



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

February 22, 2023

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi and Speaker Saiki:

I am sending this letter to wholeheartedly endorse Kali Watson as the Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, where he shall serve as Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

Kali served a successful term as DHHL Director from January 1995 to December 1998. As DHHL Director, Kali navigated the State Legislature's approval and funding of an unprecedented \$600 million settlement between DHHL and the State of Hawai'i, which included the transfer of over 16,500 acres of State lands to the Hawaiian Homes Trust. During his tenure, he coordinated the development of over 3,100 residential lots of Hawaiian Home Lands and facilitated the transfer of over 900 acres of Federal lands into the Hawaiian Homes Trust under the federal Hawaiian Home Lands Recovery Act of 1995.

A graduate of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law, Kali has been at the forefront of Hawaiian issues for over 40 years. His background includes work at the 1978 State Constitutional Convention, Deputy Attorney General of the State of Hawai'i, legal counsel for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Chairman of the Hawai'i State Housing Directors and Administrators under the Benjamin A. Cayetano Administration. Since 2000, Kali has led the Hawaiian Community Development Board (HCDB), a non-profit he established to stimulate housing, community, and economic development initiatives for families on Hawaiian Homes Lands.

His work continues today—he is not done. Kali's qualifications and dedication to public service allow me the opportunity to entrust my confidence that Kali dutifully serve Hawai'i as the Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Mahalo,

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i