



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

March 11, 2021

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Attention: Chris Oliver  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Administrator:

Thank you for NOAA's letter regarding the upcoming obligatory State of Hawaii vacancy seat on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council). I am nominating the following individuals in order of priority:

State of Hawai'i, obligatory  
Matthew Ramsey  
Shaelene Kamakaala  
Solomon Kaho'ohalahala

All the nominees have expressed a desire to serve on the Council. All nominees have knowledge of or experience in the conservation and management of marine resources, commercial or recreational harvest of fishery resources, or habitat and ecosystem approaches to resource management. My list reflects a qualified woman and minority candidates.

The required documents for each nominee are enclosed. If further information is needed, please contact Mrs. Linda Chu Takayama, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor (808-586-0005), or Ms. Suzanne Case, Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (808-587-0401).

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

## **State of Hawaii's Nominations to the WesPac Council**

(In alphabetic order, by last name)

**Solomon Kahoohalahala** is a lifelong traditional subsistence fisher and gatherer. He is a native Hawaiian descendant from the island of Lanai. Currently Mr. Kahoohalahala serves as the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Native Hawaiian Elder on the Reserve Advisory Council, he chairs the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, and he was recently appointed Community Group Member of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. He has also held elected seats on the Maui County Council and the State House Representatives. Mr. Kahoohalahala strives to be a good steward for the islands and its surrounding waters. He believes that our success depends on seeking knowledge from our past, and that this will help us define our roles and responsibility in maintaining our balance for a sustained existence.

**Shaelene Kamakaala** is a young Hawaiian female with lifelong recreational and subsistence fishing experience. She has also participated in Hawaii's commercial fishery for six years. Ms. Kamakaala graduated from the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law with a Juris Doctor Degree, specializing in Environmental Law and Native Hawaiian Rights. She is currently the Director of Aina Protection for the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust. Prior to this, she served as a Deputy Attorney with Hawai'i County's Office of the Corporation Counsel and a Law Clerk and Bailiff for the Third Circuit Court in Hilo, Hawaii. She has also served as the Community Based Fisheries Planner at the State of Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources. Ms. Kamakaala is dedicated to the stewardship of Hawaii, our Nation's, and the World's ocean fisheries and habitats. Her guiding philosophy on the management of marine resources is facilitating solutions that integrate western science, traditional culture, and local community values.

**Matthew Ramsey** is a lifelong recreational fisherman. He currently serves as Director for Conservation International's Hawaii program. Prior to his current appointment, he served as the Hawaii fisheries extension agent for NOAA, NMFS. Throughout the past years he has worked closely with Council staff and appreciates the challenges the Council faces in creating fisheries management measures. He believes that a connection between the resources and people needs to be established to bring positive change to natural resource management. Mr. Ramsey sees both science and traditional knowledge being equally fundamental to management decision making. He recognizes opposing views often develop when fisheries management measures are considered, but believes that mutually beneficial results can be attained when both sides truly listen to each other.

**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**  
GOVERNOR



**JOSHUA F. TENORIO**  
LT. GOVERNOR

**UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

March 22, 2021

Mr. Paul Doremus  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (Acting)  
Attention: Hannah Hafey  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Hafa Adai! Mr. Doremus:

I am pleased to nominate the following individuals to the Obligatory Seat as a representative of the people of Guam on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. The nominees are listed in order of preference for selection.

Nominees:

Mr. Manny Duenas, Recreational; Mr. Duenas has been an outspoken advocate for fishermen and natural resources on Guam. He has 26 years of direct and indirect fishery experience, serving the fishing community of Guam at the local, national, and international levels. Mr. Duenas is also a former council member and is not afraid to face issues of concern for our community. Within the fishing community, the following individuals were consulted: Jesse Rosario and Joaquin Naputi.

Dr. Judith Guthertz, Recreational; Dr. Guthertz has spent her professional career in public service. She continues this service as a faculty member of the University of Guam as the instructor for the Regulatory Administration and Public Policy courses at the School of Business and Public Administration. She has helped to develop environmental policies and marine resource policies for Guam. She is passionate about promoting science-based policy making in fisheries and ecosystem resource management. She has fished all her life, explored and engaged in recreational activities in Guam's waters. Dr. Guthertz is committed to working toward a balanced approach to fisheries management, ethical fishing practices, respect for cultural and traditional fishing practices, and ensuring that marine resources are available for future generations. Those consulted in the fishing community: Catalino Bejado and Derrick Meno

Mr. Jason Biggs, Recreational and Marine Scientist; Mr. Biggs is the first Chamorro tenure-track research faculty and University of Guam Marine Lab. He is an avid spear fisher and incorporates his passion into his work as he researches solutions and cures in Guam's marine life, while also fishing to feed his family. Dr. Biggs has been recreationally fishing in Guam for over 40 years. He spearfishes, trolls, and does hook and line. He has set four long term career goals with the intention of giving something back to Guam and achieving sustainable use of Guam's natural resources:

To: Mr. Paul Doremus, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
Fr: Governor of Guam  
Date: March 22, 2021  
Re: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

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1) create a laboratory that focuses on Guam's natural marine resources; 2) to showcase and promulgate traditional ecological knowledge of the Pacific; 3) to inspire indigenous students to pursue careers in science-related fields; and 4) to integrate 1-3 in ways that will help facilitate local capacity building for marine resource management, protect our unique biodiversity, and make Micronesia a better place for all to live: Within the fishing community, the following individuals were consulted: Monique Genereux, Ken Borja, Eric Flores, and Felix Sasamoto.

Ms. Cristian "CJ" Cayanan, Recreational and Marine Scientist; Ms. Cayanan is a biologist II at the Guam Department of Agriculture. She also grew up fishing recreationally with her family and continues to fish Guam's waters as a form of recreation on the days she is not working to protect Guam's marine resources. Ms. Cayanan incorporates values learned as a child into the conservation work, she engages in today. Her biological work contributes to the protection of Guam's turtle and fish populations. Those consulted in the fishing community include: Jamie Bass and Robert Koss.

Mr. Kin Flores, Recreational; Mr. Flores has been a fisherman for 30 years and is currently a board member of the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association. Mr. Flores has several years of experience in leadership and would be an outspoken advocate for the fishers of Guam. Those consulted in the fishing community: James Borja and Mike Duenas.

All nominees are current residents of Guam, with good moral character and who have demonstrated their love and interest in fishery, both recreational and commercial. I have full confidence that they will participate fully to ensure that fishery issues are brought forth and that our vital natural resources are managed and available for future generations to enjoy.

Should you have any questions regarding these nominations, please contact the Office of the Governor.

*Senseremente,*



**LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO**

*Maga'hågan Guåhan*

Governor of Guam

Enclosure(s): Regional Fishery Management Council Application(s)

cc: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*



**LEMANU P. S. MAUGA**  
GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**  
Telephone: (684) 633-4116 Fax: (684) 633-2289

**TALAUEGA E. V. ALE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Serial: 216-21

March 19, 2021

Mr. Paul Doremus  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (Acting)  
National Marine Fisheries Service 1315  
East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Talofa Mr. Doremus,

It is with great pleasure that I submit three (3) qualified nominees for the American Samoa vacant Obligatory Seat on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council). These individuals are listed by order of priority. Their general background and experience are as follows:

1. William Sword: Mr. Sword is an engineer by profession and a dedicated recreational sports fisherman. He is intimately familiar with the Council process and has served as a Council member in the past. He is well versed on local fishery issues as he supplies fuel for the fishing fleet in his profession, and is also a member of the Governor's Fisheries Task Force.
2. Christopher King: Mr. King is the Director for the American Samoa Port Administration, and I nominate him to represent the "other" sector as required. He is in constant contact with fishermen and is aware of their needs. He also serves as a member of the American Samoa Ocean Planning Team, which is developing a plan to make ocean activities more efficient in surrounding waters.
3. Petti Matila: Ms. Matila is the current Director for the ASG Department of Commerce. As you may know, the tuna industry is one of American Samoa's economic drivers. One of Ms. Matila's responsibilities is to oversee that accurate data collection and statistics are compiled for appropriate GDP enumerations, as well as determine the economic contribution of the tuna/fishing industry to the territory of American Samoa. Ms. Matila actively engages with the fishing industry, and fishermen, for the territory's development planning needs.

The above list was compiled by my office after consultation with the Fishery Task Force and local fishing community. I am confident that they are fully qualified to fill the vacant Council seat, and offer them for your consideration. They are of good moral character and have demonstrated their love and interest in our Fisheries, both commercial and recreational. I have full confidence that

Mr. Paul Doremus  
National Marine Fisheries Service 1315  
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they will participate fully and faithfully to ensure that our fishery issues are prioritized, and that our vital natural resources are managed, preserved and made available for future generations to enjoy.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lemanu P. S. Mokuia', written over a horizontal line.

LEMANU P. S. MOKUIA  
Governor