



KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Christopher M. Kaliko Baker selected as KIRC Commissioner

The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission today announced Christopher M. Kaliko Baker has been appointed as an interim KIRC Commissioner.

Commissioner Baker was nominated from a list provided by the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO), and was appointed by the Honorable Governor Neil Abercrombie to the seven-person State of Hawaii commission that oversees the management of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve includes the island of Kaho'olawe and the two-miles of water surrounding the island.

A graduate of Castle High School and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), Commissioner Baker is a PhD candidate in Linguistics and an instructor of Hawaiian at UHM's Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language. As a long-time member of the PKO, Kaliko has been part of Kaho'olawe's history from the Navy's return of the island to its transition to State management of its natural and cultural resources. In addition, he brings to the commission his expertise in Hawaiian language and Hawaiian cultural traditions as a noted Hawaiian language playwright and lead cultural practitioner for the *makahiki* ceremony on Kaho'olawe.

Commissioner Baker's dedication to perpetuating the native Hawaiian language and culture is in alignment with the KIRC's vision for Kaho'olawe; "where the people of Hawai'i cares for the land in a manner which recognizes the island and ocean of *Kanaloa* (an ancient name for Kaho'olawe) as a living spiritual entity. *Kanaloa* is a *pu'uhonua* (place of safety) and *wahi pana* (storied place) where Native Hawaiian cultural practices flourish."