

Dwight Burns

June 12, 2023

Aloha oe,

My name is Dwight Kaleo Burns and I am writing to apply for the Representative of the Hawaiian Homes Commission and recommended by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for the East Maui Regional Community Board. I am a lineal descendant of East Maui and was raised in Wailuanui, Wailuake, Keanae, Nu Wailua, Honomanu, Peahi, Ulumalu, Halehaku; just to name a few of the areas where we practiced our gathering rights and cultural practices. I come from a long line of lineal descendants from the Hana, Wailuanui, Keanae, Peahi, Ulumalu:

- Hana- Nahuina, Koko, Konohia, Kealoha
- Wailuanui, Keanae, Honomanu- Kealohanui, Koko
- Ulumalu, Peahi- Konohia, Kealoha.

In addition, my mother, Apolonia Day, is an awarded land-lessee of DHHL in Makuu on Hawaii Island, and I as her beneficiary. It is for these reasons I feel I would be an asset to this Board.

As a youth growing up in Wailuanui I helped our families with our taro patches, went fishing, gathered opai, hooked O'opu, caught prawns all for food and sustenance. While working in the loi with my grandmother, she would take me up to clean the Kahawai that feeds the water into the taro patches. I would go with my uncle to gather opai and other resources and at the same time be given a lesson not only on the names of the streams but also the correct names of the area we were in at time. As a young adult I had the opportunity to learn from my father of the Haiku, Huelo, and Kailua area about the streams in those areas as we hunted for food and sustenance. Like me, he was taught about the area from his father and his grandfather who were cattle ranchers and farmers in those areas. I continue to visit these areas when given the chance to teach my kids and grandkids and hopefully for generations to come to preserve our natural environment and water resources on Maui Nui.

I value the importance of water resource management and watershed restoration. From my strong cultural upbringing and experiences, it has helped me preserve the knowledge from my kupunas. I humbly believe that my qualities and experiences would make me an asset to be a successful candidate. If there is any more information you would like me to provide, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dwight K. Burns