

Recognizing the Outstanding Contributions and Dedication of Commissioner ‘Ānela Evans Towards the Healing and Restoration of Kaho‘olawe

WHEREAS, the term of ‘Ānela Evans as a Commissioner and the representative of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO) on the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) will come to an end on June 30, 2025 after four noteworthy years; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Evans graduated from the Kamehameha Schools Kapālama and received her undergraduate degree in Hawaiian Studies and a masters in Hawaiian Studies, concentrating in Mālama ‘Āina and Mo‘olelo ‘Āina from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Evans is currently an ‘Ike Hawai‘i Faculty member at Punahou Schools and previously was the Lāna‘i Resort Cultural Practitioner and Historian at the Four Seasons Resort Lāna‘i and still is a hula practitioner with Ka Pā Hula o Kauanoe O Wa‘ahila, under the direction of Kumu Hula Maelia Loebenstein Carter; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Evan’s relationship with Kaho‘olawe began twenty years ago as a student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and has been both an active volunteer for the KIRC and the PKO which eventually led to her working for the KIRC as the KIRC Volunteer Coordinator and with the PKO as a Kua, PKO Access Coordinator and KIRC certified Access Guide with kuleana to guide safe and meaningful accesses to Kaho‘olawe; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Evans was first appointed to the KIRC on February 22, 2021, by the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor of the State of Hawai‘i to serve for a term expiring on June 30, 2024, and served an additional year as a hold-over until her replacement was appointed; and

WHEREAS, while serving as a KIRC Commissioner, Commissioner Evans’ background in Hawaiian cultural practices and her work with both the KIRC and PKO was instrumental in coordinating the continuing working relationship between the two organizations, especially with the joint Ala Loa Project, a circular-island trail around the perimeter of Kaho‘olawe; and

WHEREAS, while serving as the KIRC Commissioner, Commissioner Evans was vital in the review, amendment and approval of the latest stewardship agreement or Papapala ‘Aelike Kahu‘āina between the KIRC and Protect Kaho‘olawe Fund that extended the working agreement between the two organizations to 2030; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Evans has served faithfully for four years as a commissioner, with passion, commitment; and

WHEREAS, with the completion of Commissioner Evans’ term of service, the KIRC will lose a visionary commissioner and Hawaiian cultural practitioner with deep knowledge and expertise; and

WHEREAS, though Commissioner Evans will leave her seat on the KIRC, it is clear that her work on Kaho‘olawe is not over and that she will continue as an advisor and supporter of the rebirth, healing and restoration of Kaho‘olawe for years to come; and

NOW THEREFORE, on this day, the twenty-first day of August in the year 2025, on the island of Oahu,

BE IT RESOLVED by the KIRC that a significant record of achievement has been accomplished by ‘Ānela Evans in the areas of leadership, Hawaiian cultural practices and community engagement for the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve, all in the spirit of healing Kaho‘olawe; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, through the leadership of ‘Ānela Evans, Kaho‘olawe will be restored as a rich cultural and environmental resource for Hawai‘i’s people, and through her actions and support, Kaho‘olawe has become a model of native Hawaiian stewardship and management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ‘Ānela Evans has served the KIRC with dignity and dedication; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Hawai‘i’s congressional delegation, the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, the Mayor of the County of Maui, and the Chairperson and Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.



Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission



*Michelle Pescaia
Chairperson*

*Faith Kahale Saito
Vice-Chairperson*

*Dawn N. S. Chang
Commissioner*

*J. Kalama Chock
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*Saumalu Mataafa
Commissioner*

*Benton Kealii Pang, Ph. D.
Commissioner*

*Keoni Souza
Commissioner*