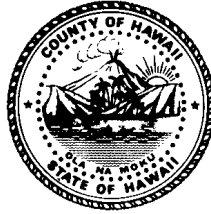


Dr. Holeka Goro Inaba
Vice Chair, Hawai'i County Council
Council Member, District 8, N. Kona



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

DATE: September 20, 2023

TO: Hawai'i County Youth Commission

FROM: Dr. Holeka Goro Inaba
Vice Chair, Hawai'i County Council

SUBJECT: Cultural Grounding in Youth Commission Practices

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holeka Goro Inaba". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i County Youth Commission,

I am very excited that the Hawai'i County Youth Commission will be actively engaging with issues that affect our youth and the future of our County. As you discuss policies and provide our County government with a longlasting perspective, I would like to emphasize the importance of grounding meetings and practices in Hawaiian cultural values and perspectives.

Hawaiian culture is deeply rooted in values that prioritize 'āina, kānaka, and most importantly, aloha. By incorporating these values into your commission's activities, you not only pay homage to our island heritage but also foster a sense of belonging, unity, and respect among our youth. As Section 5-3.4(b) of the Hawai'i County Charter states that the commission shall select three adult advisors from the County, I believe that selecting a Hawaiian cultural advisor would be in the best interest of the commission moving forward.

I look forward to discussing with you the potential ways you can incorporate Hawaiian perspectives into your commission business and how the commission might go about selecting an advisor moving forward.

Mahalo nui loa for your commitment to our community, and I look forward to witnessing the positive outcomes that will result from your efforts as a commission.

HGI/wpb