

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA  
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017  
1:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 819  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE GAME  
MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN  
KOHATSU, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2020**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports  
Governor's Message 819, nominating Mr. Ryan Kohatsu to the Game Management  
Advisory Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2020.**

Pursuant to Section 183D-4.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), the Game Management Advisory Commission (Commission) shall: 1) serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board); and 2) consist of nine members to be appointed by the Governor in the manner provided in Section 26-34, HRS. The Commission shall include a member from the County of Kaua'i, three members from the County of Maui (one member from each of the islands of Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i), two members from the County of Hawai'i (one member from East Hawai'i and one member from West Hawai'i), one member from the City and County of Honolulu, one at-large member, and the Chairperson of the Board or the Chairperson's designated representative. Each member, other than the Chairperson of the Board, is required to be a hunter licensed in the State and have leadership experience in working directly with local hunter or shooting organizations. At least one member shall have knowledge, experience and expertise in the area of native Hawaiian cultural practices, and no more than three members shall represent, be employed by, or be under contract to any sector of government.

Mr. Kohatsu has been nominated to be a member of the Commission from the County of Hawai'i, East Hawai'i. He is an active licensed hunter and has over 20 years of hunting and shooting experience. Having previously served as a Commissioner with the County of Hawai'i

Game Management Advisory Commission, he currently volunteers as a Hawai'i State Hunter Education Instructor. Mr. Kohatsu is a certified pistol instructor with the National Rifle Association, and while attending Ohio State University, he participated in competitive shooting and received NCAAA Rifle All-American Honors. Recently, he organized public hunter ungulate removal projects in coordination with the Department and U.S. Army in the Pohakuloa Training Area on Hawai'i Island.

Mr. Kohatsu's range of knowledge and experience with the hunting and shooting sports will make him an excellent member of the Game Management Advisory Commission.



# Hawaii Hunting Association

“To Preserve, Protect, and Promote Public Hunting”

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Senate Confirmation Hearing for Hawaii State Game Management Advisory Commission

Room 224, April 19, 2017, 1:30 PM

Ryan Kohatsu. - **Support nomination for East Hawaii Representative to the State Game Management Advisory Commission**

April 17, 2017

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and esteemed members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Ryan Kohatsu is well suited to serve as East Hawaii Representative to the State Game Management Advisory Commission, having also served on the Hawaii County Game Management Advisory Commission. Ryan has years of experience working on hunting issues here on the Big Island.

We heartily endorse Ryan’s selection to the State of Hawaii Game Management Advisory Commission.

Much Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Lodge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Lodge

16-1596 Keaau Paho Road  
Keaau, Hawaii 96749  
(808) 982-4747

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2017 8:43 PM  
**To:** WTL Testimony  
**Cc:** wekeis333@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM819 on Apr 19, 2017 13:30PM

**GM819**

Submitted on: 4/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Apr 19, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tony Sylvester	Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members, The Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance would be honored to have Ryan Kohatsu represent the East Hawaii district of the newly formed State Game Commission. Ryan is one of our premier hunter advocates and has dedicated much time and resources towards the protection, preservation and promotion of our public resources. He understands why hunting, gathering and native resource protection is so important within our community. I look forward to working with Ryan as our East Hawaii Commissioner. I have known Ryan for over ten years and he will be a major asset to the Game Commission. Mahalo, Tony Sylvester Hawaii Sportsmen's Alliance

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:10 PM  
**To:** WTL Testimony  
**Cc:** davidnorris@me.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM819 on Apr 19, 2017 13:30PM

**GM819**

Submitted on: 4/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Apr 19, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Norris	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Ryan is a great candidate for this position. He has high skill levels and knowledge of many different styles of hunting. He also has shown high levels of concern and support of conservation of the resources we have left. I believe he will bring a very needed perspective to any commission or board he is a part of.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

State of Hawaii  
Office of the Governor  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

State Game Management Advisory Commission  
Letter of Recommendation – Ryan Kohatsu

April 17, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter of recommendation in strong support of Ryan Kohatsu to hold a seat on the State Game Management Advisory Commission. Ryan is more than qualified to sit on this commission because of his vast experience and track record in working with numerous differing entities to move a common goal forward. He has the intellect, management skill, and temperament to collaborate with the involved parties to **finally** establish a working management policy/system that will both enhance our native ecosystems and effectively manage our resources. Ryan has a vested interest in the future of our ecosystems and ability to provide for our future generations, and he will be an asset for the State of Hawaii as we move forward with this important issue.

Thank you for your consideration in Ryan Kohatsu for a seat on Hawaii's State Game Management Advisory Commission.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Aaron Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aaron Brown  
229 Kalona St.  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 15, 2017 1:46 PM  
**To:** WTL Testimony  
**Cc:** barcaman419@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM819 on Apr 19, 2017 13:30PM

**GM819**

Submitted on: 4/15/2017

Testimony for WTL on Apr 19, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicolai Barca	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing testimony in support of Ryan Kohatsu for the Game Commission. Not only is Ryan a leader in the hunting community, but his actions speak as loud as his words. He has devoted a great deal of time to promoting and protecting the hunting culture that he loves. I am a staunch conservationist, as well as hunter, and I see in Ryan something rare- he has the ability to see the topic of animal management from both sides of the fence, so to speak. I believe he will make informed and balanced choices to preserve and perpetuate Hawaii's hunting culture and hunting opportunities, while also taking the environment into consideration. Mahalo for the chance to testify. - Nicolai Barca

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 18, 2017 11:41 AM  
**To:** WTL Testimony  
**Cc:** nanihawaii@aol.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM819 on Apr 19, 2017 13:30PM\*

**GM819**

Submitted on: 4/18/2017

Testimony for WTL on Apr 19, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
nani pogline	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)