



**Hawai'i Commission for National
and Community Service**
University of Hawai'i
1601 East-West Road, JAB 4082
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96848

Tracy Lee
Interim Executive Director

Phone: (808) 956-8145
Fax: (808) 944-7644
Email: hicncs@hawaii.edu

June 24, 2020

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair-Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate District 14
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 229
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Honorable Chair Kim and the Senate Higher Education Committee,

I am pleased to support the appointment and confirmation of Mr. Perry Arrasmith to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service.

This Commission enacted by Federal Statute, is responsible for administering and receiving federal funds to support AmeriCorps Programs in the State of Hawai'i. There are currently 9 programs in the Hawai'i portfolio, with approximately 350 to 400 members serving throughout the state bringing in over \$4,200,000.00 a year in Federal Funds. The current focus areas of our programs concentrate on land conservation; legal help for the low-income and or disadvantaged individuals; sustainable agriculture; healthy futures; and financial literacy.

The composition of the Commission by Federal statute requires a minimum of 15 members, an equal representation of political parties with NO one party having a majority, and representation of various professional occupations.

Mr. Arrasmith will represent Youth between the ages of 16–25. He will offer insight and expertise to our commission as a youth participant in several service programs as a volunteer. His valuable leadership in supporting community service and volunteerism will be greatly welcomed. His appointment will also allow the Commission to maintain the equal balance between political parties which is needed to remain compliant with the Federal Statutes.

Please allow Mr. Arrasmith the opportunity to serve on the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service by confirming him.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Lee".

Tracy Lee
Interim Executive Director
Hawai'i Commission for National & Community Service

TL/ader



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EWA MAKAI MIDDLE SCHOOL
91-6291 Kapolei Parkway
Ewa Beach, Hawai'i 96706
Telephone (808) 687-9500 Fax (808) 685-2052

June 30, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this recommendation for Mr. Perry Arrasmith for this prestigious position. About 7 years ago I met Perry as a sophomore student at Aiea High School when I was the principal. He was on our debate team and part of the reason we even had a debate team. His drive and willingness to make things better at our school was evident in everything he volunteered to be part of on the campus. He was in student government and at every event at the school. His accomplishments through high school were outstanding and he always strived to make the best of every situation in front of him. As a valedictorian and leader in the school it never surprised me that he was involved in so many aspects of our public education system. Perry worked on a senior project with our DOE facilities branch and proposed an energy efficient system to help save money by using different lighting for our schools. He even presented his proposal at our annual Educational Leadership Institute (ELI) with Assistant Superintendent Dann Carlson.

When Perry was accepted to Harvard it was such a proud moment for Aiea High School. He laid the foundation for other students to persevere and succeed at our school. He was a role model for our community and for the state of Hawaii. Perry received the 2016 Citizenship Award for Aiea High School and then won for the state. His achievements were many and they are continuing in his adult life. He has a vast knowledge of education and a willingness to help his community. Perry collaborates well with others and makes solid decisions when there is a problem to solve.

This year I was invited to his drive by graduation from Harvard University in Ewa Beach. To see Perry be so successful was fantastic and as you will see from his resume he has continued to be involved in his school and the community as a volunteer and a leader. We are fortunate to have our youth want to come back to Hawaii and give back to their community. Perry is one of those young men that is passionate about making our state a better place for everyone.

Perry Arrasmith gets my highest recommendation and best wishes for a successful life. He will make a difference in whatever career he chooses to pursue. It has been exciting to see his growth these past years and I can't wait to see what he does with all of his skills in the future. Please contact me if you need any more information at kim.sanders@k12.hi.us

Most Sincerely,

Kim Sanders, Principal
Ewa Makai Middle School

Braeden Foldenauer

bfoldenauer@college.harvard.edu | 901-239-2221

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Senate Committee on Higher Education,

My name is Braeden Foldenauer, and I am writing to provide my recommendation for Perry Arrasmith to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service.

I am a senior at Harvard College from Mississippi studying government and education. On campus, I serve as the Vice President of Primus (the College's first-generation, low-income student union), as Senior Ambassador for the Advanced Leadership Initiative, as founder and director of the Mississippi-based nonprofit *Feeding the Future Mississippi*, and as a voting member and steering committee member on the Harvard College Honor Council.

It is in my roles on the Honor Council that I have had the pleasure of meeting and working alongside Perry. For background, the Honor Council is a student-faculty committee which works to uphold Harvard College's Honor Code, to enforce the university's academic integrity policies, and to raise awareness about the importance of academic integrity within the Harvard College community. In my capacity as a steering committee member, I facilitate the training and onboarding of each cohort of the Council's voting members, which is how I was first introduced to Perry. I worked closely with him over the course of his semester-long training and have served alongside him throughout his tenure as a voting member, where we have investigated and deliberated on cases of potential academic dishonesty.

Having watched Perry grow and blossom into a passionate leader and change-agent both on our board as well as within the broader Harvard University community, I have no doubt that Perry would be a perfect fit for the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service.

For one, Perry has been a delight to work with. Throughout his time with our body, he has demonstrated an unparalleled work ethic and an uncompromising commitment to the truth. Despite never hesitating to vocalize his opinions or misgivings throughout our deliberations, Perry has always been able to disagree without being disagreeable. A sincere listener, he has never failed to seek out others' views on the matter at hand. Perry pursues tasks with an almost tireless zeal and settles for no less than perfection. As a voting member, he has navigated incredibly difficult conversations. I have witnessed on many occasions his unique ability to gently approach distraught students appearing before our council, most of them experiencing perhaps the most difficult part of their college journey. Perry is also able to communicate with people from all backgrounds and diverse positions of authority, such as his fellow student voters as well as high-ranking Harvard deans and administrators.

In addition, Perry's reputation as someone who is uncompromisingly honest and ethical led to his appointment as Chair of the Harvard Undergraduate Council Election Commission, yet another position which requires extreme discretion managing delicate information. And despite

Braeden Foldenauer

bfoldenauer@college.harvard.edu | 901-239-2221

the mental and emotional drain of serving on a disciplinary board, whenever we needed someone to take on additional responsibilities either with our outreach efforts or handling additional cases, Perry was always the first to volunteer. He has never failed to make time to support the work of our body, despite not having to, and has always gone above and beyond in offering new and innovative ideas on how we could more effectively carry out our work. It is for these reasons—his unparalleled work ethic, his uncompromising integrity, and his warm and approachable nature, which make Perry an ideal nominee for the Commission for National and Community Service.

But beyond his overall fitting demeanor, I am confident that Perry would serve the Commission well because of his passion for service. Over the years I have known him, two aspects of his character have stood out and made him someone I admire greatly: his love for his home state of Hawai'i and his commitment to a life of public service. When I first met Perry, I was struck by his erudition and love for learning, and while I certainly still consider Perry one of the brightest people I've had the pleasure of meeting, what has stood out more is his guiding purpose: a clear ambition to uplift children in Hawai'i and to provide for a better tomorrow for his community.

Perry is someone who never loses sight of his personal mission, and I would find it incredibly challenging to find someone more driven by the selfless pursuit of empowering others. Never motivated by personal gain or limelight, Perry has never wavered in expressing his desire to pursue impact over personal profit. Regardless of where he ends up, I am confident Perry will be working to stay true to his personal cause of helping others. For this reason, I cannot think of any better fit for him than on the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service.

Thank you for taking the time to read through my testimony. I appreciate the opportunity to write to the committee on behalf of Perry. To reiterate, either for his unparalleled warmth and determination as a committed team member or because of his profound passion for service to others, Perry would be an incredible addition to the Commission. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warmly,
Braeden Foldenauer

TESTIMONY TO SUPPORT THE APPOINTMENT OF PERRY ARRASMITH
TO THE COMMISSION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

To: The Honorable Senator Donna Mercado, Chair
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee of Higher Education

From: Tracey Idica (tracey.idica@hawaii.gov)

Date: July 1, 2020

Re: GM843: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service, Gubernatorial Nominee, Perry Arrasmith, for a term to expire 06-30-2023

It is with pride that I write this testimony supporting the appointment of Perry Arrasmith to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service. I have known Perry since he was a student in my Advanced Placement English Language course at Aiea High School. He was an exemplary student with a passionate drive to make a difference in both his community and the world.

We have stayed in touch through the years and I have seen this commitment grow. Perry is a proud graduate of our Hawaii public schools; he understands the value of education. I had the opportunity to see Perry when he was an intern for Senator Schatz in the summer of 2019. He was well-respected and involved in the senator's meetings and hearings regarding Native Hawaiian Affairs and Climate and Energy Policy. As busy as he was, he still took the time to provide his former English teacher with a personal tour of the Capitol. Even as a tour guide, Perry's knowledge of every corner of building was obvious. More importantly, it shows his willingness to give of his time and knowledge.

He will provide a strong voice for the commission. His experiences as public school student who understands the community, his educational background, and his genuine compassion and care for others make him a perfect choice for this commission.

Thank you for considering the confirmation of Perry Arrasmith to the Hawai'i Commission for National and Community Service.