I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Colette Machado calls the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 10:04 am. Roll call is taken; Trustees Ahuna, Akana, Akina, Apo, Carmen Hulu Lindsey, Robert Lindsey, Machado are present; constituting a quorum. An excused absence has been recieved from Trustee Leina‘ala Ahu Isa. Trustee John Waihe‘e IV is expected to arrive shortly.

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Chair Colette Machado – We have several people who have signed up. I’d like to call Sylvia Hussey with Pueo Consulting followed by Mona Bernardino.

Ms. Sylvia Hussey – Aloha kakou, my name is Sylvia Hussey. (Ms. Hussey reads her testimony which is attached to the minutes.)

10:07 am Trustee John Waihe‘e IV arrives.
Chair Colette Machado – Next is Mona Bernardino.

Ms. Mona Bernardino – Good morning Madame Chair, Trustees and Ka Pouhana. I am here this morning testifying in a personal capacity on behalf of myself and Richard Pezzulo who could not be here today. I’m here to testify in support of retaining Dr. Kamana’opono Crabbe as CEO of OHA. I am testifying because he is an outstanding CEO for OHA from my perspective. He has strong cultural foundations and the highest level of integrity which serve as guides to his daily decision making. I have found him to be professional, knowledgeable and responsive to issues and problems. He has been very supportive to Hi‘ilei Aloha LLC and the other LLCs that I oversee. When we have issues or problems that need to be addressed quickly he addresses them. I am deeply saddened by the friction that three or four Trustees on this board are creating by bringing up his termination over and over again. Your helping to demoralize the organization and you are demoralizing the Hawaiian Community. It’s a distraction for him and the entire organization when this topic keeps coming up. You say that there are things that he has done wrong but you have not produced any evidence. It’s a poor image for OHA in the Hawaiian Community and in the community at large. You are responsible for OHA’s image and we don’t look good. I don’t want that for the lāhui for our Hawaiian community.

As I look at OHA’s values and guiding principles. This is a document that you have. Kakou means working together unified to accomplish the mission. It’s not unified when three or four Trustees constantly attack certain staff. Pono Pau’ole – we act with integrity and truthfulness. There have been a lot of mistruth coming from this board going to outside media, going to the community, encouraged by beneficiaries that Trustees encourage to come and say before this body. Kuleana – we carry out our responsibilities. The Board of Trustees kuleana is policy making. It’s not day to day operations. You set the policy, staff implements the operations. Po’okela – we do our absolute best. I find it hard to believe that some of the things that have come from this body in the last year are your best. I ask as a beneficiary, as a voter that you do your best on behalf of all of us native Hawaiians.

In closing I would like to read Richard Pezzulo’s testimony. (Mr. Pezzulo’s testimony is attached to the minutes.)

Chair Colette Machado – Thank you Mona, our next testifier is Kainani Kahaunaele, followed by Duane Kurisu.

Ms. Kainani Kahaunaele – Aloha kakou. I am here today on behalf of my ‘ohana as we support Ka Pouhana Kamana’opono Crabbe in his kuleana of leading our lāhui aloha. I have worked with Ka Pouhana Crabbe on many occasions in our work to further our ‘ōlelo, cultural ceremony, community networking and nurturing of our beloved lāhui. Ka Pouhana has consistently demonstrated courage, the courage to lead with the foundational knowledge of our Kupuna, the courage to work with and alongside our families, our students our communities and leaders of Hawaii and the world to hooholomua our people. Ka Pouhana has brought hope to our lāhui in this important kuleana of leadership. He is a leader of our generation we trust. Ka Pouhana has infused our beloved ‘ōlelo, our spirit and the world view of our kupuna that we strive daily. Ka Pouhana brings stability in his leadership style that we truly appreciate. Ka Pouhana exemplifies the important value of onipaa to be steadfast. To move in a focus manner which in turn empowers and supports leadership throughout our lāhui. He has protected the ancestral foundation, the needs for our imprisoned brothers and sisters, pursued family rights and educated us in mental health issues. For these reasons, my ‘ohana and I unequivocally support the leadership of Ka Pouhana Kamana’opono Crabbe. Mahalo.

Chair Colette Machado – Thank you Kainani. Duane Kurisu followed by Joann Tsark.

Mr. Duane Kurisu – Morning. My name is Duane Kurisu I’m an owner and operator of buildings in town like shopping centers, office buildings. I am also the Chairman and CEO of AIO a company that is involved with media including Honolulu Magazine, Hawaii Business, and so forth. As well as radio stations, also involved with food including Punalu’u Bake Shop and sports and in technology.

I am here representing myself as well as my companies and I am sitting here in support of Kamana’o Crabbe. Overall the years, many of us have been inspired by Kamana’o Crabbe and I am little bit in tears when I talk about
him. As a man of upstanding character and as a family man I sit here with unbending support of Kamana’o Crabbe. Because I cannot talk to good I wrote testimony here to make sure my sentiments are conveyed properly. (Mr. Kurisu’s testimony is attached to the minutes.)

Chair Colette Machado – Thank you Mr. Kurisu. Our next testifier is Joann Tsark followed by Corbett Kalama.

Ms. Joann Tsark – Aloha, thank you for this opportunity. The people who came before me I wish I said all those things. I am not going to repeat it. For those of you who don’t know me, my career has been in public health. I have been a public health servant for Hawaiian Health for the last 35 or 40 years. I like being in the background. I’ve been behind many great leaders, Kekuni Blaisdell, Papa Awai, Hardy Spoehr and I stand behind Kamana’o and I do that because my job is small potatoes. My job is to connect, get resources and one of the things that age brings you is it give you 20/20 hindsight looking backwards. It was a long struggle to the issue of Hawaiian health on the national agenda. Nobody really understood our story, we were lumped with Asians, Pacific Islander. Much of it was hidden. So a lot of my career was working with people who advanced that.

Kamana’o is someone I feel like I almost raised because we met him a student. I thought we were going to be responsible for him not getting his degree because we kept pulling him out of school to help us support what we were doing. He always came willingly and he always took risks with us. Even when sometimes we weren’t clear what we were doing. But I’ve had to, stretch some of the data over the years in public health. If we want to leverage resources here, we want to look at a healthy lāhui, we need resources to do things. We’ve never had our own data; we’ve never had access to things that leverages money nationally. We had to dis aggregate data to get our story told. We had to physically with Senator Inouye’s help, money out of our own pocket, got to Washington DC to tell our story. Kamana’o was always one of those, but we helped him grow up. I’d like to take a little credit for that Kamana’o. But we were growing leaders because we didn’t have enough. Some of our best leaders are now gone. One of the things that was such a sigh of relief under Kamana’o’s leadership is that he put together a stellar team, I have access to data that is about us. I have access to stories that are about us. I can make a case in a grant to leverage millions of dollars. We’ve bought millions of dollars to Papa Ola Lokahi into the State for health so that we are not always at a disadvantage.

The other thing that Kamana’o has helped me personally frame is how to do that with integrity. You know you just cannot pull out words like being pono and all that kind of stuff because it sounds good. That is a hard story to sell on a national front. One of the things, because he personally has raked me over the coals when I’ve miss stepped. To do the things the right way, that is hard to do that when there is money on the table. It’s hard to do that when you are trying influence things. I am so appreciative of the access that I have now to data, to OHA, I feel like I can walk in the door and talk to any of the staff. Colette, you know my history with this agency.

Chair Colette Machado – Like pigs to the trough.

Ms. Tsark – Yes, I was called a pig at the trough because we were asking for money for Hawaiian Health. That has changed and I just ask for the support because I have seen the difference in the health community, health resources, health data. You may thing that it’s not that important because I know you have bigger fish to fry, economic development and stuff. But I tell you what is all this for if the health of our people are poor. So for that reason personally and professionally, but public health perspective really supports Kamana’o being here. I love him being here. I will stop there.

Chair Colette Machado – Thank you Joann. Our next testifier is Corbett Kalama, followed by Aukahi Austin Seabury.

Mr. Corbett Kalama – Aloha kakou. First of all, mahalo to all of you Trustees for the responsibility, the kuleana that you have embraced by serving as Trustees and serving the kanaka maoli. I just say mahalo to you for that. This is a first time that I have sat before this group. I’ve had the opportunity to speak on many other occasions that were more structural for the organization. My last 40 years of my life has been influence by this board. I’ve
worked on one the first budgets for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, working in my responsibilities at the State Legislature, I’ve worked with you folks very closely on your various loan programs. A number of different issues that have been created by you folks to benefit the Hawaiian people. I have never before gone before a body to speak on behalf of an individual but I thought it was important.

There’s an ‘ōlelo no’eau says, this had come to me initially when we were putting together a loan program for our kanaka maoli, it is ‘Aohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia, no task is too difficult when undertaken by all. You look around and you look to special people, like all of you are and will continue to be, because you are willing to take on those challenges. You have certain people that influence you and Kamana’o is one of those folks. In my different responsibilities that I have the privilege of serving our community there is certain consistent things that you look too. You look to all of the bodies that we serve, how does it affect our land which is so important to our people, how does it affect our health which is so important to our people, how does it affect our ability to govern ourselves which is so important to our people. How do we develop economic self-sufficiency which is so important to our people? It’s through good leadership, it’s though the building of bridges to those that don’t necessarily understand our culture, our people, our needs. Those that haven’t really learned to appreciate acknowledge who we are as a people and what makes Hawaii, Hawaii.

For me and my work away from the Hawaiian community but the different missions that I serve in working with hospitals, with governing bodies, and looking for funding for housing, education ar economic self-sufficiency, to help our Hawaiian community not just survive but strive as we move forward. There is an individual that I talk to, it’s this guy. As I watch your organization deliberate the future I just ask you humbly and it is with a great deal of humility that I come to speak to you folks to take my comments as I know you will with a great deal of respect for all of you and the decision that you have to make. Kamana’o will always hold a special place for me in giving me guidance, keeping me grounded, providing that conduit to parts of the community that the other organizations that serve our Hawaiian people that are not of Hawaiian ancestry but have funding that provide that Kamana’o has been able to build that bridge for us. I trust him with everything that I do, I always will but I trust you folks to will deliberate and reach a similar conclusion. Mahalo to all of you folks, keep up your work, stay strong, our community needs all of you. Mahalo for the time.

Chair Colette Machado — Mahalo Corbett. Next testifier is Aukahi Austin Seabury.

Ms. Aukahi Austin Seabury — Aloha mai kakou. Thank you so much for the time to speak to you today. I am the Executive Director of I Ola Lāhui which does behavioral health services here across the pae ‘āina and I would like to speak today from that particular vantage point as well as the others ways I am engaged with the organization. As a former grantee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, I ola Lāhui has benefited from both your support of our training program as well as our weight management program through the community grants process. Over many years we’ve been from that experience, I also as an individual have worked with layers of your organizations leadership team with respect to management training at a time. I don’t know if I am going to speak from that seat today. I guess the pie I’d like to speak from is another person that takes it as seriously as you do this work. That OHA does and can do. I’m a huge fan of OHA, I will always will be in terms of the work that you’ve done and the community that you support. This is very serious, the work of saving and healing, and rising up our lāhui and being able to proudly say that we’re closer to being a thriving people then we have ever been is exciting.

When I think about what you as the leaders of OHA and Kamana'opono Crabbe in this position can do and have done I look at the history. We were grantee before Kamana'opono Crabbe was aboard and the process for community grants that included, now includes, a community review member, was greatly strengthened, the process became more rigorous but also in a way more transparent and positive. That there have been, our organization is a member of Nalima Hanaolono Puha, the Native Hawaiian Health Consortium. And I can certainly say that the act of engaging Hawaiian health organizations and Hawaiian Education and all those other organizations can be sticky work. Engaging with a bunch of folks that are good doers for our people but all have a different vision on how to do that. Getting them into one room to find what we have in common is a gift that Dr.
Crabbe has that is hard to find. My ask today is not so much about laying out the wonderful accomplishments and the truly I think rare leadership that Dr. Crabbe has, I think that has been well established. But to ask I guess for you all to find a way to reach that common ground that you, that this work that you all have to do is very serious and important and finding a way to do that, that is not simply a hire, fire process is one that I would ask of you to find that. Because I certainly don’t have access to all of the things you know about how you work together. I certainly don’t know those things. I understand that you all are doing a deliberate review of data. I’m a data person and I know the data from my vantage point and that’s what I can share about and also and ask that you find a way to work together because you have a unique opportunity in history at this time to continue us on a path to rising up.

This is our opportunity to do it differently that we’ve done it for generations. We don’t want to be crabs in a bucket, I had that metaphor. We have a vision and Dr. Crabbe, we don’t always agree, but we find our agreements because we have a vision for the wellness of our lāhui. We can see it now, we not making up answers any more. We can see where it is. The health and wealth of our lāhui, it is the same thing. So I ask that you guys find that way, that’s what I would say, find that method for resolution, for healthy debate. We are a people that are articulate and can debate our differences. That is a process that I hope you vigorously engage in. Please it’s worth it, our people are worth it. And you all are just the folks to do it. Mahalo for your time.

Chair Colette Machado – The Chair would also like to acknowledge that her office has received written testimony from:
- G. Uma Kai (Olohe Lua-Pa Kui A Lua)
- Dr. Sheri-Ann Daniel, EdD (Papa Ola Lōkahi)
- Kevin K. J. Chang
- David Derauf, MD, MPH (Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services)
- Diane S.L. Paloma, PhD (CEO King William Charles Lunalilo Trust and Home)
- Richard Pezzulo
- Jamee Māhealani Miller, Ed.D., LSW
- Kawika Burgess

There is a distribution of testimony that you will all receive now. (All testimonies are attached to the minutes.)

Trustee Keli‘i Akina – Have we completed the testimonial portion?

Chair Colette Machado – That is what I am checking now. I believe we have.

Trustee Keli‘i Akina – I have a comment I’d like to make. Madame Chair I’d like to say that I was very impressed today by the decorum and the dignity and the passion of those who have come to the table, our beneficiaries. I mean from the bottom of my heart that I am grateful that they have sung the praises of someone who I know as a colleague and I hope can grow a friendship with Ka Pōhana, Dr. Crabbe. Today we’ve heard of his commitment and his passion, his heart and all the accomplishments that he has done. We have a difficult task as we look as one person put it, at a deliberate review of data. But I would be remiss if I didn’t say that I am grateful for the good things that Dr. Crabbe has done and ask that all beneficiaries to pray that we will have guidance as we go through an important process for which we have been appointed and elected. Mahalo to the beneficiaries.

Trustee Rowena Akana – First of all I want to thank everyone who came to testify in support of our CEO. Corbett I’ve known you a long time. Thank you very much. I’d like to, I took notes as people were talking about accomplishments of Dr. Crabbe. I know that everyone around this board recognizes the research and the cultural benefits that our CEO has brought to OHA. His forte has been health, culture and research. And in those areas OHA has excelled in great ways. Two years ago OHA put out and RFP or we started to, to look at when Dr. Crabbe’s contract was coming up. I want to preference my comments by saying that no administrator has a lifetime tenancy here. That people work under contracts and from time to time when the goals and missions of our
agency change then we have to go out and look for that person that can meet the next group of challenges that we face. Two years ago OHA looked at economic development. Everyone comes here for aid especially when the State is cutting back. And we try to accommodate everybody and our pot of money is small compared to other organizations. So we must look at economic development and looking at that all of the land we have in Kaka'ako. One of the reasons we were searching for a different kind of CEO, was one that had more business acumen and economic development. Because culture is important, health is important, research is important, all of those things are important. They are a component of who we are. But it’s not enough to fund all of the programs that OHA has. We must be able to move forward and do economic development and look for the kinds of people that can move us forward. So I want to say to the people who have come here, I know you are sincere and we appreciate everything that you said and we appreciate Dr. Crabbe for all of the good that he has done for OHA. But I hope that you will leave it to us to decide that what is best for this agency and for the many generations to come is for this board to decide.

While socially you may know Mr. Crabbe, working together is another space that we won’t go into. But there are many things that comprise a position and the ability to get along with everyone especially the Trustees. This has been a great problem for us. I say to all of you here today, we want to do the very best for our beneficiaries and our people and with no disregard to Dr. Crabbe, the decision to move ahead is going to be left to this board to the best of our ability and just know that it is with humbleness that we ask for your kōkua and for really thinking about what we really have to do to move forward. It’s not easy, it’s difficult. But no too, that in moving forward sometimes there is pain and people don’t like change. As for Ms. Bernardino comments about demoralization and so on, I suppose there is that but a lot of it is not because of the Trustees, we’ve had a swinging door here for the last two years because of internal administrative problems. All I can say is thank you so much for coming, but please understand that whatever the decision is, it is based not on his personality, but what we believe we need to do for the future. Thank you.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Colette Machado – Chair Colette Machado – Members of the board you are aware that we will be moving into Executive Session for consultation with legal counsel Paul Alston and Judy Tanaka, and we will be discussing the Board’s powers, duties, and liabilities to deliberate and decide on OHA’s Permitted Interaction Group’s findings and recommendations re: Contract Number 3147. Pursuant to HRS § 92-2.5 (b)(1)(C) and § 92-5(a)(2), and -5(a)(4). But before we take the motion to recuse ourselves I’d like to thank the beneficiaries especially thank Kainani who has come all the way from Hilo to participate this morning at our table and all of those that took the time to submit written as well as showing up today for oral testimony. To me to hear people support the work of OHA, not just Kamana’opono is gratifying. It is a devotion that I have put in over 21 years of this work as an elected Trustee and to hear people remind us of the good work that OHA has done whether we are in this so called current state that we are in. I brought a lot of support and recognition of the good work. I recall, I was not a Trustee then when a former Trustee that is no longer on this table, that when Joann folks came to ask for money for Papa ola Lokahi in their project he openly accused them as pigs to the trough. I am so grateful that those days are over. That can be demeaning and humiliating. For people like Joann Tsark they don’t deserve that kind of attacks at the table. For her to come back now and acknowledge all of the critical research at the national level is a reward in itself. Forgive OHA for its short comings. With that said the Chair would like.

Trustee Robert Lindsey – I’d like to propose that we have this conversation rather than in executive session, in open session. If people want to be so bold to make a proposal, they should make it publicly.

Trustee Dan Ahuna – When is Kamana’opono Crabbe’s contract up?

(conversation indiscernible)

Trustee Dan Ahuna – Next year? And did our entitlements get lifted from Kaka'ako? We cannot build yet?
Chair Colette Machado – I would ask our attorney to suggest if we should proceed in executive session to have a discussion, or to keep this in open session. I believe the decision would be up to Kamana‘opono Crabbe if he would want this in open.

Robert G. Klein, Board Counsel – I think we should recuse in Executive Session just to consider legal advice at this point. As far as the deliberations and the decision making, the law makes it very clear that it is up to the CEO in this case, personnel, to decide if he wants that discussion in open session or in executive session. Because it is a personnel matter, it involves privacy, it is very clear that in this case Kamana‘opono Crabbe has the option to proceed in executive session or open session.

Trustee Peter Apo – Madame Chair, for the record I have no problem with eventually going public which includes the release of the PIG report to the public. My intention personally, I don’t know how others on the PIG committee, I don’t know what their position is, but I am all for a public session to air this out provided that the findings of the PIG committee is made public.

Chair Colette Machado – The chair is seeking a motion to recuse ourselves into executive session pursuant to HRS § 92-2.5 (b)(1)(C) and § 92-5(a)(2), and -5(a)(4).

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey motions to move into Executive Session Pursuant to HRS § 92-2.5 (b)(1)(C) and § 92-5(a)(2), and -5(a)(4).

Trustee John Waihe‘e IV seconds the motion.

Trustee Keli‘i Akina - If we recuse ourselves in executive session now do we do so with Judge Klein or do we do so with the Counsel as noted on the agenda, Paul Alston and Judy Tanaka.

Chair Colette Machado – I believe that Robert G. Klein, Board Counsel will open the session then he will recuse himself from the meeting and leave and then Paul and Judy will take over.

Trustee Keli‘i Akina - Thank you I am ready to vote.

Chair Colette Machado – It has been moved and seconded roll call vote please.

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MOTION: [ ] UNANIMOUS [ x ] PASSED [ ] DEFERRED [ ] FAILED
Motion passed with six (6) YES votes, one (1) no, one (1) abstention and one (1) excused.
The Board resolved into Executive Session at 10:44 am.

A. Consultation with legal counsels Paul Alston, Esq. and Judy Tanaka, Esq. re: the Board’s powers, duties, and liabilities to deliberate and decide on OHA’s Permitted Interaction Group’s findings and recommendations re: Contract Number 3147. Pursuant to HRS § 92-2.5 (b)(1)(C) and § 92-5(a)(2), and -5(a)(4).

The Board reconvenes into Open Session at 11:31 am.

11:32 am Trustee Peter Apo leaves the meeting.

Chair Colette Machado - Aloha, I’d like to reconvene the Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. With that said I’d like to call on Paul Alston, Esq., while in executive session our attorney will describe what took place.

Mr. Paul Alston, Esq. – During executive session the Board determined that the PIG report would not be received at this time and that the matter would be referred back to the PIG for further study and analysis.

Chair Colette Machado – With that said we will move on to Community Concerns.

VII. COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Chair Colette Machado – We are now on Community Concerns and I’d like to call up Kamuela Kala’i.

Ms. Kamuela Kala’i – Aloha, I’m here to speak about Kawaihao and I was not anticipating bringing my mo’opuna, kalamai she is very active. So what I wanted to talk about today, I wanted to tell you folks a little story about one of the iwi kupuna that were disinterred before I came on board. This was one of the 69 kupuna that were dug up by the Church, they were called inadvertent burials and they struck 23 separate burial sites, took out 69 iwi kupuna and wrapped them up and put them in lauhala baskets and stored them in the bottom of the bell tower. I was able to see some of the records of these kupuna, what they call, they curate them like a museum I guess. One of the iwi kupuna that really struck me and has stuck with me till today, it’s a baby, a baby that was buried in a coffin with a glass cover. I had to wonder to myself, why would anybody put a glass cover over a coffin. Why would anybody do that, a child. I think to myself if that was my child, or my mo’opuna, I would want to see that baby for as long as I could see that child before the child was buried, covered up with lepo never to see the light of day again.

So I ask this question at the last burial council meeting that was cancelled, three in row, the last three have been cancelled due to lack of quorum. But the last one that they held they allowed community and ‘ohana to walaau. I brought this up and the Church was there. I said, I wonder what happened to the casket and what happened to that glass over, what happened to all the moepu that were buried with all these kupuna, and the memory of this child, the knowledge of this child strikes me because I lost my baby brother when I was 8 years old, he was two and a half. So when we had his funeral it was in this tiny, little white casket. And even at 8 years old, god I’ve never seen a casket that little. He is buried up at Punchbowl, had a space for my dad he was a veteran. I thought to myself if anyone dared even think about this disturbing his bones, my God. I want you as Trustees, you as ‘Ōiwi, you who have mo’opuna, kupuna buried in these island to please think about this child. Think about the pain and the horror and the sorrow that the family went through in burying this child with a glass cover so they could see this child’s face. I bring this up because the desecration at Kawaihao continues ill today. We just went to the Church on Sunday to put flowers on two kupuna graves that I have there. I couldn’t help myself there is an open grave pit where they took out hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of kupuna who are store in the basement of the Church. One of the issues that I’ve mentioned at this table is that every time that it rains the lepo erodes and kupuna are exposed. They have been exposed, they have actually had to find out who these kupuna are and add them to archeological survey they have to do backwards after they dug up all the kupuna because when Dana Naone Hall filed a lawsuit, she lost it the first time, allowed the Church to dig, when she appealed it the Judge said
yes, by the way Church and State of Hawaii go back and do your homework you broke every law you could have possibly broke in digging up these kupuna.

They just finished the AIS not too long ago. When I went back to see the condition of the grave pit, it is now covered with green cloth with replaced this shredded gray cloth that I seen a few months ago and that is it. Every time it rains the dirt erodes the kupuna are at risk for more exposure. So rub salt in a kakio of a wound that is open at Kawaihao church. I ask the Trustees, we need help. We need support, we need to have OHA address not only the issue of Kawaihao but on every island, on every moku practically, on every island there is major iwì kupuna issues, major kupuna issues. I just wonder if OHA could do something like dedicate a committee, form an Ad Hoc committee, to address this issue, have community members, ‘ohana members who are on the ground trying to do our best to prevent these horrible things from happening, can we just do that and try our best to have support on the neighbor islands too. You look at Maui, Hawaii island, Kauai there are so many issues we need help. That would be my humble request to all of you if we could start with an Ad Hoc Committee to address these issues. We are dying out there, and when we die we not even safe when we buried, we get dug up by the hundreds, by the thousands. That’s my request.

Chair Colette Machado - I’d like to call Clare Apana.

Ms. Clare Apana – Thank you. Aloha. I would like to support Kala’i’s idea and ask that you do form an Ad Hoc Committee to deal specifically with the issue of our iwì kupuna, protection of their marked and unmarked burial sites. To deal with the numerous issues that have come up on every island. I wonder if, I don’t know how you make motions, I don’t know if you have to be agendized first but I would like you to agendize this item if you need to, or to just simply give the ok to go forward and form an ad hoc committee. I would help this Ad Hoc Committee would consist of the appropriate members of your already existing staff and members of the community because, I know that this issue needs to be moved by the people in the community because as Kala’i said we are the ones out there that are really suffering because we see it every day in our faces. I think we need to be part of this committee then actions and keeping up with what is happening will happen. On every island there are so many thing, there are so many issues, just on Maui we just finished our hearing and court case. We lost, we got dismissed but what it showed us was that on Maui the public works director and his boss the Mayor can renew an illegal permit, a permit which has things that have been questioned by the planning department. They have violated how much sand has been taken off of the site. Burials have been found and they refuse to look at this permit, because when it started there was no burials and that’s how they started this permit, they refuse to look at the fact that now there are burials there. The law upheld the director’s prerogative to use his judgement. In the little bit that I do we know this is wrong. These things may be bigger than me to fight but perhaps together as people from this entire country all the different various issues come together so that we know that on each other’s radar and you know as a body what is happening to our iwì kupuna. I urge you to act upon what Kala’i has said. We been doing this for year and this is the best idea we could come up with and hope it is something that you can actually start so that we can start protecting our iwì kupuna. Thank you so very much.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Colette Machado – If there is no further business I’d like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey moves to adjourn.

Trustee Dan Ahuna seconds the motion.

Chair Colette Machado – Roll call vote please.
Trustee Carmen Hulu Lindsey moves to adjourn. Trustee Dan Ahuna seconds the motion.

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| MOTION: [ ] UNANIMOUS [ x ] PASSED [ ] DEFERRED [ ] FAILED | Motion passed with seven (7) YES votes, and two (2) excused.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna Pa, Board Secretary

As approved by the Board of Trustees on June 21, 2018.

Colette Y. Machado, Chairperson
Board of Trustees

Attachment:
1. Sylvia M. Hussey, Ed.D., CPA
2. Richard Pezzulo
3. Duane K. Kurisu
4. G. Umi Kai (Olohe Lua-Pa Kui A Lua)
5. Dr. Sheri-Ann Daniel, Ed.D. (Papa Ola Lōkahi)
6. Kevin K. J. Chang
7. David Derauf, MD, MPH (Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services)
8. Diane S.L. Paloma, PhD (CEO King William Charles Lunalilo Trust and Home)
9. Richard Pezzulo
10. Jamee Māhealani Miller, Ed.D., LSW
11. Kawika Burgess
May 31, 2018

Board of Trustees
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
560 N. Nimitz Highway, Suite 200
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96817

Re: Public Testimony – OHA’s Work

Aloha kakou,

My name is Sylvia Hussey, I’m the owner of Pueo Consulting, LLC and here to testify in support of the work of OHA under the direction and leadership of Ka Pouhana Kamana‘opono Crabbe.

My perspectives and testimony today are informed by my experiences in health, education and advocacy through interactions with organizations such as Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Education Council, Kamehameha Schools, the Office of Hawaiian Education, the State Department of Education, the State Public Charter School Commission, the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, University of Hawai‘i – Mānoa, College of Education, the University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu, University of Hawai‘i – Hilo, Ka Haka Ula o Ke‘elikolani, Native Hawaiian Education Association and the National Indian Education Association to name a few.

**Under Ka Pouhana’s leadership:**

1) Advocacy and support for and of Hawaiian focused charter schools have been amplified; 2) Data and research for the benefit of Hawaiian families and communities have been elevated with the publication of seminal studies such as Kānehō‘alani (kane health report); Haumea (wahine health report) and Mana Lāhui Kānaka; and 3) Advocacy for the lahui---whether it is here at home in Hawai‘i or Washington D.C.—the amplification and elevation of family and community voices to legislators and policy makers.

Pueo Consulting, LLC was formed in August 2014 to provide a broad range of statewide education and business supports in the following varied areas: administration; management; leadership; governance; organizational structure; strategic, tactical and operational planning, projections and execution; education and leadership program design and evaluation; bookkeeping and financial statement and report preparation; and project and program management. The pueo represents wisdom, education and my family `aumakua from Niuli‘i, North Kohala.

Me ka o‘ia‘io,

Sylvia M. Hussey, Ed.D., CPA
(not in public practice)
Owner
Dear Chair Machado and Trustees,

I am writing to provide my support for the leadership of Dr. Kamana‘opono Crabbe. I have worked with Kamana‘o since 2010 and feel confident expressing my full support for him to remain as the CEO of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

I have worked closely with Kamana‘o in his capacity as OHA Research Director and CEO and in both cases he has demonstrated outstanding leadership and management capabilities. I have always been able to count on him for support in my capacity as OHA COO and the Executive Director of Hi‘ipaka LLC. He is highly responsive to any of my work related requests and has demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and leadership. I greatly appreciate his suggestions and ideas on how to improve operations and the management of Waimea Valley. He has been a major factor in the success of Waimea Valley and his removal as OHA CEO will have a very negative impact on the Valley and OHA.

Dr. Crabbe is a highly respected leader in the Hawaiian community and I believe his removal as OHA CEO will have a negative impact on how the native Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian community view OHA. It will be very confusing and hard to understand, for many people, why he is being removed. There have been many positive achievements under his tenure as CEO and many people appreciate his leadership and accomplishments over the past six years.

I hope the Trustees will make the right decision that takes into account the many achievements and strong leadership he provides along with the need for stability in the organization. I strongly recommend you do not remove Dr. Crabbe as OHA CEO.

Mahalo,

Richard Pezzulo
May 30, 2018

Board of Trustees
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
560 N Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Attn: Colette Machado, Chair

RE: Support for Kamana‘opono M. Crabbe

Gentlemen:

As a businessman and member of our community, I stand by Kamana‘opono Crabbe for his integrity and character and for his leadership of the Native Hawaiian community and for the well-being of Hawaii. He has that rare ability to capture a room with his intellect and heart. With those virtues and that of someone with his will, demeanor and ability to think strategically, I, as would many of us who call Kamana‘opono, a colleague and friend, would follow him to the end of the earth.

Without Kamana‘opono as its Chief Executive Officer, the future of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Hawaii will be diminished. He is a leader beyond reproach and one that can light the torch for future generations.

Very truly yours,

Duane K. Kurisu
Colette Machado
Chair
Office of Hawaiian Affairs – Board
Aloha mai e Chair Machado,
I write this short letter with great respect and honesty.

With all of the dissension at OHA regarding his leadership and honesty I’m not sure why Kamanaopono Crabbe wants so much to stay. I guess it’s his determination to make an impact on our people and its lands.

So with that strong determination to stay with OHA I will support him fully as will many, many others.

Kamanao’s cultural knowledge combined with his scholastic achievements is rare and highly needed to lead our people into the future.

The momentum of the Hawaiian recognition can not to blocked by or slowed by spending so much energy and time in debating his qualifications and ethical spending.

He is one of the most honest people I know and will, as he has, act in the most ethical way.

Yes, I support and back his position as CEO Ka Pouhana.

Mahalo nui,

G. Umi Kai
Olohe Lua-Pa Kui A Lua
3372 Kilauea Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816
808-225-4044 c
May 30, 2018

Colette Machado, Chairperson Board of Trustees
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96817

Re: TESTIMONY related to the CEO position

Aloha e Chair Machado,

On behalf of the staff, the five Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship program and board members of Papa Ola Lōkahi, I am submitting a letter of support for Dr. Kamana'opono Crabbe and the work that he is doing at OHA to uplift the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians.

The kuleana of Papa Ola Lōkahi (POL) to “raise the health status of Native Hawaiians to the highest possible level” has been supported with Kamana‘o and OHA through our strategic partnership that also includes participation (as mandated in the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act) as a POL board member. The value of having one of our Native Hawaiian health scholars lead your organization also provides insight in how we work on building capacity of Native Hawaiians in the health field, both in direct service and through leadership roles. He has mentored many Hawaiians to support these efforts and does so without personal gain or an agenda.

Kamana‘o has demonstrated integrity and the willingness to engage in conversation to help our people and communities across the pae ‘āina because the vision and goal for a healthy lāhui includes actively bringing and listening to our communities. This piece our “bringing people together” is critical and something that Kamana‘o does frequently and without hesitation.

There is still work needed to be done in providing health equity for Native Hawaiians and without a consistent leadership from all Native Hawaiian organizations this reality will take longer. We are at a point that the relationship health has with other aspects of life (housing, traditional practices, education, etc) is critical in making movement to improve the lives of our lāhui. It is truly a coordinated effort and one that Kamana‘o is leading on many different levels for OHA.

I hope that the Trustees understand the importance of modeling positive behavior (even when it might be uncomfortable) and setting an example of building relationships that empower our people to thrive versus divide. We can not move forward as a people when there is continued distraction from the work needed to sustain us and create opportunities for growth.

Mahalo for allowing POL to share and provide testimony in support. E Ola!

Kū Ha‘aheo,

Dr. Sheri Daniels

Sheri-Ann Daniels, EdD
Executive Director – Papa Ola Lōkahi
Kevin K.J. Chang  
47-740 Hui Kelu St #6  
Kâne‘che, HI. 96744

31 May 2018

Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
Board of Trustees  
botmeetings@oha.org  
Momilani@oha.org

Re: Benefits of the World Conservation Congress and the Leadership of Mr. Kamana‘opono Crabbe

Dear Chair Machado and the Board Trustees:

My name is Kevin Chang. I am the Executive Director of Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo (KUA), an attorney and former Land Manager for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. I have much aloha for OHA. It is an important institution for Hawai‘i not only for its purpose but for the leadership pathways and opportunities it continues to generate in our community.

I testified before you last week about some of the benefits of the IUCN World Conservation Congress for Native Hawaiians and OHA’s direct and indirect role in benefitting the members of the Hawaiian community who participated in it, the global seed it has planted, the influence it has built and the extensive international indigenous exchange KUA facilitated around that.

I write today from Halifax, Nova Scotia where myself (KUA) and 3 members of the E Alu Pū Network take part in the first international Community, Conservation and Livelihoods Conference which focuses on understanding and supporting community based natural resource management. We would not be here if it were not for the WCC and OHA’s efforts. Given current media coverage over the WCC -much of which I feel has been mis-characterized and represented- and the role of OHA and its Pouhana in that effort I wanted to briefly set forth in writing some of the points I had tried to make in my oral testimony before you last week:

1) OHA engaged in the support, participation and direct affiliation with IUCN and WCC under the Namu‘o administration in 2008.
2) The pursuit was supported in accordance with OHA’s role to develop opportunities to renew Native Hawaiian international recognition and leadership as part of developing greater control over their destiny as they move toward self-determination and self-sufficiency.
3) OHA directly lobbied for the WCC in Hawaii in Jeju, South Korea in 2012 and was largely responsible, in my opinion, for the success of this effort.
4) Participation garnered international support for protection of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and customary practice as part and parcel to environmental governance for all indigenous people.

5) The WCC empowered KUA and Native Hawaiian community members to engage in governance and international diplomacy on a level previously only spoken about.

6) 150 people, more than half rural Native Hawaiian mālama ʻāina leaders and indigenous leaders and researchers camped at QLCC facilities at Haleʻaha and exchanged, rebuilt loko iʻa wall, planted limu and shared creation stories and participated in an ʻawa ceremony etc.

7) A delegation of almost 100 Native Hawaiian mālama ʻāina leaders participated in the congress opening days, held panels on lawaiʻa pono and engaged in panels and dialogues with other indigenous peoples, researchers and nations.

8) Kamanaʻo led and Nainoa Thompson participated in a formal ʻawa ceremony with grassroots Hawaiian and other indigenous leaders in attendance.

9) The E Alu Pū council members sat on the congress floor for the entire plenary and voted and debated specific congress motions to include indigenous people and Hawaiians

10) E Alu Pū and KUA took leadership on, drafted and debated motion 65 (community based natural resource management: CBNRM in Hawaii) and 75 (indigenous culture and TEK in conservation) on the congress floor.

11) E Alu Pū took part in the greeting of the waʻa at the opening ceremony of the WCC.

12) KUA re-published and E Alu Pū took in and distributed almost 1,000 copies of Liliʻuokalani’s translation of the Kumulipo to indigenous community members at the WCC including the entire Pacific Island Leaders Forum.

13) KUA supported the new Indigenous People’s Organizations member category and is now an inaugural member with KS and Edith Kanakaʻole Foundation.

14) Through KUA and the networks we served to spread the story of Native Hawaiian grassroots community efforts to indigenous communities and government leaders in Guatemala, Guam, Tahiti, Uganda, Mexico, India and Costa Rica.

15) KUA has since then met with all IPO members in Costa Rica and contributed to the direct development of their agenda and policy and successfully lobbied for an appointment of an IPO representative to the IUCN Council (its highest level of decisions-making). These efforts are in part to develop connections but also to generate a larger pool of national and international support and resources (monetary or otherwise) for Native Hawaiian CBNRM efforts here at home.

16) This week, in part due to OHA’s support, 3 members of E Alu Pū and I are in Halifax, Nova Scotia to participate in the Community Conservation Research Networks first conference on culture, conservation and livelihoods, they will sit on 7 panels, exchange with over 450 researcher and indigenous people from around the world, show 3 movies and interface with the IUCN IPO membership.

These opportunities among many others, including many unquantifiable stories and experiences of individual sharing, learning and inspiration occurred and have been outshined by media discussions about pomp and circumstance at the WCC that though
currently being cast in negative light were significant in putting Hawai‘i and more importantly Native Hawaiians on the global stage. Indeed, in the international exchanges I have since been on it is Hawai‘i, it’s native people, their history of recovery and ongoing reconciliation and visions for the future and terms like mālama honua, aloha ‘āina and konohiki or ahupua‘a system that have become the most familiar issue to a growing global audience. These concepts, stories and visions will be carried forward by the WCC.

Lastly, I would like to speak to the leadership of my friend Kamana‘opono and the renewal of his employment. It is significant for me to say that had I known at the time of Mr. Namu‘o’s retirement that Kamana‘o would assume leadership at OHA I might have stayed. But without knowing this I made prior commitments to grassroots community leaders and members of this board to do the work KUA does now.

Without Kamana‘o and OHA’s leadership, support and advocacy KUA and the networks we facilitate would not make the strides in shifting mindsets for a “government” towards building a mindset for and foundation on actions in governance.

I have known Kamana‘o for some time now. Since I have known him he has brought the spirit that encourages and brings a spirit of governance ever closer to the ground through a spirit of healing and reconciliation not just as a matter of governance or with our traumatic history but as a practical matter between Native Hawaiian communities, families and themselves. Like myself, he brings an emphasis on care for the spirit and psyche from his background in psychology. He compliments this background with his grounding in these issues from a Hawaiian perspective, not just academically. It is at the core of his ‘ano and drive. It is why he has moved the term to describe his leadershship from that of CEO to Pouhana. A Pouhana upholds the house and builds space for people to occupy and fill it with an even greater spirit than just that of the individual. From my perspective, Kamana‘o’s mindset and the leadership he has embodied as a Pouhana at OHA has been significant to our communities faith and sense of pride in OHA and themselves.

I encourage this body to renew Kamana‘o’s contract and to continue to seek the sense of healing and reconciliation that is important for our entire community.

Pūpūkahi I holomua e ho‘okanaka, aloha ‘āina momona,

[Signature]

Kevin K.J. Chang
May 30, 2018

Colette Y. Pi’ipi’i Machado
Chairperson
Board of Trustees
Office Of Hawaiian Affairs
560 N. Nimitz Hwy., Suite 200
Honolulu, HI 96817

RE: Support for Ka Pouhana/CEO Kamana’opono Crabbe

Aloha Chair Machado,

On behalf of Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services (KKV), I offer my unqualified support for Dr. Kamana’opono Crabbe and his efforts to carry out the mission of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

As executive director of a community-organized Community Health Center established 46 years ago to provide comprehensive health care services for the low-income multicultural population of Kalihi, I understand the challenges of heading a nonprofit organization entrusted with serving the needs of a community in great need of healing and restorative justice. Our own work is guided by our mission to promote “healing, reconciliation and the alleviation of suffering in Kalihi Valley, by serving communities, families and individuals through strong relationships that honor culture and foster health and harmony.”

I would like to express my utmost respect for Dr. Crabbe’s executive leadership and his longstanding commitment to empower Hawaiians and uplift the mana and mauli ola of the Hawaiian people. Community health and waiwai lie at the heart of KKV’s work. Our paths have crossed over the years through our overlapping involvements in health circles, first at Wai’anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, and later in the context of Dr. Crabbe’s support of KKV’s own Hawaiian health programs working to mālama Native Hawaiian youth, ‘ohana, ‘āina and culture. In recent years, I have had the opportunity to work under his leadership to build Na Limahana o Lonopuha, Native Hawaiian Health Consortium. I have come to know Dr. Crabbe as a visionary leader whose integrity, passion and connections in the Hawaiian community reflect his devotion to the Hawaiian lāhui. He demonstrates professionalism in all his interactions, he is a leader who listens carefully, he is a leader who can embrace and embody the values of the past whilst integrating them with the most modern scientific understanding.

Dr. Crabbe is in my opinion, highly effective in directing OHA’s efforts in addressing its strategic priorities, and he has much more to contribute to the revitalization of the health of kanaka maoli moving forward.

I humbly encourage OHA’s Board of Trustees to continue to support Dr. Crabbe to continue to serve the Hawaiian people in his capacity as OHA’s Ka Pouhana/CEO. In my humble opinion,

Please feel free to contact me at dderauf@kkv.net or (808) 791-9415 should you wish to further discuss.

Sincerely,

David Derauf, MD, MPH
Executive Director

Providing Medical & Dental Services, Health Education, Family Planning, Perinatal, WIC and Social Services to Kalihi Valley residents since 1972. Neighbors being neighborly to neighbors.
May 30, 2018

Aloha kākou,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of strong support to for Dr. Kamana‘opono Crabbe as the Chief Executive Officer for The Office of Hawaiian Affairs. I have worked with Kamana‘o over the years beginning in 2003 during our work in Native Hawaiian health and the healthcare field. Within the last 15 years, I have had the privilege to work directly with him on business projects and in mea Hawai‘i. In our respective professions, we have been striving together to improve the health status of Native Hawaiians. From my time at The Queen’s Health Systems and his duration at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, I have found his commitment to the lahui unprecedented and relentless. Kamana‘o’s doctoral degree in clinical psychology certifies his intellectual knowledge and academic vigor; but what raises him above others is his deeply grounded Hawaiian culture that roots him with the indigenous foundations of our kūpuna. This balance between western academia/business and mea kanaka ‘ōiwi are exactly a CEO should embrace. With Kamana‘o at the CEO position, he has instilled a grounded and accomplished Statewide, National, and International advancements in the large kuleana of OHA. He has brought the organization to new conversations in business and government while recognizing the legacy of our ancestors.

E ‘auamo kākou (Let us bear this ancestral legacy proudly on our shoulders)
‘Imi ka nā‘au (Look deep within ourselves for the foundation)

-The 2011 State of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (Pua Kanahele)

Kamana‘o has brought fresh, yet experienced leadership to OHA. He has demonstrated this through his representation in the South Pacific to our ancestral cousins and led toward historical resources incorporating data and well-being of our people. The development of Nā Limahana o Lonopūhā: the Native Hawaiian Health Consortium was initiated through his commitment towards improving health and well-being. I attribute Kamana‘o to being the sole person that keeps the consortium pili to each other and to our shared work. No other discipline has come close to creating such a partnership and coalition toward Native Hawaiian Health involving public, private, non-profit, and educational centers together. He leads with fairness, openness, and a passion for our people.

I also know Kamana‘o through his work with the Hale Mua. In this role, he is an expert advisor in the kuleana of the roles of men. Performing ‘awa ceremony, oli, and cultural advising to my hālau, Kamana‘o does so without any expectation or hesitation. From this cultural grounding, ‘Aha Kāne, the men’s conference, explored and revived the male presence in Hawaiian culture. As a son, brother, husband, and father himself, Kamana‘o embodies the Hawaiian male who takes on kuleana, not as a burden or expectation, but as a privilege. He is the role model that Native Hawaiian males are seeking while they
find uncertainty in walking between the two contrasting worlds of western and traditional. I look to Kamana’o to remind and teach me about what it means to think, and act, from a Hawaiian indigenous perspective. In my years of learning from him, I have seen patience, collaboration and confidence that he extends to those around him. Not only through his fluency in Hawaiian language, oratorical skills, or mastery of weaponry does his Kū aspect flow. His Hina aspect also encourages teaching, nurturing and genuine concern for the future of our people.

It is clearly apparent that Kamana’o desires to positively influence others’ lives based upon his own personal experiences. His conscious effort into the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians has brought him to OHA and has moved toward a larger impact in the State of Hawai‘i and beyond. His multi-faceted qualities enable him to not only succeed in the CEO position, but to create a new moku for all Hawaiians.

Thus, it is with great honor that I kāko’o Kamana‘opono Crabbe in his role as Chief Executive Officer of The Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

‘O wau nō me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Diane S.L. Paloma, PhD

CEO, King William Charles Lunalilo Trust and Home

Alaka‘i and ‘Ōlapa Hula, Ka Pā Hula O Ka Lei Lehua
May 31, 2018

Office of Hawaiian Affairs
The Board of Trustees
560 N.Nimitz Hwy
Honolulu, Hi. 96817

Aloha Mai Kākou,

‘O wau ‘o Jamee Māhealani Miller, no Punalu’u mai au. I am here representing my ‘ohana. I have two adult children and three mo‘opuna. I come from a hardworking, humble family. Parents who taught us how to behave and treat one another with kindness and to be accountable when we don’t. I am the eldest grandchild and child in my family so I have kuleana to my makua, kupuna and cousins. I am cognizant of the power and perception of influence, so being and having exceptional role models are important to me.

I am a licensed Social Worker and I have a doctorate degree in educational leadership. I work in both fields as they complement one another. I’ve dedicated my professional life to our lāhui and have chosen to work for Native Hawaiian organizations that are committed to the betterment of our people. I would never have thought to aspire for an advanced degree if there were not those that looked like me and were passionate for our people pioneering the way, such as Dr. Kamana‘opono Crabbe. He has inspired me and many others. I am and represent the typical modern Native Hawaiian woman, I have a demanding work schedule, I manage a household, am there for my family and friends, do things that keep me connected to my culture and I volunteer a lot because I believe in giving selflessly for the benefit of others. I follow issues through my network of friends and colleagues, try my best to be involved. To interrupt my day to day hana to write a support letter for Ka Pouhana is both a priority for me and irritates me that I have to take the time to do this...again! If the attempt to remove Ka Pouhana Crabbe is miraculously successful, it will undoubtedly be catastrophic and detrimental to our people and Hawaii for generations to come.

I have known Dr. Crabbe personally and professionally for over 25 years, seen him at his worse and best. Even in his worse, he has never behaved nor reacted to embarrass himself, his position, his ‘ohana and his legacy. Because of his pono behavior, he knows how his actions, thoughts and behaviors affect many. His leadership skills surpass many. In fact, several years back he was being introduced as a keynote speaker at the WIPCE conference being held in Hawai‘i where the emcee stated, “Dr. Kamana‘opono Crabbe is the most important kanaka to be alive today for our lāhui.” I sat there and instantly agreed.

Unfortunately, this is not my first time testifying on this subject regarding the contract of Ka Pouhana Dr. Kamana‘opono Crabbe. It is unfortunate because I along with many of my peers
have had discussions and feel that the trustees that have continued to raise this topic are wasting time and resources that do not belong to you! As a reminder, you are not a trustee to represent your personal interests but the interests of me, my children and my mo’opuna here and to come- in other words the lāhui. That is what a public servant is- a servant to the public, us.

My entire 25+ years of employment have been with Native Hawaiian organizations that are governed by a board of trustees. I am very familiar with the ins and outs of an organizing structure similar to that of OHA. And in all of my years, I have never been as mortified by a trustee(s), as I am by you three (Akina, Akana, Lindsey, H.,). The pettiness, incompetence and ineffectiveness you (three) continue to make us look inept, ineffectual and plain messy as a people. Of great importance, because of you three we leave ourselves vulnerable to the “others,” whose primary agenda are to take us down because we appear to be broken and disunited. The consequences of your actions are damaging the progression we are making as a people. This internal backbiting and infantile tactics need to stop! In the relatively short time that Dr. Crabbe has been Ka Pouhana, he and his staff have done more and have been at the forefront of real issues for our people than you have in your decades here. The public reputation of OHA has improved drastically because of Ka Pouhana Crabbe’s leadership, insight and strength. The difference he has made comes down to his leadership qualities and pono practices. His core is worthy and intentions are selfless.

In my last testimony, I shared with you a prime example of why Ka Pouhana was chosen to be the symbol of safety, well-being and PONO for the Hawaii Says No More campaign. I have embedded the PSA to evoke your memory as you again attempt to smear Ka Pouhana’s character. Also, may I remind you that it was very difficult to find Native Hawaiians to measure up to the standards and criteria of the PSA that were simply to live a life of truth and honor. How sad. But with role models such as you three, I am not surprised.

In closing, as a beneficiary and a registered voter, it is disappointing that we have to go through this again and again. Yet the silver lining that I and many others are looking forward to is the fact that this year is a voting year and trustees will be up for re-election. I and my peers are confident that there are others who are running against you that are better and will win. We stand behind Dr. Crabbe and support him as Ka Pouhana until the work is Pau and our people thrive.

Mahalo nui,

Jamee Māhealani Miller, EdD., LSW
Domestic violence and sexual assault should never be ignored. It's time we all speak out to stop the violence.

No more excuses. No more shame. No more silence. No more violence.
Aloha Chair Machado and Board of Trustees,

As you all know, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs was born out of the Hawaiian renaissance in the 1970’s to work for the betterment of Native Hawaiians. Through the organization’s history, we have seen and experienced its ups and downs, struggles and victories, periods of turmoil, and times of unity. We know that collectively, there is much more that can be achieved and accomplished to advance the well-being of OHA’s beneficiaries. We also know that more is accomplished in times of unity than in time of turmoil. In the words of our kupuna, “I hookahi kahi ke aloha” — Be one in love.

May I encourage the Board of Trustees to work in a way that unites us and builds upon our commonalities rather than our differences. Let us focus on the common value of aloha that we hold for Hawaii, for our people, and our kupuna who came before us. I ask that the Board of Trustees work together with the current administration to fulfill the solemn obligation of bettering the conditions of our people. Please work together with OHA CEO, Dr. Kamanaopono Crabbe and his team of executives, managers and staff to move our lauhui forward. I hookahi kahi ke aloha.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Kāwika K. Burgess