REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ZONING & PLANNING

Voting Members:
Esther Kia'āina, Chair; Tommy Waters, Vice-Chair;
Radiant Cordero, Val A. Okimoto, Andria Tupola

Committee Meeting Held
May 21, 2026

Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Zoning & Planning, which considered Resolution 26-100 entitled:

"RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF LANI LAPILIO TO SERVE ON THE O'AHU HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION,"

transmitted by Mayor's Message 58 (2026), dated April 24, 2026, from the Office of the Mayor, introduced on April 29, 2026, and was the subject of a public hearing held at the Council meeting on May 13, 2026, reports as follows:

The purpose of Resolution 26-100 is to confirm the appointment of Lani Ma'a Lapilio to serve on the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission ("Commission"") of the City and County of Honolulu for a term to expire on June 16, 2031. Ms. Lapilio is an attorney, cultural consultant, and owner of Aukahi Cultural Consulting, and will provide representation on the Commission in the Hawaiian culture discipline.

The Commission identifies, protects, and preserves historic properties and artifacts in the City, and formulates City-wide comprehensive historic preservation policies, programs, and plans.

At your Committee's meeting on May 21, 2026, Ms. Lapilio introduced herself, expressed her willingness to serve on the Commission, and responded to questions from Councilmembers. Ms. Lapilio expressed that she is prepared to serve on the Commission to preserve, perpetuate, and mālama (take care of) iwi kūpuna (Native Hawaiian ancestral remains), our history, our culture, and our traditional knowledge

ADOPTED ON JUN 3 2026

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systems. She stated that throughout her career she has worked to bridge the worlds of government, project proponents, community, and cultural practice, ensuring that decisions affecting our āina (land) and our wahi kūpuna (ancestral place) are approached with cultural sensitivity, cultural understanding, and deep respect for ike kūpuna (ancestral knowledge). She also stated that our cultural sites, our landscapes, and our traditional practices connect us to our ancestors, to our identity, and to the generations that come after us. She indicated that historic preservation is not simply about protecting structures or documenting sites, it is about safeguarding the stories, the values, the traditions, and the cultural memory that continue to live within these places. For Ms. Lapilio, her appointment is not simply a role, it is a kuleana (responsibility and privilege) and deeply personal.

In response to a question from a Councilmember, Ms. Lapilio indicated that the State Historic Preservation Division ("SHPD") is overwhelmed with work, has very little resources, and is understaffed. The Commission should try its best to collaborate with SHPD to determine where the systemic gaps are, and attempt to work out a solution.

After questioning from the Committee Chair, Ms. Lapilio stated that the primary kuleana of the burial councils are the burial treatment plans, which determine whether burials are to be preserved in place, or allowed to be relocated. There is a preference in the law that burials be preserved in place. The burial councils also provide advice on other matters such as preparing for archaeological inventory surveys. Lack of quorum on the burial councils could delay projects moving forward, and is a long-standing problem. When asked about whether another agency, such as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs ("OHA"), can make decisions on burial treatment plans if a burial council has difficulty maintaining quorum, it was pointed out that OHA would need to be granted such authority under State law.

A representative of the Department of Planning and Permitting testified in support of Ms. Lapilio's appointment and the proposed CD1 version of the Resolution.

Your Committee received no verbal public testimony on the Resolution.

Your Committee received written testimony in support of Ms. Lapilio's appointment from Ko'olau Foundation.

Your Committee has prepared a CD1 version of the Resolution that makes the following amendments:

A. Amends the resolution title to read as follows:

"CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF LANI MA'A LAPILIO TO SERVE ON THE O'AHU HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU."

B. Separates the third WHEREAS clause, relating to commissioner qualifications, into two WHEREAS clauses:

1. In the third WHEREAS clause, includes the list of disciplines (academic fields of study) that commissioners are selected from; and

2. In the fourth WHEREAS clause, details the expertise and knowledge commissioners must possess, and that the Mayor is required to seek recommendations on Commission appointments from community, professional, and ethnic organizations.

C. In the seventh WHEREAS clause, provides that the Mayor appointed Lani Ma'a Lapilio to the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission by Mayor's Message 58 (2026).

D. In the eighth WHEREAS clause, provides that Lani Ma'a Lapilio will succeed Kai E. White, whose term will expire on June 16, 2026, serve for a term to expire on June 16, 2031, and provide representation in the Hawaiian culture discipline.

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E. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

Your Committee finds that Lani Ma'a Lapilio meets all qualifications required to serve as a member on the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission.

Your Committee on Zoning & Planning is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 26-100 , as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as Resolution 26-100, CD1. (Ayes: Cordero, Kia'āina, Okimoto, Tupola, Waters – 5; Noes: None.)

Respectfully submitted,

Committee Chair

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. **26-100, CD1**

RESOLUTION

CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF LANI MA'A LAPILIO TO SERVE ON THE O'AHU HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

WHEREAS, Section 6-1518, Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition), as amended ("Charter"), establishes a O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission ("Commission") consisting of nine members; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 6-1518 sets forth the powers, duties, and functions of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 3-10.3(b), Revised Ordinances of Honolulu ("ROH"), the members of the Commission must be appointed from among professionals and individuals with special interest in the following disciplines:

(1) Architecture;

(2) History;

(3) Archaeology;

(4) Planning:

(5) Architectural history;

(6) Hawaiian culture;

(7) Anthropology;

(8) Ethnography; and

(9) Sociology;

provided that the Commission must include an expert in Native Hawaiian culture issues and concerns and in archaeology; and

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, ROH Section 3-10.3 (b) further requires that:

1. All members of the Commission have:

    a. Professional, educational, or demonstrated work experience, or a combination thereof, in the disciplines listed above and reflect an ethnic diversity to carry out the purposes of the Commission to identify, protect, preserve, and restore historic properties and artifacts of all ethnic cultures; and

    b. A demonstrated interest, competence, and knowledge in historic preservation; and

2. The Mayor solicit lists of two or more persons, recommended by the community and professional organizations, and appropriate ethnic organizations dedicated to preserving unique cultural heritages, including but not limited to the Center for Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the Hawai'i Civic clubs, the Honolulu Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and others, for consideration in making Commission appointments; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 13-103, which applies to the Commission, requires that appointees to the Commission be registered voters of the City and County of Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Charter Section 13-103, Commission members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council ("Council") to serve staggered five-year terms; and

WHEREAS, by Mayor's Message 58 (2026), dated April 24, 2026, the Mayor has appointed Lani **Ma'a** Lapilio to the Commission; and

WHEREAS, if confirmed by the Council, Lani **Ma'a** Lapilio will succeed Kai E. White, whose term will expire on June 16, 2026, serve for a term to expire on June 16, 2031, and provide representation in the Hawaiian culture discipline; and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed Lani **Ma'a** Lapilio's qualifications and character and finds that she is qualified to serve on the Commission; now, therefore,

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. **26-100, CD1**

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it confirms the appointment of Lani Ma'a Lapilio to the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission for a term expiring on June 16, 2031; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Lani **Ma'a** Lapilio for her willingness to be considered for public service and actively participate in City government; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Chair of the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission, the Director of Planning and Permitting, and Lani Ma'a Lapilio.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tommy Waters (br)

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

April 29, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

OCS2026-0296/5/15/2026 11:15 AM

Report Title:
Appointment; Confirmation; Boards and Commissions; O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission; Oahu Historic Preservation Commission; Department of Planning and Permitting ("DPP")

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