RES26-100
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 176

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: May 13, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 4

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mana Caceres	couldnttakethemana@gmail.com	96707
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Caceres ʻohana	Support	May 8, 2026 @ 02:16 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters,

My family and I have had the honor of knowing Aunty Lani Lapilio for many years through our shared work involving the protection and stewardship of historic and cultural resources on Oʻahu. Over the years, we have come to deeply respect her professionalism, integrity, and longstanding commitment to the preservation of Hawaiʻi's cultural heritage.

Aunty Lani brings extensive experience and intimate knowledge of both state and federal historic preservation processes, particularly as they relate to historic properties, cultural resources, and iwi kūpuna. Her work as a cultural and historic preservation consultant has given her a strong understanding of the complex legal, procedural, and cultural responsibilities involved in these matters.

Equally important, she approaches this work with genuine care, respect, and dedication to the communities and cultural resources impacted by these decisions. Her knowledge, experience, and balanced perspective would make her an incredible asset to the Oʻahu Historic Preservation Commission.

I strongly support her appointment and believe she would serve the Commission and the people of Oʻahu with great distinction.

Ola nā iwi,

Mana Kaleilani Cáceres and Caceres ʻohana

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Pikachu Shelby Billionaire	presidentbillionaire@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Ohana Unity Party	Support	May 9, 2026 @ 06:53 PM

Testimony:

I support your appointment!

Good Luck!

PIkachu

#Aloha & May The Force Be With You Always

Name:	Email:	Zip:

Melody MacKenzie	melodykmackenzie@gmail.com	96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 10, 2026 @ 10:59 AM
Name: Kiersten Faulkner	Email: kiersten@historichawaii.org	Zip: 96817
Representing: Historic Hawaii Foundation	Position: Support	Submitted: May 12, 2026 @ 12:21 PM

Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie, Esq.
Kailua, Hawai‘i 96734

Testimony in Support of Resolution 26-100
Confirming the Appointment of Lani Lapilio to Serve on the O‘ahu Historic Preservation Commission of the City and County of Honolulu.

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Tupola, and Members of the Honolulu City Council:

I write to express my **strong support** for the confirmation of Lani Lapilio to serve on the O‘ahu Historic Preservation Commission of the City & County of Honolulu. I am a Professor Emerita at the William S. Richardson School of Law and the Founding Director of Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at the Law School. I submit this testimony in my personal capacity.

I have known Ms. Lapilio for many years and have worked closely with her on the Board of Hika‘alani, a non-profit cultural organization whose mission is to re-establish centers of learning and stewardship at storied places in the ahupua‘a of Kailua, O‘ahu. In addition, we are both members of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, the Native Hawaiian Bar Association, and also have a bond through Hālau Mōhala ‘Ilima.

As Ms. Lapilio’s information shows, she has spent many years working on issues related to historic and cultural preservation. I know her from her time at the Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center, where she established the foundation for a thriving and valuable resource on the legal history of Hawai‘i. Prior to that, she worked at OHA advising the Trustees and administration on historic preservation and iwi kūpuna issues. She also had many years of historic consultation and preservation experience as a Principal at Ku‘iwalu, before opening her own firm, Aukahi Cultural Consulting, in 2008.

I have always found Ms. Lapilio to be thorough in her cultural and historical research and in sharing information in an appropriate and thoughtful way. She is very familiar with and understands both the federal and state historic preservation processes, and her consultant work has given her a deep understanding of many complicated legal and procedural issues. Most importantly, she has always put the interests of our cultural and historical resources as her first priority providing the best advice to preserve and protect our knowledge, places, iwi kūpuna, and culture.

With her years of experience in historic preservation and her deep commitment to Hawai‘i and its people, Ms. Lapilio is an excellent choice to be a member of the Commission.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in **strong support** of the confirmation of Lani Lapilio to serve on the O‘ahu Historic Preservation Commission of the City and County of Honolulu.

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To: The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair & Presiding Officer
The Honorable Andria Tupola, Vice Chair
Honolulu City Council

From: Kiersten Faulkner
Executive Director, Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Hearing Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Honolulu Hale, City Council Chamber

Subject: **Resolution 26-100 Confirming the Appointment of Lani Ma'a Lapilio O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing in strong support for confirming the appointment of Lani Lapilio to serve on the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission for a term to end in June 2031.

The purpose of the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission is to establish a means by which the City & County of Honolulu can formulate and implement a comprehensive program for the identification and preservation of historic and cultural resources on O'ahu. The composition of the OHPC is required to include professionally qualified members in the fields of archaeology, architecture, history and planning, as well as knowledge of traditional Hawaiian society and culture. The commissioners shall have professional, educational or work experience to identify, protect, preserve and restore historic properties.

Ms. Lapilio is well qualified for this position. Her experience and knowledge of both historic preservation laws and regulations, and a deep and abiding commitment to Native Hawaiian culture and community, will be strong assets for the Commission. Ms. Lapilio is the founder and principal of Aukahi Cultural Consulting, which specializes in navigating the regulatory processes for protection of iwi kūpuna and other native Hawaiian cultural resources. She specializes in difficult consultations for community engagement and outreach. She holds a law degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law and a Graduate Certificate in Historic Preservation from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Ms. Lapilio represents Hawai'i on the Board of Advisors for the National Trust for Historic Preservation and is a Cultural Advisor to Historic Hawai'i Foundation. She has extensive community experience with the Kailua and Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Native Hawaiian Bar Association, the Hawai'i Heritage Center and the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities. She treats all stakeholders with respect, dignity and courtesy, seeking common ground and pono outcomes.

For these reasons, Historic Hawai'i Foundation supports Resolution 26-100 confirming Lani Lapilio to serve on the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission.