

RES24-194
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 390

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Sep 4, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 16

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Hokulani Holt-Padilla	kumuhoku@gmail.com	96793
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 30, 2024 @ 01:12 PM
Testimony: ATTN: CHAIR WATERS & 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 Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Councilmembers, Hōkūlani Holt-Padilla 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. I have known Kealoha for over ten years through her work in our community. Kealoha's deep training in traditional healing by esteemed community elders and Native Hawaiian practices of 'oihana maui ola, based on the balanced relationships between Kānaka and 'āina, is part of her work but, more importantly, part of who she is. I know Kealoha's climate and health equity work and am confident she will make well-considered and fair decisions. Her personal and professional work deepens her desire to bring health to all. Kealoha's love for our Hawai'i will help her consider all needs brought to her. I am confident that she will fulfill her kuleana as she serves on the Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu. I urge you to support RES24-194 and confirm Leanne Kealoha Fox to the Climate Commission.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Josh Stanbro	joshua.stanbro@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Aug 30, 2024 @ 02:46 PM
Testimony: Dr. Fox is imminently qualified to serve on the Climate Commission and will be a knowledgeable voice on issues of climate, equity and health. I commend Mayor Blangiardi for this appointment and strongly support the confirmation by the City Council.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:

Noelani Puniwai	npuniwai@gmail.com	96749
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 1, 2024 @ 08:52 AM
Testimony: Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and Councilmembers, 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 a decade as a colleague and respect her perspectives and deep thought and commitment she has to Hawai'i. She has the knowledge, experience, and strength that is needed to help Hawai'i make these hard decisions. 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, Noelani Puniwai		
Name: Elsa Barron	Email: elsa@climateandpeace.org	Zip: 46617
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 1, 2024 @ 04:21 PM
Name: Wayne Tanaka	Email: wctanaka@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 2, 2024 @ 07:59 PM
Testimony: Aloha, Please accept this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of the appointment of Dr. Kealoha Fox to the Honolulu Climate Change Commission. I have personally witnessed Dr. Fox's dedication to addressing our climate crisis in all of its complex dimensions for over a decade now, from when we were both employees at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to her present day work with the Institute for Climate and Peace, and I can think of no one better qualified or positioned to help advise the City on the substantial and existential work that still must be done in order to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of our planetary emergency. I am fully confident that Dr. Fox will be a tremendous asset as a Commissioner to the City and to our islands as a whole as we all shoulder the kuleana to build a hopeful future for our keiki and future generations. Mahalo nui, Wayne Tanaka		
Name:	Email:	Zip:

Kristen Namba Reed	kristen.n.reed@gmail.com	96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 2, 2024 @ 09:48 PM
Name: Aimee Barnes	Email: aekbarnes@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 05:46 AM
Name: Leinaala Ley	Email: Lley@earthjustice.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Earthjustice	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 08:47 AM
Name: Institute Climate and Peace	Email: info@climateandpeace.org	Zip: 96822
Representing: Institute for Climate and Peace	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 08:53 AM
Name: Brytni K-aloha	Email: brytni@ekolumeanui.org	Zip: 96717
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 01:08 PM
Testimony: 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 Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Councilmembers, Brytni Kalei K-aloha 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. I have known Kealoha for 11 years through her work as Ka Pou Kāko'o Nui, Executive Manager & Special Assistant to Ka Pouhana Chief Executive Officer at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in 2015. I have witnessed her unwavering commitment to climate action and the preservation of our natural resources. Her dedication to addressing the pressing issues of climate change is not only admirable but also deeply rooted in her cultural practices and values. Kealoha's deep and purposeful training by esteemed community elders in traditional healing and ancient Native Hawaiian practices of 'oihana mauili ola		

based on the balanced relationships between Kānaka and ‘āina. Proves she is the appropriate candidate for this position.
As a Native Hawaiian Wahine I am proud to support Dr. Leanne Kealoha Fox for this important position.

Mahalo for your time,

Kalei K-aloha

Name: Jamee Miller	Email: jamee@ekolumeanui.org	Zip: 96717
Representing: Ekolu Mea Nui	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 01:09 PM
Name: Healani Goo	Email: healani.goo@gmail.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 03:12 PM
Name: Rosanna Alegado	Email: rosie.alegado@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 05:20 PM
Name: Breanna Rose	Email: brearosa@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 07:42 PM

Testimony:

CITY COUNCIL

ATTN: CHAIR WATERS & 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, September 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Aloha mai Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Councilmembers,

Breanna Rose 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.

I have known and worked closely with Kealoha for over ten-years through her work with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawai'i Green Growth and Aloha+ Challenge, the State Climate Commission, and the Obama Foundation's Asia Pacific Leaders.

Kealoha is a values-based servant leader who brings incredible expertise and professional experience working at the intersection of health, climate change, policy, culture, and community. She has long advocated for just, equitable solutions across sectors that affect the land, people, policy, and systems of O'ahu and Hawai'i. Her career of amplifying the voices of Native Hawaiian communities and Indigenous knowledge systems in public processes will greatly benefit the City and County of Honolulu and its residents. As a Commissioner, Kealoha would bring her wealth of expertise and her strong integrity and ability to make honest and fair decisions.

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.

Breanna Rose

Name: Gail Mukaihata Hannemann	Email: mukaihata@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 3, 2024 @ 10:33 PM
Name: Joanne Qina'au	Email: jo@pilinacenterforwellbeing.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Pilina Center for Wellbeing	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 4, 2024 @ 03:58 AM

Testimony:

Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and Councilmembers,

I, Jo Qina'au, born and raised on O'ahu, 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 12 years through her work at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, scholarship at JABSOM, and internationally renowned advocacy and leadership on the topic of climate change. Kealoha is someone who is mission-driven and moves through this world with great integrity. In the same way she honors her ancestors, she honors our beloved Hawai'i, and our collective mother earth - this comes across in the advocacy work she has engaged with for the

last several years. She is a trusted leader across many circles in our islands. Perhaps most importantly, I have no doubt her tenure in this position will reflect her thoughtful and reflective nature, characteristics deeply needed in these days of climate crisis. Indeed, if given the opportunity to serve in this position, Kealoha will do what is pono, what is right, fair, and balanced, for the future of generations to come.

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.

Mālama pono,

Jo

CITY COUNCIL
ATTN: CHAIR WATERS & 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, September 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Councilmembers,

I, Elsa Barron, 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 three years through her work at the Institute for Climate and Peace (ICP). Kealoha is a thoughtful leader who prioritizes consultation, care, and community. Kealoha's experience imagining and developing climate solutions led by frontline communities in Hawai'i will be a strong guide to develop just and equitable policy solutions for the City and County of Honolulu. I am confident that Kealoha will provide fair treatment and meaningful representation to all people this commission serves.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elsa Barron', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elsa Barron

CITY COUNCIL
ATTN: CHAIR WATERS & 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, September 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Councilmembers,

My name is Kristen Namba Reed and 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.

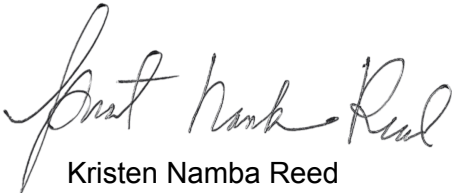
I have known Kealoha for a year through her work at both AlohaCare and the Institute for Climate and Peace where she weaves climate and health scholarship, community and culturally-rooted solutions, and Native Hawaiian practice to develop frameworks of health equity and dignity. Through her commitment to a collective thriving of Kānaka in a balanced relationship with 'āina and her work addressing changing health conditions due to climate change, Kealoha will bring extensive expertise and fair guidance to the Climate Commission.

Her community-focused approach centers frontline, local communities through trust-building, communicative processes and aligned outcomes for lasting change. I have no doubt that Kealoha will serve on the Climate Commission with considerate leadership, seeking just and equitable resource allocations. Her purposeful mentorship with esteemed 'oihana maui ola practitioners and training in biomedicine guides her analysis, actions, and awareness of the impact of climate change on critical issues of health and community wellness. During her service on the Climate Commission, Kealoha will seek equitable solutions and policies that meaningfully represent our local communities.

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,



Kristen Namba Reed

**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
ATTN: CHAIR WATERS & 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, September 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Councilmembers,

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



Tommy Waters, Chair & Presiding Officer
Esther Kiaʻāina, Vice Chair
Radiant Cordero, Floor leader
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
Val A. Okimoto
Calvin K.Y. Say
Augie Tulba
Andria Tupola
Matt Weyer

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, September 4, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
City Council Chamber, 530 South King Street

Aloha Chair Water, Vice Chair Kiaʻāina, and Members of the Honolulu City Council:

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 Resolution 24-194 approving the appointment 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 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

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/>.

September 3, 2024

Aloha mai kākou, greetings,
Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Councilmembers,

The Institute for Climate and Peace's 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.

Specially, our climate justice and peace building civil society non-profit organization is Indigenous led by biomedical scientist, activist, mother, and traditional healer Dr. Kealoha Fox who serves as our President and oversees operations of all programs and administration to extend our mission and vision for climate resilient future through a sacred Indigenous foundation.

Knowing her personal, professional, and academic record during her time at the Institute for Climate & Peace, Dr. Kealoha Fox is the perfect candidate to step into this position, who, with passion and determination, drives the development of our communities and perpetuates her rich cultural heritage throughout O'ahu and beyond. As a woman leader who stewards our regional community of practice, we believe The City would be proud to have Kealoha among your Commissioners who are developing comprehensive solutions to environmental problems by formally training and working in climate change and sustainability for many years through cultural values, traditional skills, sciences, and leadership.

Our Institute consists of independent and interdisciplinary projects amplifying thought leadership of young people that amplifies the power of Indigenous knowledge to protect the planet and people during the climate crisis. Kealoha leads to an effective group dynamic with our core team members of our Board, advisors, external partners, local experts, and internal staff. Her project leadership brings out the best ideas, metrics, and outcomes that continue today. In the first half of this year, ICP has completed 96 projects and events that have resulted in 1,939 direct touchpoints and 2,267 indirect touchpoints. Our small team has reached a total of 4,206 touchpoints! In comparison to 2023, our project count has increased with ICP being a lead and co-producer of 17 projects of the 96 projects as we forge our own identity and stake in the space our organization operates.

Kealoha astutely and courageously leads the ongoing offerings in our Institute to develop new knowledge and interest in the following areas: Climate change, peacebuilding concepts, justice, social responsibility and community values, ecological models, Indigenous innovation, food, water, and information and data for policy transformation. Her core work areas here since 2021 include: Data and research, policy and advocacy, communications, planning, network leadership support, events and programming, Board and public relations, and other areas that emerge within the flexible nature of climate work. Additionally, her subject matter expertise and orientation toward social justice are personal characteristics that you will experience while you listen to her ideas and actions for the future that we might all consider in the years ahead. Kealoha is a leader with an astounding resume for her age and someone who truly walks amongst the spirit of her ancestors.

On behalf of the team, we urge you to support RES24-194 and confirm Leanne Kealoha Fox to the Climate Commission. She is a truly exceptional young Native Hawaiian woman, has a superior community record across all of Hawai'i, and is a standout appointee.

Warmly,
Institute for Climate & Peace



INSTITUTE FOR
CLIMATE & PEACE



August 2, 2024

Dear Members of the Komikina Loli Aniau,

We are writing to express our strong support for Dr. Leanne Kealoha Fox nomination to fill the upcoming seat on the Komikina Loli Aniau, Climate Change Commission of the City and County of Honolulu. As a passionate advocate and scientist for environmental sustainability and the well-being of our islands, Dr. Leanne Kealoha Fox is an ideal candidate for this vital role.

We have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Leanne Kealoha Fox for 11 years, during which time we have witnessed her unwavering commitment to climate action and the preservation of our natural resources. Her dedication to addressing the pressing issues of climate change is not only admirable but also deeply rooted in her cultural practices and values. These practices and values ground her understanding of the unique environmental challenges our islands face. To help better inform her approach to climate action, ensuring that any solutions she advocates for are both culturally respectful and sustainable.

Dr. Leanne Kealoha Fox brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in advocating for climate action in our islands, especially to highlight the nexus between climate, health, and equity. As the current Commissioner to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences commission on Accelerating Climate Action and former commissioner of the State of Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission, she has consistently demonstrated their ability to engage with diverse stakeholders, collaborate effectively, and advocate for policies that promote resilience and sustainability.

Her vision for the future of our islands is one where communities are empowered to take action, where cultural practices are respected and integrated into climate solutions, and where the voices of our people are heard in decision-making processes. We are confident that Dr. Fox will be an invaluable asset to the Commission, bringing fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and a deep commitment to the well-being of our islands and future generations.

Thank you for considering Dr. Leanne Kealoha Fox for this important role. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamee Māhealani Miller, EdD and Kalei K-Aloha

Co-Executive Directors

‘Ekolu Mea Nui

CITY COUNCIL

ATTN: CHAIR WATERS & VICE CHAIR KIA'ĀINA

RE: 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

September 3, 2024

Dear Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Councilmembers,

Healani Goo 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.

I have known Kealoha for the past 2 and a half years through our work together at the Institute for Climate and Peace. Kealoha is a mentor of mine and we worked together on numerous projects that address the intersections between health and well-being, climate change, peacebuilding, and equity through community-based programming, publications and research, policy recommendations, and more. Being able to work closely alongside Kealoha has been inspiring as she continues to ensure more just and equitable solutions are possible through the strength and leadership of frontline local knowledge, young people, women+, and BIPOC groups.

As a young Native Hawaiian woman, I can personally attest to the impact her knowledge, guidance, and support has meant for me academically, professionally, and personally. Her work and presence has been a cornerstone of hope for younger generations like mine through her commitment to building intergenerational solidarity for issues as large and intersectional as climate change.

Kealoha is kind, supportive, and a tenacious leader that will have a lasting impact in Hawai'i through her advocacy and love for the 'aina and the people. I am confident that she will be an asset as a commissioner to the city and I couldn't imagine anyone more capable.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Healani Goo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Healani Goo

**CITY COUNCIL
ATTN: CHAIR WATERS & 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, September 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Councilmembers,

My name is Rosie Alegado and 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 Change Commission) for a term to expire June 30, 2028.

I recently had the privilege of serving on the Climate Change Commission from June 2017 through August 2024, which included tenure as Chair and Vice Chair of the commission. While the Climate Change Commission, I felt it was critical to bring attention to the needs and concerns of Native Hawaiian communities and cultural practitioners. I have known Kealoha for 6 years through her work first with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and more recently through her climate work with the Institute for Climate and Peace. Indeed, Kealoha's background in Native Hawaiian healing practices as well as her extensive experience in advocacy around ameliorating inequality will ensure that these voices will continue to be foregrounded in guidance documents and recommendations published by the Climate Change Commission.

Her extensive experience across multiple disciplines that intersect climate change demonstrate her ability to be an effective member of the Commission. Therefore 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,



Rosanna 'Anolani Alegado

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kiaina, and Councilmembers,

My name is Gail Mukaihata Hannemann. I am submitting testimony in unequivocal 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 first came to know Kealoha a decade ago because of our common interests in health, environment, the arts, and other related issues. I was immediately intrigued by her inquisitive mind, her ability to synthesize and explain complex matters in relatable terms, and her passion and drive to make a difference in this world. So much so, that in my capacity as the then Chair of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF), I recruited her to serve on the Board of Directors of this national policy organization that focuses on addressing health-related inequities and opportunities for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. Her on-going contributions have been immeasurable.

Beyond APIAHF, we have continued to collaborate on community-based projects. One being the Girls Opportunity Alliance, a project of the Obama Foundation. In this situation she once again demonstrated her ability to forge connections and relationships between and among members of the community, and national and global leaders. As a result of a thoughtful and well-organized program, the high school age girl participants were able to discuss a wide range of thorny issues, including gender biases, social justice, and the plight of our hurting planet. What was remarkable is they all walked away inspired to pursue their dreams of making positive imprints and impacts in the world.

In all that Kealoha does, she does so with great integrity, creativity, and compassion. Case in point is the journey she took in pursuit of completing her Ph.D. dissertation. Kealoha took a deep dive into the past and present Native Hawaiian practices of healing and wellness with an eye towards future implications. Her work stood out not only for her academic rigor and prowess but also for the way in which she honored and demonstrated respect for the kupunas and other practitioners who are the caretakers of this knowledge. Equally impressive were the opportunities she created for others, particularly aspiring researchers, to be involved in this massive undertaking.

In closing, I urge you to support **RES24-194** and confirm Leanne Kealoha Fox to the Climate Commission. Kealoha has an innate ability to consider many compatible and competing factors and then develop policies and programs that are designed to address root causes and influence behavioral changes. What makes her particularly effective is

her gift of being able to humanize science in ways that are understandable and relevant. She is an effective and solution-oriented leader that brings promise, hope, and optimism in these trouble times. The residents of the City and County of Honolulu will truly benefit from her multidiscipline approach to the difficult and compelling work of the Climate Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure of great importance.