient Native Hawaiian practices of 'oihana maui ola based on the balanced relationships between Kānaka and 'āina. She is driven by justice, and has a keen ability to balance perspectives and make well-considered, fair decisions.

Kealoha's longtime advocacy to decrease inequities and gaps existing across Honolulu are an asset to the Commission's work to shift resources and policy into more just and equitable solutions centering the strength and leadership of frontline local knowledge, abilities, assets, relationships and wellbeing. Further, Kealoha's extensive training in biomedicine and working as a health professional on O'ahu would contribute to planning for changing health conditions due to climate change. Kealoha's breadth of experience is rooted in community-centered practices—a perspective which she would bring to the Climate Commission—demonstrated through the fair treatment and meaningful involvement and representation of the people within the communities we live and serve.

I urge you to support **RES24-194** and confirm Leanne Kealoha Fox to the Climate Commission. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Respectfully,



Aimee Barnes



COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH

Matt Weyer, Chair

Esther Kia'āina, Vice Chair

Testimony in Strong Support of RES24-194

Submitting for confirmation to the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor Appointee, LEANNE KEALOHA FOX, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Weyer, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Members of this Committee:

Ho'okāko'o Corporation stands in strong **SUPPORT** of the Mayor's nomination (MM129(24)) of **Leanne Kealoha Fox** to serve on the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu (Climate Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2028.

Ho'okāko'o is a nonprofit educational organization responsible for managing and governing Hawaiian-focused charter schools serving over 1,500 children in Hawai'i. Kealoha is in her second year as an effective member of our Board of Directors and chair of our Education Committee. She is a conscientious and engaged board member who demonstrates a sincere commitment to our children and families.

Kealoha's education in biomedicine and extensive work in the health profession and with the Native Hawaiian community are invaluable and unique assets in advocating for the needs of others while pursuing equitable and data-driven solutions for the people within the communities we serve. Kealoha would be a tremendous resource to the Climate Commission and the City and County of Honolulu.

I urge your support for RES24-194 and Leanne Kealoha Fox's confirmation to the Climate Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Respectfully,

David Y. Gibson, Executive Director

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH
ATTN: CHAIR WEYER & VICE CHAIR KIA'ĀINA**

Testimony in Strong Support of RES24-194

Submitting for confirmation to the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor Appointee, LEANNE KEALOHA FOX, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.

Dear Chair Weyer, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Members of this Committee,

I, Theresa Kreif, stand in strong SUPPORT of the Mayor's nomination (MM129(24)) of Leanne Kealoha Fox to serve on the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu (Climate Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2028.

I have known Kealoha for over 7 years through her work in leading initiatives related to Native Hawaiian health and wellbeing, specifically her guest lectures in the social work and public health masters level course I teach at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Thompson School of Social Work & Public Health.

Kealoha Fox's work as a health professional on O'ahu provide her with a unique perspective on the health challenges exacerbated by climate change. Her ability to integrate science with health and wellbeing expertise allows her to contribute effectively to planning for climate change.

Her advocacy for decreasing inequities and closing the gaps that persist across Honolulu further reinforces her commitment to justice and equity. Kealoha has consistently demonstrated her dedication to centering the strength and leadership of communities by working to identify resources and policies that move towards more just and equitable outcomes. Her ability to navigate complex systems with fairness and empathy is a testament to her integrity and the meaningful relationships she builds within the community.

I urge you to support **RES24-194** and confirm Leanne Kealoha Fox to the Climate Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Respectfully,
Theresa Kreif, MSW, LSW

Dear Chair Weyer, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Members of this Committee,

I am writing to express my strong SUPPORT of the Mayor's nomination (MM129(24)) of Leanne Kealoha Fox to serve on the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu (Climate Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2028.

I have the privilege of working closely with Kealoha over the past 3 ½ years to address health equity for our community, and I am confident that she will bring exceptional skills, insight, and dedication to this position. In our time working together, I have been particularly impressed by her commitment to equity, innovation, and her ability to collaborate. These qualities have not only contributed to her professional success but have also made a significant impact on our community. Kealoha is thoughtful, fair, and clear in her decision making and an ideal choice for this appointment.

Kealoha's longtime advocacy to decrease inequities and gaps across Oahu along with her passion and dedication to this work will be an asset to the Commission's work to shift resources and policy into more just and equitable solutions centering the strength and leadership of frontline local knowledge, abilities, assets, relationships and wellbeing.

I urge you to support **RES24-194** and confirm Leanne Kealoha Fox to the Climate Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Respectfully,

Carol Hayashida

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH
ATTN: CHAIR WEYER & VICE CHAIR KIA'ĀINA

Testimony in Strong Support of RES24-194

Submitting for confirmation to the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor Appointee, LEANNE KEALOHA FOX, for a term to expire 06-30-2028

Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.

Dear Chair Weyer, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Members of this Committee,

I stand in strong SUPPORT of the Mayor's nomination (MM129(24)) of Leanne Kealoha Fox to serve on the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu (Climate Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2028.

I have known Kealoha for over 3 years through her work with AlohaCare and the Institute for Climate and Peace. In the years that I have known Dr. Fox, I have always found her to be dedicated, kind, intelligent, organized, and a strong advocate. Over the years, we have collaborated on numerous projects centering on improving health equity through an understanding of the impacts of social determinants of health and the intersections of social and environmental inequities and health and economic outcomes.

Dr. Fox has extensive training in biomedicine and works as a health professional in Hawai'i. Through her role with AlohaCare, she has worked to improve health outcomes for disadvantaged communities across Hawai'i. She is well-versed in the needs and strengths of our communities and serves from a community-centered approach. She has many strengths, some of which include leadership skills, frontline local knowledge, and her ability to create and foster meaningful relationships. Throughout her career, she has also received training and gained purposeful experiences centered on traditional healing centered on the relationship of Kānaka and 'āina. Dr. Fox is also a leader outside of the health field. She actively works to address climate disruptions and its impact on our communities. This work is demonstrated through her role as the President of the Institute for Climate and Peace, where she has played a key part in the development of the first-ever wāhine-led climate toolkit for Hawai'i. Additionally, Kealoha has a valuable understanding of the cultural impacts of climate disruption and she is a champion for addressing the needs of our communities from a culturally responsive perspective. If approved to serve on the committee, she would be an essential component of the Climate Change Commission. I urge you to support **RES24-194** and confirm Leanne Kealoha Fox to the Climate Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Respectfully,



Dr. Christine Park, PhD, LMHC, NCC, REAT