

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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**

**Friday, March 18, 2022
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 685
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RILEY SMITH
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2026**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 685 nominating Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for a term to expire on June 30, 2026.

Riley Smith brings a wealth of land management and project development knowledge to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. His experience in managing large tracts of land at Lanihau Properties and Parker Ranch will be helpful to the Department as it moves forward with developing Pulehunui Industrial and Business Park, the Kanoiehua Complex and other properties, as well as managing the Department's various land dispositions. Mr. Smith's planning and engineering background will bring practical knowledge to the board as the Department manages impacts from sea level rise.

Mr. Smith has extensive community service ranging from the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce to serving on the Executive Committee of the Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference to being a director on the Nā Kupa'a o Kūhiō Board, a non-profit Department of Hawaiian Home Lands group, eligible for United States Department of Agriculture Infrastructure funding. Mr. Smith has also served the Department through his work as the Chairperson of the Nā Ala Hele Advisory Council, Hawai'i Island, and serving on the Commission on Water Resource Management Nominating Committee in 2020.

Mr. Smith has a MBA from the University of Hawaii and a BA in Civil Engineering from the University of Southern California. He is a graduate of Kamehameha Schools. He will bring a wealth of experience to a diverse Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of Mr. Riley Smith.

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN
PATRICK H. MCCAIN
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 18, 2022

1:00 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229/Teleconference

Governor's Message 685

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2026

Senate Committee on Water and Land

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is in **strong support** of this nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Agencies like the DOT depend on this board to set clear priorities, hear all perspectives, work with communities across the state, and make sound decisions that protect our islands, all while allowing us to move forward to meet the current and future needs of our residents. Mr. Smith's professional background, expertise in land and asset management, and proven track record of community service make him the right person for this appointment.

Mr. Smith's career has included senior level positions in the private and public sectors. As such, he has a firm understanding of how to work with and within government. His contributions to Hawaii over the past 40 years underscore his ability to lead, work collaboratively, and make decisions for the greater good. He is grounded in Hawaii and no doubt will act on behalf of the best interests of our state.

Leaders of the DOT have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Smith in various capacities over the past 15 years, and know him to be a tremendous ally, reasonable sounding board, and mentor.

The DOT respectfully urges your committee's favorable consideration of the nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

March 10, 2022

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye
Chair of Senate Water & Land Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Vice Chair of Senate Water & Land Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 221
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Support of Riley Smith, DLNR Land Board Member, Representing Hawai'i Island

Dear Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of Mr. Riley Smith's nomination to the Land Board. Mr. Smith is a dedicated public servant committed to his community and the people he serves. As former Chair of this Committee (2018 to 2020), I am confident he is ideally suited for this Board.

I recently met and spent over an hour with the applicant. I was impressed with his background and experience in areas that are pertinent to DLNR and its Board.

He is an outdoors person that is very experienced with the ocean and near shore waters in Hawai'i. He is the former President of the Halona Point Bodysurfing Association, that still runs the annual meets at Sandy Beach. He is a former City and County lifeguard at both Makapu'u and Sandy Beach Parks. He has surfed, paddled, standup paddled, gone spearfishing and continues to swim in the ocean, on a weekly basis. He and his wife interact with DOCARE's officers, on their weekly visits to Waialea Marine Preserve.

He has extensive business experience in dealing with all three facets of government:

- County: Deputy Chief Engineer, Department of Public Works (1993 to 1995)
- State: Has dealt with permitting of the Hawai'i Island Burial Council, State Historic Preservation Division, well permits with the Commission on Water Resource Management, Chair (12 years) of the Na Ala Hele Advisory Council for Hawai'i island, permits for fiber optic cable installation in State waters. He regularly deals with the Department's Bureau of Conveyances.
- Federal: Has dealt with interactions with US Fish and Wildlife Service (Critical Habitat Designation) and the National Park Service (Designation of Water Management Area, Keauhou Aquifer)

In his current employment, he is a businessman (President/CEO of Lanihau Properties, 2013 to present). He understands the need to make payroll for his ten employees. He looks for revenue generating opportunities, similar to what DLNR does in its operations.

I am confident that if selected, Mr. Smith would be an excellent addition to the Hawai'i DLNR Land Board. He has proven himself to have the perseverance, initiative, and expertise to contribute as a valued member of this Land Board.

Sincerely



Kaiali'i Kahele

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Lee E. Lord
Managing Director

Robert H. Command
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 17, 2022

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor, County of Hawai'i
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 961-8211
mitchd.roth@hawaiicounty.gov

RE: Nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources
Term Ending: 6/30/2026

Dear Honorable Ronald Kiouchi, President, and Members of the Senate:

It is with great admiration and enthusiasm that I support the nomination of Riley Smith as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). As a Professional Engineer, with a lifelong, intricate knowledge of Hawai'i Island and its resources and challenges, Riley is highly qualified in land management and committed to the conservation, protection, and sustainable use of Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources within the public trust.

He has a proven track record, from his tenure as Deputy Chief Engineer in the Hawai'i County Department of Public Works, through his work with Parker Ranch, Sandwich Isle Communications, and Lanihau Properties.

I trust Riley absolutely – in fact, I appointed Riley to sit on the interview panel for many of the incoming cabinet positions in my administration.

Mr. Smith has been involved in numerous community and professional organizations throughout his career, and currently sits on the Kona Water Roundtable, Organizing Committee, the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Planning and Permitting, and the Hawai'i County Liquor Commission.

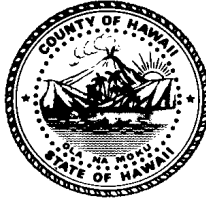
It is my opinion that the Board of Land and Natural Resources would greatly benefit from having Mr. Riley's dedication and intelligence on the Board. I strongly support selecting Riley Smith as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. If you have further questions about his qualifications, please do not hesitate to let me know, I can be reached at: (808) 961-8211

Riley Smith has my highest recommendation as a member of the BLNR. Should you wish to discuss my recommendation further, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

From the office of -
Council Member
District 3



Office: (808) 961-8396
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov

SUSAN L.K. LEE LOY

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

March 14, 2022

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 685
RILEY SMITH – BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Dear Senator Inouye and Members of the Committee

This letter is written in **strong support** of Gubernatorial Nominee Riley Smith. Your Committee will advance and recognize many qualified applicants with excellent qualities. An area worth highlighting in Mr. Smith's resume is his ability to be a grounding, level-setting voice of understanding and sensibility.

As a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, there will be a need to balance many parts of the law, departmental rules, government personnel, and the uniqueness of our state, island communities, and their ideas therein. Having known Mr. Smith for 30+ years, I can attest that he consistently demonstrates the unique ability to understand complex issues, involve the community, and find solutions. Mr. Smith will be a valuable addition to the Board, and I strongly urge your Committee's approval.

As always, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Aloha Piha,

Susan "Sue" L.K. Lee Loy
Council Member, County of Hawai'i, District 3
Chair, Committee on Public Works and Mass Transit



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY • COUNTY OF HAWAII

345 KEKŪANAŌ`A STREET, SUITE 20 • HILO, HAWAII 96720

TELEPHONE (808) 961-8050 • FAX (808) 961-8657

March 16, 2022

TESTIMONY OF KEITH K. OKAMOTO, MANAGER-CHIEF ENGINEER
DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY, COUNTY OF HAWAII

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

DATE: Friday, March 18, 2022

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**GM 685 – NOMINATION OF RILEY SMITH TO THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Honorable Chair Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice-Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members
of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of the nomination of Mr. Riley Smith to the Board of
Land and Natural Resources.

My experiences in working with Mr. Smith over the course of many years indicate that he is an
intelligent and pragmatic person able to make sound decisions based on his ability to gather and
process relevant information.

His resume and bio also show his vast experiences in private, public and community service.

Based on the above, I strongly believe Mr. Smith will bring a valuable perspective to this important
body. I am confident that he will be a great asset to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and in
turn, the State of Hawaii and our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

...Water, Our Most Precious Resource...Ka Wai A Kāne...

The Department of Water Supply is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 3:04:46 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Gottlieb	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support the nomination of Riley Smith for the Board of Land & Natural Resources. Mr. Smith has a long and well respected career in the agricultural and conservation industries.



March 11, 2022

Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Water and Land Committee
Hawaii State Legislature

Support for Governor Ige's Nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Water and Land Committee,

The Kohala Coast Resort Association is in full support of Governor David Ige's Nomination of Riley Smith, to fill the Hawaii Island seat on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I had the pleasure of serving with Riley on the Real Property Tax Working Group for the County of Hawaii between 2017 and 2018, and appreciate his thoughtful deliberations on sensitive issues that impact our community. I have also been fortunate to watch his leadership in action, through his service on the Waimea Community Association's board of directors.

With his extensive knowledge of land management issues across the island and our state, and his experience in both the public and private sector, we believe he is the right person for this important role.

Mahalo for the opportunity to lend our voice to the chorus of voices singing his praises!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie P. Donoho". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Stephanie Donoho, Administrative Director

March 11, 2022

I am writing in support of Riley Smith's appointment to represent Hawaii island on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Riley, first as a respected upperclassman at Kamehameha Schools, and later as a strong leader serving in professional and personal capacities.

In addition to leadership on numerous public and private boards and committees, Riley has a lifelong personal care for Hawaii's environment, especially the ocean. Having body and board surfed for most of his life, his relationship with the ocean continues as he swims regularly at Puako Beach.

Riley applies exceptional organizational skills and acute attention to detail to all of his endeavors, whether addressing water well issues in Kona or documenting steps to building and operating his personal 'umu in Kamuela.

His reputation is excellent, counsel invaluable, and actions are pono.

He will serve the DLNR well.

Sincerely,

Dwight Ho
Kia'iwai Service, LLC



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Hawaii State Aha Moku
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Hawaii State Aha Moku

Before the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Friday, March 18, 2022
1:00 P.M.

Support for Governor Message 685, Riley Smith
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee of Water and Land,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer strong support for Governor Message 685, Riley Smith. This message is submitted for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for a term to expire on June 30, 2026.

Participants in the Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) Moku O Keawe (Island of Hawaii) supports this submittal.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku, Island of Moku O Keawe (Hawai'i) works with participants of all six moku – Kohala, Hamakua, Hilo, Puna, Ka'u and Kona, as well as many of the one hundred and ninety-seven (197) ahupua'a encompassed within these moku.

Mr. Smith knows and understands the native Hawaiian culture and because of the size of Moku O Keawe recognizes the natural and cultural practices on this island often differ according to the ecosystems and environments of the different moku. What works in Ka'u does not work in Kohala. Mr. Smith's expertise and knowledge of government and civic endeavors works well with his cultural background and native Hawaiian generational knowledge of specific ahupua'a and districts.

Aha Moku supports Riley Smith as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and urges this Committee to Advise and Consent Governor Message 685.

Respectfully yours,

Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, Ka Mea Ho'okumu, Email: kahalelehua@outlook.com
Rocky Kaluhiwa, Kahu Nui O Kakuhihewa, Email: rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com,
Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/Executive Director, Email: Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov

Hawaii State Aha Moku
808-640-1214

LĀNA‘I COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

P. O. Box 630142
Lāna‘i City, HI 96763-0142



Phone: 808-565-6919
Fax: 808-565-9111

The Community is our Patient -- men, women, children, uninsured, insured!

March 15, 2022

Honorable Senator Lorraine Inouye
Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol Room 210
415 So. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairwoman Inouye and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of confirmation of Mr. Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Mr. Smith for more than twenty years, and I believe the governor has found a superb candidate to nominate to the Board. His educational background and record are exceptional. His leadership abilities have been proven. His training as an engineer will tender logic to the decision-making process. His participation as a Kanaka Maoli will bring perspective to native Hawaiian issues. His past work experience gives him intimate knowledge of land use conflicts and their resolution.

Although Riley’s resume is extremely impressive, I would like to add that my personal experience with him reveals an individual who puts complete effort into every project that he takes on. Riley does not do anything without giving it his all, and accomplishes tasks with meticulous care, organization and attention to detail.

I believe that Riley Smith will be a strong board member, and I support his nomination to the Board of Land and Natural Resources without reservation.

Aloha,

Randall YM Kam, DDS
Dental Director

E Ola nō Lāna‘i
LIFE, HEALTH, and WELL-BEING FOR LĀNA‘I

Testimony of
Robert Y. Akinaka and Ken C. Kawahara

Before the Committee on
Water and Land

Friday, March 18, 2022
1:00 P.M.

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Conference Room 229

In consideration of
GM 685
APPOINTMENT OF RILEY W. SMITH

Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Honorable Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

We respectfully testify in strong support of the consideration and confirmation of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Smith has led Lanihau Properties as its President and Chief Executive Officer since 2013 and is responsible for 10,000 acres of land that this family enterprise owns and manages on Hawaii island. In addition, he has worked as the Deputy Chief Engineer, Department of Public Works, County of Hawaii, Vice President of Land and Asset Management for Parker Ranch and held various other project manager and engineering positions through out his 46 year career. He is well versed in land dispositions, licenses, leases, revocable permits, easements as well as land title issues. He has also been involved with various land/resource management (invasive species control, erosion/sediment control, brush fire/fuel management).

In addition, Mr. Smith has been involved in numerous community and professional organizations including the Board of Directors for Bishop Holdings Corporation, Chair of the Na Ala Hele Advisory Council for Hawaii Island, Chair of Hawaii County's Liquor Commission, Chair of the Hawaii County's Liquor Adjudication Board, President of the Kailua Village Business Improvement District, Secretary/Treasurer of Na Kupaa O Kuhio, Past President of the Rotary Club of North Hawaii, former chair of the Hawaii County's Environmental Management Commission, the Hawaii County Water Commission, the State of Hawaii's Professional Licensing Board (EASLA).

His professional affiliations include the Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers and the Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference. As an active community participant, Mr. Smith is a member of the Paniolo Preservation Society, Waimea Outdoor Circle and past president of the Waimea Community Association.

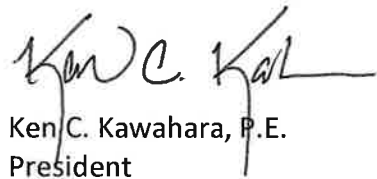
In 2004, the Big Island Chapter of the Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers honored Mr. Smith as their Engineer of the Year.

We are confident that Mr. Smith will make significant contributions to the Board of Land and Natural Resources and strongly support his nomination based on his experience and knowledge of land and resource management.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Robert Y. Akinaka, P.E.
Chairman Emeritus



Ken C. Kawahara, P.E.
President

March 14, 2022

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

Re: Testimony GM685

Please accept this letter in strong support of Mr. Riley William Smith's candidacy and confirmation for the Board of Land and Natural Resources for a term to expire June 30, 2026.

As evidenced by his well-articulated bio and resume, Mr. Smith's upbringing, strong academic credentials and diverse career experiences extensively focused on or around Land, Ocean and Natural Resource and related infrastructure management across the State makes him uniquely qualified to serve. Moreover, Mr. Smith and his 'ohana have demonstrated commitment to community through their respective careers and involvement in public and community engagement interests and activities.

Mahalo for your favorable consideration of Mr. Smith's candidacy.

Sincerely,

Eric K. Martinson
Executive Vice President, Endowment &
Chief Investment Officer
The Queen's Health Systems
President, Queen Emma Land Company

Board of Directors

March 14, 2022

President

Benson Medina

Committee on Water and Land

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Secretary

Margaret Stanley

**RE: Letter of Support for Board of Land and Natural Resources
Nominee RILEY SMITH (GM685)**

Treasurer

Kimo Lee

I am pleased to offer this letter of support for gubernatorial nominee, Riley Smith. Dating back to our days as high school students at Kamehameha Schools in the late 1960's, I am honored to say that my letter of recommendation comes with over 50 years of a personal friendship and a professional relationship.

Assistant Treasurer

Zeda Medina

Riley's resume and experience speaks for itself. He has committed his professional life to excellence, reliability and common sense judgement that always puts him on the top of everyone's list. As a servant leader, he has offered up his sizeable skill set to many community organizations (including Hui 'Oihana) that are now the better for his selfless participation.

Past President

Kirstin Kahaloa

In the 55 years that I've know Riley Smith, I've seen him risk his own life to save another, I've seen him stand fast to his principles under pressure and most importantly, he's never gone back on a commitment to me or anyone else that I know of. He's *an old school* kind of guy who wakes up early, works a long day but comes home to love and care for his family.

Directors

Darren Elisaga

Mike Kaleikini

Kanoe Pu'uohau

Lani Weigert

Richard Ha

You want a guy like Riley Smith in your corner. On behalf of myself and our extended Native Hawaiian lāhui, we urge the confirmation of Riley Smith to the BLNR.

Aloha,

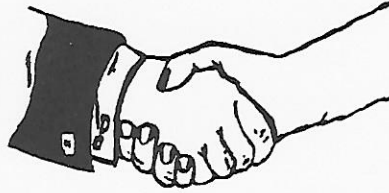


Benson Medina

President

Hui 'Oihana

HAWAII OPERATING ENGINEERS INDUSTRY STABILIZATION FUND



Affiliated AFL-CIO
OPEIU - 3 - AFL-CIO (3)

*Uniting our strengths and working together
for a better tomorrow.*

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair

Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

March 16, 2022

RE: SUPPORT OF SB 685 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RILEY SMITH, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2026.

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brandon Ili and I am the Executive Director representing the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund (HOEISF). We are a labor management fund representing 3000 unionized members in the heavy engineering site work and 500 general contractors specializing in heavy site and vertical construction. Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund supports SB 685 and the consideration and confirmation of nominee Riley Smith.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) is key component to ensuring that the Department of Land and Natural Resources fulfills its mission to, "Enhance, protect, conserve, and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural, and historic resources...". We believe that the addition of Mr. Smith to this board will help ensure that mission is accomplished. He brings with him years of experience and expertise in development, land management, the environmental review process, and the land use regulatory process. He will be a valuable addition to the BLNR.

We appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of GM685 and look forward to your favorable support of Mr. Smith's confirmation.

Sincerely,

Brandon Ili

Executive Director



March 17, 2022

RE: GM 685 - Gubernatorial Nominee Riley Smith for the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Chair Inouye and the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce **strongly supports** the confirmation of nominee **Riley Smith** for the State of Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources.

We believe that Mr. Smith's experience, education and background demonstrate a deep understanding of Hawai'i's land uses and natural resources. With leadership positions in land management, engineering projects and public works, Mr. Smith will bring a qualified perspective to this board. In addition, his commitment to community is exemplified by decades of volunteer engagement, including formerly serving on the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

With 425 member businesses and organizations, our mission is to provide leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i. We strive to enhance the quality of life for our community through a strong, sustainable economy on Hawai'i Island.

We ask that you please approve the nomination for Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy J. Laros".

Wendy J. Laros, President and CEO
Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce



COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

GM685

Riley Smith for Board of Land and Natural Resources

Friday, March 18, 2022, 1:00 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports GM685** for the consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR), gubernatorial nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2026. Mr. Smith has extensive experience in project management pertaining to a wide variety of land uses. His participation in community boards and commissions gives him the background and experience for this position. He has demonstrated the skills needed to make prudent decisions that support the wider community and will serve the BLNR well in its mission.

In our experience working with Mr. Smith to plan fundraiser events for the Hawaii Rangeland Stewardship Foundation, he has shown dedication to his work, follows through with commitments in a timely fashion, and offers invaluable ideas to move projects toward their ultimate goal.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this nomination and ask you to support the confirmation of Riley Smith.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna
committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come
kupuna4moopuna@gmail.com



GM 685 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2026. Committee on Water and Land 3-18-2022 @1pm

OPPOSE

We, Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna of Pana'ewa, Hawai'i **oppose GM 685 nominee Riley Smith, current President/Chief Executive office – Lanihau Properties, LLC**, whose main interest is to develop lands, construct infrastructure and create industrial/commercial properties to sell. Riley Smith's resume submitted to this committee includes a detailed history of developing lands and serves as the basis for this concern. His current work experience as President/CEO of Lanihau Properties, LLC leads off his pro-development history.

We recognize Riley Smith's involvement in community groups, some of those partaking in political decision-making, another cause of concern. However, our primary opposition is based on Riley Smith's long history of developing lands. HRS 171-4 will impact Riley Smith's ability in certain instances to vote on or participate in discussions. And, when able to vote/participate as a board member, his record is one that does not represent the voices of the Island of Hawai'i.

We agree with Speaker Saiki of the need to rebuild integrity and trust in our legislative process.

Hawaii News Now February 9, 2022

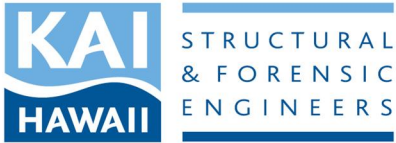
"All of us in the Hawaii Legislature must take action to rebuild the public's confidence and trust. And we need to ensure that the legislative process reflects the public interest, and not special interests...I pledge to do everything in my power as Speaker of the House to rebuild integrity and trust in our legislative process."

– Speaker Saiki

GM 685 does not rebuild integrity and trust in our legislative process. **Do not pass.**

Mahalo,

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, Pana'ewa, Hawai'i



Ken Hayashida, P.E. | *President*
Michael Hunnemann, P.E. | *Vice President*

March 17, 2022

The Honorable Ronald Kouchi
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-First Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi:

Subject: GM 685 -Nomination of Riley Smith-Board of Department of Land & Natural Resources

Aloha, I strongly support the nomination of Mr. Smith as he is an effective and creative leader who exhibits strong personal values. I have known him for over 25 years and confirm he is well qualified with his extensive experience in public and private service:

- Public Servant, serving as Deputy Director of the Department of Public Works in Hawaii County
- Vice President of Parker Ranch
- Vice President of Waimana Enterprises
- President and CEO Lanihau Properties which includes Palani Ranch.

He is an active community member with high integrity. He will be an excellent Board member providing a diverse skill set and board experience. This will ensure that our State's natural resources are maintained and protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken K. Hayashida". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ken K. Hayashida, President
KAI Hawaii, Inc.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

March 18, 2022

1:00 PM

CCR229

Offering **COMMENTS** on

GM684

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, DOREEN CANTO, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

GM685

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

GM687

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAREN ONO, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i offers the following **COMMENTS** on the nominees to the Board of Land and Natural Resources ("BLNR").

The Sierra Club appreciates the willingness of the nominated individuals to provide their time and expertise in service to the BLNR's important mission. The Sierra Club does emphasize the critical role of the BLNR in overseeing the management and protection of the lands and resources that provide the foundation of our islands' identity, social fabric, and ways of life. Accordingly, Sierra Club believes that this hearing provides a critical opportunity for the Committee, the nominees, and the general public to reflect on the nominees' knowledge, views, and commitment to make what may be difficult but necessary decisions to uphold their fiduciary and legal obligations under the constitution, statutes, and other laws of the state, with regards to our natural and cultural public trust resources and sites.

To assist in this process of reflection and assessment, the Sierra Club respectfully offers the following questions for the nominees before you today:

- 1) What expertise, knowledge, or skills do you possess that may be relevant to fulfilling the BLNR's fiduciary and legal obligations with respect to the conservation, protection, and use of our public lands and natural and cultural resources and sites?
- 2) Should stream diverters be allowed to dewater entire streams and waste millions of gallons of water per day, due to aging and leaky irrigation and reservoir infrastructure?

- 3) Do you believe it is appropriate to issue long-term leases of ecologically or culturally significant lands and waters before DLNR staff can demonstrate sufficient expertise and capacity to provide consistent and timely oversight over lease terms and conditions?
- 4) What is your position on community-based fisheries management approaches, and should greater weight be given to the testimonies of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practitioners and subsistence community members than outsiders who do not have a daily connection with the resources of their place?
- 5) What steps should the DLNR take to address the recommendations of the 2019 Audit of the Land Division's Special Land and Development Fund, which found a lack of an overarching plan for the Land Division's public land inventory, a lack of staff expertise and capacity to administer industrial and commercial leases, an overreliance on ground leases rather than more lucrative space leases in disposing of revenue-generating lands, and a lack of transparency and accountability, among other deficiencies, leading to significant opportunity costs to the DLNR and its mission?
- 6) Do you believe that the aquarium collection industry should be subject to stricter regulations based on evolving science regarding climate change impacts on our coral reef ecosystem, and the application of the precautionary principle?
- 7) What strategies should the BLNR employ to discourage shoreline hardening and encourage strategic retreat to mitigate the loss of our beaches and coastal areas?

The Sierra Club hopes and strongly believes that these questions will provide a much-needed understanding of the value that the nominees may bring to the BLNR, as it carries out its kuleana concerning matters of critical importance over the next several years.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify.



March 11, 2022

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY OF DAWN N.S. CHANG, PRINCIPAL OF KU'IWALU CONSULTING

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 685

GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **RILEY SMITH**
Board of Land and Natural Resources

The Honorable Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair and Members of the Committee:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT the nomination of Riley Smith for appointment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Riley for many years.

I've known Riley in his many professional capacities, including Vice-President of Parker Ranch, Regional Manager of Sandwich Isles Communications, Vice-President of Clearcom, Inc., and his current position as President of Lanihau Properties, LLC. In each of these positions, Riley has conducted himself with professionalism and integrity.

Beyond his professional abilities he is actively involved and contributes to serving the community, especially his Hawai'i Island community. In particular, his membership on the Commission of Water Resource Management Nominating Committee and Nā Ala Hele Advisory Council for Hawai'i Island has provided him the unique opportunity to be directly involved in issues related to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

It is Riley's personal and professional experiences dealing with natural and cultural resources that he will bring to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I respectfully ask that Riley Smith's nomination receive the consent of your committee and be forwarded to the full Senate for confirmation. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on his nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

DAWN N.S. CHANG
Principal

March 11, 2022

TO: Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Ramzi I. Mansour

SUBJECT: Support for GM685, nomination of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and
Natural Resources

Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

I support the nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I am the Director of the County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management, but this testimony is my own.

The BLNR representative from Hawai'i County must exercise extraordinary judgment on a wide range of sensitive issues, and have deep experience with conservation, land management, and responsible stewardship.

My personal and professional experience with Riley Smith shows that he does indeed have these qualities to make technically complex, detail-oriented, difficult, and fact-based decisions for the long-term benefit of the people of Hawai'i.

His extensive engineering experience, expertise, professional affiliations, and involvement in numerous community and professional organizations speaks volumes about his commitment and dedication to be able to deliver well-reasoned decisions as a member of the BLNR.

Mayor-Elect Mitch Roth in 2020 appointed Riley Smith to the panel that interviewed candidates for the Director of Environmental Management, Managing Director, Director of Public Works, and Director of Information Technology. The Mayor has such high regard for Riley Smith that he would rely on this nominee's judgment to fill his Cabinet and set Hawai'i County on the right path. I believe he will do the same for the State as a board member of the BLNR.

Please consider this favorable testimony in recommending confirmation of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Sincerely,



Ramzi Mansour
Director, Department of Environmental Management
County of Hawai'i

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 4:36:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Carr Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Ronald Kouchi, Senate President, and members of the Senate;

I am testifying in support of the Governor's nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, representing Hawaii Island. I am Riley's wife and I can attest to his knowledge, dedication and qualifications to this position. Riley's resume proves that he has the background to be an effective member of this important Board and I wholeheartedly support his nomination.

Sincerely,

Nancy Carr Smith

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 5:05:40 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Greenwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 11, 2022

Aloha,

My name is David Greenwell and I am pleased to hear that Mr. Riley Smith has been nominated for The Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Riley for over 10 years and he has always been a person you can trust to get whatever job or project finished on time, within budget and done correctly. He has been a valuable asset to our Family Company, Lanihau Properties LLC, Inc. and during his leadership as the President of the Company he has been successful in completing various projects because he knows what he is talking about and he works hard to make sure all the details are taken care of. He has navigated many challenges on projects for my Family's Company and we are very fortunate to have him working for us. I am proud to also call him my friend.

He is a very Community minded individual and has served on various Boards and Committees and keeps the heart of his Community and the people who live here in the forefront. I served on a couple of Boards/Commissions with him in the past and his knowledge and understanding of the subjects presented to him in the Boardrooms have shown that he has done his homework long before the meetings occur. He is always prepared to answer questions and seeks answers to those he may not know the immediate answers to.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources would be a perfect place for him to continue to fulfill his commitment to the care and management of the natural resources of the entire State of Hawaii and to this home he loves.

Mahalo,

David R. Greenwell
PO Box 1964
Kamuela, HI. 96743
808-885-8038 home
808-960-3035 cell
tgreenwell@hawaii.rr.com

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 5:34:34 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Stene	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mr. Smith is strong candidate for the BLNR and should be appointed to this board.

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 6:40:40 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sanford Murata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 11, 2022

The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President,
And Members of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

I am extraordinarily pleased to offer my enthusiastic support of Riley W. Smith to serve as the Hawaii Island representative on the state Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Smith's integrity and character is unquestioned.

In addition to his in-depth knowledge and pragmatic experience with Hawaii's land and natural resources, Mr. Smith will bring economic awareness, cultural sensitivities and social insights into matters that will be brought before the board for the board's decisions. He will thoughtfully consider the findings and recommendations offered by the staff members of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and will deliberate and collaborate with the other board members to ensure our land and natural resources are well protected and cared for.

I have known Mr. Smith since 2009 when he joined Lanihau Properties, LLC as Vice President/Properties and eventually was appointed President/CEO in 2013. I served on the Board of Managers of Lanihau during that period.

As a real estate professional, I have been involved in real estate projects throughout Hawaii for over 50 years.

Please communicate with me should you require additional information about my support of Mr. Smith's nomination.

Aloha,

Sanford Murata

sanfordmurata@gmail.com

808.226.7373 c.

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 6:47:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LeeAnn Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

I submit this testimony in strong support of GM685, consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, Riley Smith.

I have known and worked with Riley in various personal and professional capacities. He is a smart, principled contributor to our community. Besides his impressive professional qualifications, his record of community service is commendable. I believe he can make significant contributions to further the mission of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I respectfully urge your committee to **confirm** Riley's nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration.

LeeAnn Silva



March 11, 2022

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
& Members of the Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **GM 685 –Riley W. Smith** Nominee for Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Dear Chair Inouye and members of the Committee on Water and Land:

Please accept this letter in **strong support** of Riley W. Smith to an appointment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, with a term expiring June 30, 2026.

I believe you will find Riley to be a well-rounded, highly qualified and well-suited individual, capable of positively contributing to the effectiveness of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Through his diverse professional experiences and years of direct personal involvement in the stewardship of our state's natural resources, Riley is highly regard by both his peers and friends.

I have had the good fortune of knowing Riley for over twenty years. Please accept this letter in strong support of his consideration and confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toby B. Taniguchi", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Toby B. Taniguchi
President

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 7:51:23 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Todd Apo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the confirmation of Riley Smith for BLNR. I have had the opportunity to work with Riley on a number of projects revolving around DHHL lands and their management and development. He is a very knowledgeable, fair, objective person who I believe will listen well to community input and concerns in address matters before the Board.

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 8:58:06 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Sabas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Riley is honest, works hard, does his homework, and he is knowledgeable and experienced in a wide variety of issues that affects the people of hawaii. Riley is also a good listener. For the aforementioned reasons, and others, I am in full support of Riley's appointment to the Board of the DLNR. Mahalo, John sabas

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 9:24:04 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carleton Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Senate Water and Land Committee,

I respectfully submit my **support for Mr. Riley Smith** for serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resource (BLNR).

Mr. Smith has expertise and experience in various areas of land and resource management, analysis and operations. He also has a keen perspective on cultural and environmental issues.

I respectfully request your consideration of Mr. Riley Smith to serve on the BLNR. He will bring a sound perspective for the protections and appropriate uses of Hawaii's precious natural resources.

Mahalo, Carleton Ching

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 9:50:04 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven K. Robello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have know Riley for over 30 years now via several organizations that we have both been a part of. I have known Riley to be a person of the highest integrity. His word is solid. His work ethic and loyalty have always been admirable.

His knowledge and affinity for Hawaiian culture and the aina have always been at the forefront of his approach to caring for our precious resources. He is especially sensitive to caring for our ocean resources as witnessed by his lifelong passion to enjoy Hawaii's ocean resources in many different capacities.

Riley is dependable, friendly, and as solid an individual as there is. Just his community service alone is testament to what he is able to offer. The State would be lucky o have him serve on the Board as he is exactly the type of person suited to do so.

I recommend Riley without reservations.

malama pono,

Steven K Robello

Hamilton M. Ahlo, Jr.
P. O. Box 686
Kamuela, HI 96743

March 12, 2022

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land
31st Legislature
State of Hawaii

Senators:

I am writing to express my support for the confirmation of Riley Smith for the position on the Board of Land and Natural Resources to which he was nominated by Governor Ige.

I've known Riley for over 20 years both personally and professionally and I believe he will make an excellent addition to the Board. He has the knowledge, skill set and breadth of experience to represent the island of Hawaii well.

Anyone who knows Riley can attest to his honesty, fairness and high ethical standards. He has a demonstrated ability to work well with people in all walks of life.

I urge the committee to approve Riley's nomination and forward it to the full senate for consideration. If confirmed, Riley will undoubtedly continue his extensive contributions to the community he has already served so well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hamilton M. Ahlo, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hamilton M. Ahlo, Jr.

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 11:08:45 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ross Wilson Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm supportive of Riley's nomination to the Board of Land & Natural Resources.

I have worked with Riley while he was the volunteer Board Chair for the Kailua Village Business Improvement District on making Historic Kailua Village a better place to live, work, play and invest. His insight and vision has helped to transform and brand Kailua-Kona. While not even on the board today, Riley continues to volunteer and is working with the Kailua Village Business Improvement District on implementing historical signage at Kailua's gateways.

Riley understands collaboration and finding solutions.

There's no better pick in my mind for the Big Island vacancy on the Land Board.

Please kokua and support Riley's nomination.

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 11:56:01 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keawe Vredenburg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Riley Smith has an impressive background in State and County political issues and work. His resume speaks for himself. I strongly recommend Riley for BLNR service.

March 13, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Subj: Testimony Supporting Nomination of Riley W. Smith to BLNR

You have been given the opportunity to appoint Riley W. Smith to a position of utmost importance: Member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). As you are well aware, the BLNR is the caretaker/steward of Hawaii's most precious natural resources, and Riley is equipped with the necessary foundation and tools to help carry out that mission successfully: upbringing, education, experience, affiliations, honesty, integrity and a profound willingness to serve.

I have known Riley for 40+/- years in both a personal and professional capacity, and have seen him progress from a fledgling engineer to the highly professional executive he is today. His stellar resume' attests to his qualifications, but beyond his resume', he carries himself well, is respectful, is a good listener, exercises good judgment, and gets along with people.

All the above leads one to conclude that Riley W. Smith is eminently qualified for the position and will do what is right for Hawaii. I strongly support his nomination.

William W. Blaisdell

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 6:45:09 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Riley Smith to the position on the Board of Land and Natural Resorces.

William C. Lum
2346 Oahu Avenue
Honolulu, HI. 96822
(808) 221-3386
Email: manoakane@gmail.com

March 11, 2022

The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President
And Members of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Nomination of Riley Smith to Board of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

I am writing to you in support of Riley Smith and his nomination to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. He and I worked together at Waimana Enterprises, where I was the VP of Development for 17 years. Mr. Smith served as VP of Construction when we built an undersea fiber optic cable network, connecting five of the Hawaiian Islands, a project which was completed on schedule and under budget.

His engineering and construction knowledge are obviously excellent but he has several other qualities that make him someone the state and people of Hawaii would be very fortunate to have serving on the Board of DLNR:

First, he is fair, reasonable and open minded. He is willing to listen to and consider perspectives of different stakeholders. In building the undersea cable network, he deftly worked with and in the neighborhoods of various communities. With a firm hand, and using humor and tact, he dealt with numerous sub-contractors, consultants and beneficiaries of the network. In short, Mr. Smith has outstanding people and communication skills.

Second, Mr. Smith is familiar working with government at the Federal, State and County levels. Construction of our network required an abundant number of governmental approvals, easements and rights-of-way. Mr. Smith's previous experiences and relationships helped make this aspect of the project a smooth process. Serving on DLNR's Board will not be his first rodeo in terms of working with/for government.

Third, and equally important as any of his other qualifications for this position, Riley Smith truly cares for the land. Because of his education, his family upbringing and his ancestry, he will do what is Pono and Malama the Aina.

Without any hesitation whatsoever, I strongly recommend that you approve Mr. Smith to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
William C. Lum

March 14, 2022

Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

Aloha:


Re: GM 685

I strongly support the nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Riley is an effective leader and collaborator. He is also fair and objective in the decision-making process on issues that are presented to the BLNR with respect to balancing the past with the future.

I have only positive professional and personal experiences with Riley in the public, private, and community sectors.

Riley will be an asset on the BLNR to achieve the DLNR mission to protect, enhance, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural, and historic resources held in public trust.



Warren Lee, PE

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:13:43 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne S. Higaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran,

Please accept my testimony in support of Riley Smith's nomination to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Mr. Smith has been a tireless community advocate for many years and has demonstrated specific knowledge of land use matters in the State of Hawaii that would be useful as a member of the board that is responsible for land matters. Mr. Smith has the knowledge/skills, temperament, and intergrity that has allowed him to make a difference in his past advocacy and I am confident he will continue to do so in the future. Please positively confirm his nomination. Thank you..

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I have had the privilege of knowing Riley for many years and strongly support his nomination to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Keith Unger
McCandless Ranch

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 9:53:42 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Riley Smith for BLNR . Riley will be a huge asset with his past experiences on boards, his job vocations and his community involment. As a past board member for 8 years which expired June 30, 2021 I know first hand what it takes to be on this board. Please support GM685

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:40:01 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Vitousek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please find attached written testimony in support of Riley Smith's nomination for BLNR>

Mahalo,

Michael Vitousek

Michael W. Gibson
2435 Burbank Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96743
(808) 595-6970

March 14, 2022

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye
Chairperson, Committee on Water, Land,
Energy and Environment
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran
Vice Chair, Committee on Water, Land,
Energy and Environment

Re: GM 685 - Gubernatorial Nominee, Riley Smith

Dear Senator Inouye and Senator Keith-Agaran:

I am writing in support of Riley Smith as member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I first met Riley in 2009 when he became the Vice-President of Properties of Lanihau/Palani Ranch. I was on the Lanihau/Palani Ranch Board of Directors since 1999 until about 2019. In addition to being on the Lanihau/Palani Ranch Board of Directors, I am currently a Trustee of the Parker Ranch Foundation Trust, and a member of the Board of Directors of Parker Ranch, Inc. and of Ponoholo Ranch.

Riley reported to the Board and Officers of Lanihau/Palani Ranch on overall company operations. He did so in a very thorough and timely manner. Riley was always helpful in answering questions and keeping me informed concerning matters which came to the Board of Lanihau/Palani Ranch. Riley was a dedicated and hardworking employee whose social conscience and consideration was more than just hype.

Riley's patience, open-mindedness and common sense was always helpful to the Board. There is no doubt that Riley Smith will do an excellent job as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I encourage you to confirm his nomination.

Very truly yours,
ASHFORD & WRISTON

By 
Michael W. Gibson

MWG:shp

Thomas S. Goya
1665 Akolea Place
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

March 14, 2022

The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President
And Members of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

***Re: Letter of Support for Riley W. Smith, Nominee for the
Board of Land and Natural Resources***

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Member of the Senate:

This letter supports Riley W. Smith's nomination for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I have been Riley's friend for many years and have kept track of his many activities and accomplishments. Besides having an extensive resume, Riley found his sense of place on Hawaii Island nearly thirty years ago. His work, family, play, and dedication to community services are deeply rooted in his personal values of caring ways. He is well respected as a leader and fellow worker in many civil and community organizations. Who could ask for a better role model?

Riley and I worked together as members of the Hawaii County Water Commission, and he succeeded me as Commission Chair in 2009. One of our accomplishments was the changing of the Department's long-standing motto from "Water Brings Progress", to "Water, Our Most Precious Resource". I also followed him by later serving on the Hawaii County Energy Advisory Commission

Land and water resources and management are critical to all of us. We live, work, and play in one of the most ideal and beautiful places in the world. We all want our families and future generations of Hawaii's keiki to thrive here. We need to offer our people more than just hopes and dreams of a brighter future. We need a person of Riley's experience and the necessary people skills in this responsible position to help make our dreams become a reality. As a community leader, it is my honor to offer my brief comments in support of Riley W. Smith's nomination for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Goya

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:11:49 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Seu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination of Riley Smith to the BLNR. I've known Riley since we both served as officers for the Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers (HSPE), and to this day we help to manage the non-profit HSPE Educational Foundation. Riley has a long standing commitment to Hawaii, to our keiki, and to our community. He will do what's right to malama Hawaii.

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:47:50 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac Harp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha WTL Committee Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members Misalucha, Fevella, and Riviere,

I am writing in strong support of Governor Ige's BLNR nominee Riley Smith.

Riley has volunteered as a community servant in several capacities including Chairing the Na Ala Hele Advisory Council for Hawaii Island, serving as a member of the Paniolo Preservation Society, and the Waimea Outdoor Circle. He also served as past president of the Waimea Community Association.

Riley is no stranger to government functions. He served as Deputy Chief Engineer for the County of Hawaii, Department of Public Works; Chair of the County Liquor Commission; and Chair of the County Liquor Adjudication Board.

Much of my life has been dedicated towards preservation of Hawaii's marine environment, including authoring the Draft plan leading to the December 2000 designation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve. I'm also an advocate for the preservation of Hawaii's historic properties and in this capacity I have found Riley to be sensitive and understanding of cultural concerns.

Riley is an akamai and humble Hawaiian that possesses strong morals that I deeply admire. I humbly request your support in confirming Riley as a member of the BLNR.

Mahalo nunui, Isaac Harp

Testimony of Carl Carlson

Before the Committee on Water and Land

Friday, March 18, 2022 at 1:00 P.M.

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Conference Room 229

In consideration of **GM 685**
Appointment of Riley W. Smith

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith Agaran and Honorable Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

I am respectfully testifying my strong support for the appointment of Riley W. Smith to serve as a Member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Mr. Smith for over 30 years and have watched his career growth and progress. His accomplishments over the years are substantial both professionally and personally. It has been a pleasure to witness the breadth of his knowledge, commitment to and service to our community.

Mr. Smith has many strengths. Among them he is the fact that he is collaborative in nature and is a fair and matter of fact decision maker. While he has been an active Professional Engineer, he has held positions in a broad range of private businesses where he has exhibited his unique ability to manage a very diverse portfolio of assets and challenges. He's done this with grace and balance.

As a very busy professional, he has also made a commitment to our community where he has served on various Boards and Commissions as well as with community groups. His resume speaks to the breadth of his participation, career and accomplishments. Having said that, I'd like to add that it has been my pleasure to be able to go surfing and camping with him.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I provide strong support for the nomination of Riley W. Smith and would urge the Committee to confirm his appointment.

Sincerely yours,

Carl A. Carlson, Jr.
72-4857 Ho'omalie Place
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 6:30:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Nakaoka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye and Committee Members,

I am writing to strongly support the nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Having someone with Riley's leadership skills, engineering background, real estate experience and community network would be a tremendous benefit to DLNR and the State. Riley brings a perfect blend of real estate knowledge and pragmatic, solutions-based thinking guided by his Native Hawaiian heritage. I cannot think of a better nominee than Riley to serve on this Board.

Mahalo,

Bruce Nakaoka

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:42:44 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Kaleikini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and honorable members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I respectfully submit testimony in support of Riley Smith's nomination and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I've personally known Riley for over twenty years as a colleague and a friend. Riley's vast experience in the private, government and more private industries makes him very qualified to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Riley's grounded upbringing around Hawaii's oceans and his continuous commitment to community service adds the element of a Hawaii upbringing and with Hawaii values learned from his parents and other ohana.

For these stated reasons and many more not stated, I STRONGLY SUPPORT Riley Smith's nomination and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Very Respectfully,

Mike Kaleikini (Hawaii Island Resident)

On Mar 16, 2022, at 8:51 AM, Paka Harp <pakaharp@gmail.com> wrote:

Aloha WTL Committee Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members Misalucha, Fevella, and Riviere,

I am writing in strong support of Governor Ige's BLNR nominee Riley Smith. The governor couldn't have made a better choice to replace Chris Yuen who I've worked with years ago in my capacity as assistant to the Hawaii County Council Chair.

Riley has volunteered years of his life as a community servant in several capacities including Chairing the State's Na Ala Hele Trails Advisory Council for Hawaii Island, serving as a member of the Paniolo Preservation Society and the Waimea Outdoor Circle. Riley also served as past president of the Waimea Community Association spending countless hours serving the South Kohala community.

Riley is no stranger to government functions. He served as Deputy Chief Engineer for the County of Hawaii's Department of Public Works, Chair of the County Liquor Commission, and Chair of the County Liquor Adjudication Board.

I have volunteered much of my personal life towards preservation of Hawaii's marine environment, including authoring the Draft plan leading to the December 2000 designation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve. I'm also a staunch advocate for the preservation of Hawaii's remaining historic properties. In this latter capacity I have found Riley to be sensitive and understanding of cultural concerns. His willingness to truly listen to concerns is a rarity these days.

I know Riley to be an akamai and humble Hawaiian who possesses strong morals that I deeply admire. I humbly request your support in confirming Riley as a member of the BLNR. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call or email me.

Mahalo nunui,

Isaac Harp

(808) 756-7379

pakaharp@gmail.com

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:08:35 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Mooers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am providing testimony to support the nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I have know the appointee for decades and find him to be knowledgeable, honest, thoughtful and always ethical. Riley has served our community in many ways over the years as a volunteer who has always supported the community needs. He is a skilled engineer who has great experience in resource managment.

Riley will be an outstanding member of the BLNR!

Gregory R. Mooers

Dee M. Crowell, AIA
PO Box 134
Ele'ele, Hi 96705
Email: deec333@gmail.com
Phone: (808)652-0246

8 March 2022

Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senate Water and Land Committee,
State of Hawai'i
417 S. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

**SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of Riley W. Smith
To the Board of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai'i**

Dear Chair Inouye and Members:

I would like to express my wholehearted support for the retention of Riley Smith to Board of Land and Natural Resources

I've known Riley Smith for over fifty years. We attended the Kamehameha Schools and the University of Southern California at the same time in the 1970s. We worked in Honolulu for a number of years, at different places. In 1993, we both left Honolulu for jobs on the neighbor islands. I moved home to Kauai to become Planning Director for the County of Kaua'i. Riley moved to the Big Island to become the Deputy County Engineer. We also worked together at Waimana Enterprises during the early 2000s. He is an intelligent, hard working thoughtful man, who can grasp things on both the micro and macro scales.

Besides the numerous achievements listed in his resume, he is an accomplished surfer body surfer and diver. His love of Hawai'i's ocean and natural environment combined with his business background will be an asset for the Land Board and its' sometimes conflicting missions.

Mahalo, for your consideration.



Dee M. Crowell, AIA

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:01:41 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KATHERINE ROSEGUO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

March 18, 2022; 1:00 PM
Via Videoconference

RE: GM 685 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2026 – IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to submit this testimony in strong support of appointment of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Riley for over 30 years, and have worked with him in his professional capacity at East Honolulu Community Services, Parker Ranch and briefly at Lanihau Properties. He has a vast experience in water and land management, as well as being a very successful business person. He is friendly, approachable, and is known for his integrity and fairness. He will be an excellent member of the Board.

Mahalo for allowing me to present this message in support of Riley's nomination.

J Douglas Ing
(808) 544-8300

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:21:12 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Donnelly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support and highly recommend Riley Smith to be appointed as the Hawaii Island rep to the Board of land and Natrual Resources. I have known Riley in a professional capacity for nearly 10 years and found him to be the utmost professional, courteous, akamai and carries the spirit of Aloha with him wherever he goes. Riley is an astute kamaaina businessman who understands the City and County, State and Federal jurisdictions, and how to get things done through the proper channels. I have served with Riley on the Waimea Community Association for 5+ years and always found his demeanor and style to beyond reproach. Adding Riley to the BLNR will be added value for not only Hawaii Island in particular, but the State of Hawaii as a whole. His judgement is always fair and balanced, and he does his homework. Riley is a guy who is always prepared. I cannot say enough good things about Riley Smith, he is truly a local community member who sets an incredible example for others to follow. Imua Riley Smith!

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:37:42 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Riley Smith's appointment.

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:48:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
raymond m kawamata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Raymond Kawamata, a full-time farmer, located in Kamuela, Hawaii, fully approve of Governor Ige's selection of Mr. Riley Smith, to serve as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Mr. Smith for many years. He is a humble, intelligent individual with unsurpassed integrity. He is well educated and professionally experienced in the field of engineering and Human Resources. Mr. Smith will be an excellent choice and an asset to have as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. The State of Hawaii is truly lucky to have the opportunity to acquire a service volunteer such as Mr. Smith.

Mr. Riley Smith would be a perfect choice.

Submitted by:

Raymond Kawamata

Kawamata Farms

808-960-6059

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 4:10:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Yeh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Water and Land Committee,

It is without hesitation that I fully support Governor Ige's nomination of Riley Smith to serve as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I first became acquaintd with Riley when he served as Deputy Chief Engineer for the County of Hawaii, and have since had the opportunity to work with him on various land use related matters since then.

First of all, Riley is a man of integrity, and is a man of his word. He takes the time necessary to familiarize himself with issues and and the facts, and is most capable of developing solutions with this information. With his extensive background in engineering, finance and land management, Riley understands the kinds of issues which can be presented in the broad range of matters which will come before the Land Board. With that experience, Riley will be a great asset to the Board in its decision making and problem solving.

As a long time resident of the Island of Hawai`i and active member of numerous community organizationsand and agency related commissions, Riley also understands the various interests that should be considered in decision making.

Please vote to recommned approval of Riley's nomination to the Board. Thank you for considering this testimony in support.

Sincerely,

Thomas Yeh

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 5:49:09 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mana Purdy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this in support of Riley Smith's nomination to the BLNR, term to expire 6-30-26. I have worked with Riley in several natural resource and land management capacities including Ag land leases, the proposed Keauhou aquifer designation, Kona hydrological and geological studies to better management decisions, USWFS critical habitat designations, and sit on the Kona Village Business Improvement District board with Riley. In all efforts, Riley is one that provides great perspective on issues and always has his mind set on solutions. To couple with his perspective, ideas, and communication, Riley takes action, and does so in a collaborative manner. If the BLNR is looking for someone who will carefully analyze complex issues, share ideas and solutions, and work to take collaborative action, then Riley would be a true fit. As a Director of Natural Assets, I feel strongly about the care for our natural resources and the communities in which they benefit, and value the delicate balance between the built and natural environments. I believe Riley will bring this, with his best intentions, and add value to the BLNR's very important kuleana.

Mahalo piha for your consideration for Riley Smith's nomination to the BLNR.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Mana Purdy

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 5:47:25 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Big Island resident I'm very disappointed in the nomination of Riley Smith to represent us at the BLNR. Though, I'm sure he's a very fine person I find myself quite concerned about the fact that he was VP of Waimana Enterprises while serious corruption was taking place there. The fact that he wrote a letter of support for a person who was later found guilty and fined leads me to believe that he might not take white collar crime as seriously as he should. A failing found in too many today and something we do not need in the BLNR. The fact that he's a career developer and cattleman adds to my questioning the appropriateness of his nomination. As a Big Island resident I'm asking you to please find a more appropriate nominee.

Mahalo, Mary True, Pepe`ekeo, Big Island

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 6:30:08 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Witten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

As a professional Landscape Architect and community planner in Hawaii for over 45 years and having worked with and for Mr. Riley Smith in his varied capacities of over his professional career, I strongly support the appointment of Mr. Smith to serve our communiity on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. He will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to this very important Board that has such broad and impactful responsibilities throughout our State. He has the knowledge and sensitivities to serve in this capacity and represent the Hawaii Island communities..

Your support of his nomination is much appreciated. Imua Riley Smith!

Mahalo,

Tom Witten, FASLA

March 15, 2022

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye
Chairwoman
Committee on Water & Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Vice-Chair
Committee on Water & Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 221
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Support of Mr. Riley Smith, DLNR Land Board Member, Representing Hawaii Island

Aloha kakou Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Keith-Agaran:

I write in strong support of Mr. Riley Smith to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I first met Mr. Smith in 1988 when we served as Board of Directors of the Hawaiian Business Professional Association, the predecessor to the Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Smith is an individual of the highest integrity placing service before self. I know Mr. Smith to be a solutions-oriented professional who gathers facts, listens, and includes cultural sensitivities before developing conclusions and making sound, fair decisions.

As an engineer and businessman, he brings to the BLNR strong public and private sector skill sets. Currently serving as President and CEO of Lanikai Properties, Mr. Smith is charged with developing and implementing strategic business plans to achieve financial goals. In addition, he understands the tremendous responsibility for meeting payroll and managing ten employees in his leadership role since 2013.

As his resume points out, Mr. Smith has deep experience working with the three levels of government - county, state, and federal. At the County level, Mr. Smith served as Deputy Chief Engineer of Public Works. His extensive interphasing with agencies, commissions, and councils at the state and federal levels brings hands-on experience working through administrative rules, permitting, and laws.

Mr. Smith is eminently qualified to serve on the BLNR. Mahalo, for your favorable consideration of Mr. Smith.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Dave K. Chun

Dave Chun

**THE HAWAII STATE SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, March 18, 2022

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

GM 685- Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, gubernatorial nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

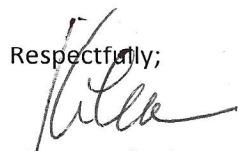
Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of GM685 nominating Mr. Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

As stated on its website, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is responsible for managing, administering, and exercising control over public lands, water resources, ocean waters, navigable streams, coastal areas (except commercial harbors), minerals, and all interests therein. The department's jurisdiction encompasses nearly 1.3 million acres of State lands, beaches, and coastal waters as well as 750 miles of coastline (the fourth longest in the country). It includes state parks; historical sites; forests and forest reserves; aquatic life and its sanctuaries; public fishing areas; boating, ocean recreation, and coastal programs; wildlife and its sanctuaries; game management areas; public hunting areas; and natural area reserves.

I am confident Mr. Smith's background, accomplishments, community service, and experience both personal and professional, will compliment, support, and enhance the efforts of DLNR in fulfilling its entrusted kuleana. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully;



Kika G. Bukoski

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:38:20 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Kaluhiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing to offer my strong support of Riley Smith to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Riley has a diverse background in land management and has worked with all levels of government. He has a passion for community service and has an easy going personality that would greatly benefit a Board that often faces difficult decisions.

As a former First Deputy of DLNR, I had the privilege of working with a number of public servants at the department who are passionate about caring for Hawaii's natural and cultural resources. I believe they deserve a smart, empathetic and well-grounded advocate and leader as Riley Smith.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit written testimony in strong support of Riley Smith's nomination.

Me ke aloha,

Kekoa Kaluhiwa

Roy Hardy, P.E.
4844 Matsonia Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96816

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu HI 96813
Conference Room 229

Friday, March 18, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 685

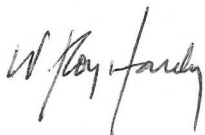
Submitted for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
Gubernatorial Nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2026

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Agaran, and Committee Members Fevella, Misalucha and Riviere:

My name is Roy Hardy, and I recently retired from the Commission on Water Resource Management after 33 years of public service. I have known Mr. Smith over that time initially through family and later through work at the Commission. I have witnessed the enthusiasm and industriousness that Mr. Smith brings to all that he commits to along with a special regard for the wisdom of those who have come before us, our kupuna. His resume outlining his accomplishments and community participation speaks for itself and his ability to make decisions through objective, thorough, and respectful thinking.

Riley Smith would be a valuable member to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources to protect our natural resources in a fair and balanced manner.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 4:30:57 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
keith cockett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support Riley Smith for this position. I have known Riley for 17 years. He has an exceptional resume on top of having an excellent character. His love for his land and culture emanates through his work and everyday life. He will serve with integrity and with the zest and commitment that he puts into every endeavor he takes on.

He will be a great addition to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo

Keith Cockett

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 6:52:10 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaine Whitney Ito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Excellent candidate for Land Board

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 5:45:02 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Norman Nam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Competent--impressive resume' & experience

Committed--Passionate & dedicated

Credible---Man of his word, WILL get the job done

Trustworthy--High moral standards, WILL do the right thing

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 7:03:48 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Leandro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of the appointment of Riley Smith to the Land Use Commission. Riley Smith is a man of integrity and honesty, and a strong Hawaiian in the community. I have known Riley for eight years and have considered his friendship to be a privilege. Having spent time afield with Riley on Hawaii Island, on land managed by him, I have witnessed firsthand his love for the 'aina, evident in the fine condition of the land and the balance seen in the environment. In short, I wholeheartedly believe that Riley Smith will be an outstanding member of this commission.

Mahalo,

David Leandro

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 7:34:36 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

As a Maui resident who has served as Chair of the Maui County Board of Water Supply and who is actively working to support investments in Maui County that meet environmental, social, and good governance (ESG) standards, I am very concerned about Gov. Ige's nominees to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I hope that when you consider these nominations, you will ask the individuals questions that are of vital interest to the residents of Maui.

Given their backgrounds, please ask the nominees their views on granting a 30-year lease to a foreign entity with a questionable history of water privatization — whose sole motivation is profit, as described in this February 23, 2022 Canadian media article about PSP, the owner and sole member of Mahi Pono Holdings, LLC:

<https://breachmedia.ca/canadian-pension-fund-invests-in-ex-plantation-privatizing-hawaiis-water/>

I would also like to know whether nominees are aware that community control of East Maui waters has been one of the primary issues discussed by the Maui County Board of Water Supply (BWS) for the last three years and the topic of a BWS Temporary Investigative Report issued in January 2020.

Please also ask them whether they have researched PSP's egregious record of water investments in Australia as well as the foreign pension fund's record of negligence in elder care homes and exploitation of tenants in single family residences.

Finally, please ask them what steps they plan to take as a BLNR member to address the County of Maui's recent policy commitment to secure the East Maui leases for the people of Maui, per the resolution passed by the Maui County Council in January, and the subsequent letter from Chair Alice Lee to BLNR.

I look forward to a robust discussion of the nominees tomorrow.

—Shay Chan Hodges

Haiku, Maui, Hawaii

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 7:39:09 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika K Uyehara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Riley Smith's nomination to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Mahalo!

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 7:51:17 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Mahalo for this opportunity.

I strongly oppose Riely Smith to have a seat of this important capacity. His name and reputation on our island is deeply disturbing with many non Pono initiatives bending rules and regulations to fit his own personal agenda.

Please deny his nomination. He lacks my community support, lacks community credentials for impacting our island in a positive manner and has pushed developments that are highly questionable and contraversial.

We need to stop nominating developers that hold no background in actual and measuarble community care and service. It is time to stop the mismanagment of DLNR voting the takes the mission off the Pono path leaving our Natural Resources and Cultural landscapes in continued degredation.

As a community leader and kama'aina resident I am seeing the gross strategic moves to place more corporate developers at the front of decision making in all aspects of our island. Choose someone like Dr. Greg Asner that has applied for this position and was denied the opprotunity to serve with his EXTENSIVE background and knowledge and cultural scientific services that shows the impact of the business as usual tourism and offshore investor development mentality.

Bring Dr. Greg Asner's application and nomination forward as a worth while candidate to serve the State of Hawaii to better protect our watershed, natural resources and move us in the right direction with respect to our cultural practices! www.hawaiimerc.org

Mahalo for your time.

Maki Morinoue

Holualoa

96725

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 8:48:02 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I am testifying in support of GM 685 for Riley Smith and his nomination to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Riley for 15 years in a professional and personal capacity. His resume speaks for itself. Many people believe ranchers do not malama our aina as best as they possibly could and there is evidence of that clearly in Hawaii. However, Riley has made it his life's work to do his best to manage problematic areas on different ranches he managed and always took proactive steps to ensure that best practices were put in place to manage invasive species and conserve water as best as possible in those areas.

Riley and his team also do what they need to do on the commercial management front to ensure the businesses on their commercial properties thrive especially when "times are tough." It is tough to succeed in business. I know that first hand. Unfortunately, not every business made it through this tough time. Nevertheless, Riley's team did what they could to afford opportunities to business owners to assist them in their success.

Not everyone will agree on each issue and Riley will be the first to tell you that. That being said, Riley is skillful with his ability to get his point across, but also keeps an open mind on what someone across the table or others on his side of the table may be sharing. He does listen and if a better idea comes to the table, then he usually will find a way to incorporate that into his work. He will dig in and fight to fulfill his commitment once a decision is made.

These types of experiences are extremely helpful to a board member as different types of leases will come before the Board of Land and Natural Resources for review and Riley will know the right questions to ask and will not be satisfied unless he knows the lease agreement is in the best interest of the state and all who call Hawaii home. For these reasons and a myriad of other reasons, I support him, his leadership and request the committee also support Riley Smith and his nomination to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Kama Hopkins

Subject: **GM 685**
Letter of Support for Riley Smith

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support for the nomination of Mr. Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Riley Smith has much more to offer to this appointment than his hard skills, which have been developed and refined through his professional career and his volunteer work in the community. It is his core values and characteristics as a person that is an overwhelming factor to choose him. Through my experiences with Riley for more than fifteen (15) years, I have come to know him as a person who is truly compassionate about people and the community and I would like to share a few experiences of why I feel this way.

One way he has shown his compassion for people is through his personal interactions. For example, in my contacts with Riley, he has consistently asked about the health and well-being of myself and entire family even when our conversations are about business. He has steadily asked about my elderly mother's health over the last eight years until her recent passing, and also checks to see how I'm doing. He will inquire about my hobbies and activities outside of work to encourage me to maintain a balanced lifestyle with work and leisure. He truly cares about people far beyond the working relationship due to his true compassion for others.

He also cares for the community and volunteers his time and expertise to make it a better place. He believes in this mission very strongly and I believe this was a large motivating factor for his guidance to me. Several years ago, he challenged me to increase my contributions to the community through volunteering my time. This motivated me to do more, and I have been blessed with the opportunity to volunteer on the Boards of Directors for two organizations on Hawaii Island. The first is the Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union, which was founded by coffee farmers here in Kona and serves the entire island. The second is La`i`opua 2020, a non-profit with 501(c)(3) status whose primary goal is to serve the communities of the Kealakehe Ahupa`a in West Hawaii. He believes in the importance of community service and it motivates him to get others involved with this cause.

In summary, Mr. Riley Smith is an outstanding candidate for the Board of Land and Natural Resources. He is viewed by many people as an extremely competent professional, a caring person, and someone who gives back to the community. Please accept my sincere and humble letter of support for the nomination of Riley Smith.

Sincerely,

Merrick H. Nishimoto

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

March 18, 2022

1:00 PM

CCR229

Opposition on GM685

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
Gubernatorial Nominee, RILEY SMITH, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Aloha, Senators,

I am writing to raise a significant concern about Governor Ige's recent choice of Riley Smith, nominee to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Mr. Smith was a principal of a company during a period of time when the company was committing proven fraud. I am also concerned about Mr Smith's current focus as an owner of a company involved in commercial development of large land holdings. Mr Smith's representation on boards and councils is demonstrably on behalf of development interests. The responsibility for the protection of the natural resources of public trust lands must be entrusted to citizens of the highest integrity and a clear knowledge and understanding stewardship and fiduciary responsibility.

Riley Smith was Vice President of Construction of Waimana Enterprises, and Waimana Enterprises was parent company of Sandwich Isles Communications, whose President was Albert Hee. According to Federal prosecutors, Hee siphoned about \$4 million from his company Waimana Enterprises to cover "false" salaries to family members, college tuition for his children, family vacations, massages and dozens of other personal expenses. Hee directed accountants and company employees to classify many of the personal expenses as business deductions or part of a shareholder loan that was never intended to be repaid, according to prosecutors, over a 15 year period.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture holds a \$139 million court judgment against Sandwich Isles tied to delinquent loans, and a trustee appointed in U.S. Bankruptcy Court to oversee Paniolo has a \$257 million judgment against Sandwich Isles on behalf of Paniolo's creditors. In 2016, following a lengthy investigation in which the FCC concluded that Sandwich Isles improperly received millions in universal service high-cost support through repeated violations of FCC rules, the FCC sought comment on whether to terminate Sandwich Isles' status as an incumbent local exchange carrier, and thereby render Sandwich Isles ineligible to receive universal service support.

The FCC's Wireline Bureau denied Sandwich Isles' waiver request based on its ultimate conclusion that "Sandwich Isles has certain expenses that appear grossly excessive and unreasonable," and "[i]n particular, Sandwich Isles has spent millions of dollars with affiliated and related entities for services that appear unrelated to the provision of a broadband-capable network." [7] The following "unreasonable costs" were identified by the Bureau:

Corporate operations expenses that are 623 percent greater than the average for similar companies with the highest corporate operations expenses;
Significant payments between 2009-2011 to Waimana Enterprises, Inc. (Waimana), Sandwich Isles' parent company, for providing services to Sandwich Isles.

Riley Smith was Vice President of Construction for Waimana Enterprises during this period supervising the undersea cable construction for five islands. Smith wrote a letter of support on behalf of Albert Hee to Judge Susan Mollway prior to the sentencing hearing, where Hee was sentenced in 2015 for tax fraud to 46 months in prison and the Waimana/Sandwich Isles company was ordered to pay a \$49.6 million fine. In his signed letter to Judge Mollway, Riley Smith stated that 99% of the employees of the company were classmates, friends and relatives of Mr Hee.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement that Hee engaged in a "long-running scheme" using money from a web of connected companies to pay for personal expenses for himself and family members over nearly 15 years.

Riley Smith is CEO of Lanihau Properties. Lanihau's primary strategy is to develop the lands, construct needed infrastructure, and create commercial/industrial lots to sell. Riley Smith also manages large acreages for cattle production. Lanihau Properties is a member of the Hawai'i Chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) <https://www.naiophawaii.org/>. NAIOP "is the nation's leading trade association for developers, owners, investors, asset managers and other professionals in industrial office and mixed-use commercial real estate." Mr. Smith works with the Hawai'i Leeward Planning Conference (HLPC) which represents large landowners (including Lanihau Properties on the leeward side of the island of Hawai'i. He is associated with real estate development interests in West Hawai'i and is part of the "traditional" political power structure on this island.

Mr Smith sits on the advisory council for Na Ala Hele trails, and repeatedly represents the interests of developers, opposing the addition or protection of historic trails protected by the Highways Act of 1892. When he votes to oppose, he does not explain his opposition. In his conduct of board and commission meetings, attendees and testifiers have complained that those giving informative testimony are cut off summarily, and that the conduct of Mr Smith can be rude and disparaging. We can find no record of efforts to conserve or protect natural resources, rather Mr Smith generally represents development interests.

Riley Smith is the CEO of Lanihau Properties, which is a member of the Hawai'i Chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) <https://www.naiophawaii.org/>. NAIOP "is the nation's leading trade association for developers, owners, investors, asset managers and other professionals in industrial office and mixed-use commercial real estate." Mr. Smith works with the Hawai'i Leeward Planning Conference (HLPC) which represents large landowners (including Lanihau Properties on the

leeward side of the island of Hawai'i. He is associated with real estate development interests in West Hawai'i and is part of the "traditional" political power structure on this island.

Mr. Smith's most recent public action was to take a lead role in *opposition* to the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historic Park's effort to protect its water resources by having the Keauhou aquifer designated as a state water management area by the state Commission on Water Resource Management.

In summary, Riley Smith's extensive executive association with a company with a proven record of tax fraud and misrepresentation, his strong advocacy for development interests, and the absence of a land stewardship record lead me to believe that Mr Riley Smith would not represent the protection of the natural resources that could be entrusted to him.

Sincerely,

Deborah J Ward
P.O. Box 918
Kurtistown HI 96760

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 9:18:19 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I, along with many of my neighbors and associates living on the Big Island are troubled by the nomination of Mr. Riley Smith to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. What many of us already know of this nominee is not salutary; certainly not *'pono'*.

We urge your members to thoroughly investigate his background and links with shady characters and activities. After doing your due diligence, you should agree that other better qualified nominees are available who deserve this important custodial position. (Alternatively, please consider Dr. Greg Asner on our island who similarly applied for the position *and who we trust!*)

As a principle, we should not be putting the *'fox in charge of the hen house'*.

Mahalo nui loa!

R A Culbertson,

Honokaa

(member of the Environmental Caucus,

Hawaii Democratic Party)

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 9:19:45 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ken williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to support the appointment of Riley Smith yo the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Riley has been an upstanding citizen of Hawaii. His professional and cultural background will lend much to the work and decision making of this board.

I have known Riley since the early 1980s when he headed the sewage treatment plant in Hawaii Kai. He has since elevated himself in the industry and community through positions at PBR Hawaii, Parker Ranch, County of Hawaii, Lanihau properties and many other worthy Hawaii institutions.

His family upbrining and education also will provide valuable insights to the Board.

Riley will be an asset to the State and DLNR.

Thank you.

Ken Williams
GM Ko Olina Resort

Barry Nakamoto
1093 Kaumoku Street
Honolulu, HI 96825
Phone: 808-260-6973
Email: barry.nakamoto@gmail.com

Testimony before Senate Committee on Water and Land

GM 685

Relating to Nomination of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources

March 18, 2022

State Capitol Conference Room 229

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha,

I would like to provide my support for Riley Smith to be approved for the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Mr. Smith would be a definite asset to the Board with his extensive experience in land/water management and stewardship combined with his genuine passion and aloha for our islands.

I have known Riley for over 15 years since his days at Parker Ranch. We currently serve together supporting the non-profit HSPE Educational Foundation. Riley always conducts himself with the utmost integrity, practices respect for all, and demonstrates sincerity in his interactions. I could not think of a better person for this important position.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry M. Nakamoto", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Barry M. Nakamoto

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 9:25:50 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Riley has an abundance of experience of taking care of the 'aina thru his profession. He is well liked throughout the community and a knowledgeable and committed individual. He would be an excellent addition to Board of Land & Natural Resources

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith- Aragan
Hawaii State Capitol Building
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 17, 2022

To The Committee of Land and Water:

March 18 Hearing on GM 685 - Support for Riley W. Smith - Nominated for Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources

This letter is submitted in support of Riley W. Smith being favorably nominated for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). I appreciate and support the Governor's nomination of Riley to serve on the BLNR.

Riley possesses the requisite experience, education, professional character, and personal integrity to properly fulfill the role as a BLNR board member overseeing and guiding the governance and management decisions of the State Department of Land, (Water) and Natural Resources.

The BLNR is an important government entity. Operating in a modern world with many competing interests. Board members are responsible for decisions on important issues regarding the management and use of the State's Land and Natural Resources.

This responsibility requires an individual like Riley - one with a broad view of utility and sustainability – and a balanced understanding of contemporary uses, including a mindful Konohiki perspective that appreciates pre-western-indigenous Hawaii based land practice and concepts. The selection and addition of Riley as a board member will enhance the BLNR's collective decisions and actions to State's varied public and private interests, while remaining cognizant of evolving Hawaiian cultural-related land, resource and environmental kuleana.

Riley has the business acumen, board experience, and personal qualities to fulfill the BLNR board member duties including:

- **Senior Executive Experience** - over 40+ years in land, water, and resource management positions.
- **Governance** – past and current experience serving on numerous boards, commissions, and other non-profits.
- **Capable decision maker and consensus builder** - Born and raised on the windward side of O’ahu, and a long time Hawaii Island resident, Riley is a product of a part Hawaiian parents; although not unique or special on its’ own accord, a mixed ethnicity including Hawaiian, can offer one a balanced base to better understand the varied interests within our broader island community.
- **Honest, trustworthy, pragmatic, and reliable** – Riley received a Christian based education as an honors graduate from Kamehameha Kapalama, a B.S in Civil Engineering from the University of Southern California, and earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Hawaii

My support and comments for selection of Riley as a capable BLNR member are offered as:

- a lifelong State resident
- a citizen that values Hawaii’s unique setting and important leadership role/place - as an island community of diverse democratic and indigenous Hawaiian perspectives requiring sound resource management approaches and perspectives
- an executive land asset manager with 15 years involvement in productively managing, protecting, and preserving land and water resources -through strategic resource planning, investment, education, and cultural initiatives
- A friend and non-business associate of Riley developed over 30+ years through mutual friends including the enjoyment as a fellow member of a club perpetuating the preparation and presentation of Hawaiian and Polynesian dishes and delicacies.

Thank you for the consideration of this letter in support of Riley W. Smith for favorable consideration and confirmation as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Very Truly Yours,

Guy Gilliland

Kyle Chock
67-1185 Mamalahoa Hwy., D-104
Kamuela, HI 96743

March 18, 2022

Chair Lorraine R. Inouye
Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Committee on Water and Land
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 685 Consideration and Conformation to BLNR, Gubernatorial Nominee, Riley Smith

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

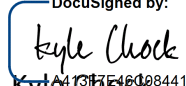
I am writing in strong support of the appointment of Mr. Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

Mr. Smith has extensive professional experience in both the public and private sectors including but not limited to the management and entitlement of lands and resource management. He is a lifelong resident of the State of Hawaii, comes from a family of public servants, and understands the importance and value of Hawaii's natural resources through his recreational activities in and around the ocean and at work.

Moreover, Mr. Smith has served on many important boards and committees, such as the Kona Water Roundtable and the Na Ala Hele Advisory Council advising the Department of Land and Natural Resources on trails issues on Hawaii Island.

I am confident in Mr. Smith's ability to serve the people of Hawaii and the State on the BLNR and respectfully request your favorable decision on his appointment.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Kyle Chock

March 15, 2022

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM685 – Appointment of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Senators Inouye and Keith-Agaran and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

My name is Mel Kaneshige and I am submitting this testimony IN FAVOR of the appointment of Riley W. Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

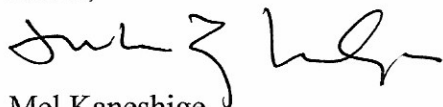
I have known Mr. Smith for almost ten years in connection with my service as a member of the board of members of Lanihau Properties, LLC, a Hawaii limited liability company owned by members of the Greenwell family, which has 10,000 acres of land it owns and manages in Kailua-Kona.

During that entire time, Mr. Smith has served as the President of Lanihau Properties and in that capacity has overseen (a) the entitlements, subdivision, sales, and infrastructure planning and construction of a major industrial/retail project in Kailua-Kona, (b) the negotiation and sale of a number of leased fee properties owned by Lanihau in Kailua-Kona Village and subsequent exchange acquisitions of mainland properties, (c) the corporate restructuring of Lanihau's affiliates to take advantage of changing tax laws, and (d) various long-term planning efforts looking to the future of Lanihau.

You will see from his resume that he has the professional education and experience to handle all of the tasks I mentioned above (and more) and is likewise fully capable of handling the matters that come before the BLNR. Mr. Smith has also been a responsible and contributing member of all of the communities that he has worked in. He has lived and worked on the Big Island for the last 28 years and knows its people and the land well.

I have no doubt that he would be an excellent member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and I recommend him wholeheartedly and without reservation for this position.

Aloha,



Mel Kaneshige
4615 Aukai Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 10:48:29 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CSH May aka Charles S.H. May	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the nomination of Riley W. Smith without reservation. I have known Riley for over 30 years professionally and socially and I can vouch for his competence and integrity.

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 11:15:23 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
W. Frank Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I whole heartedly support Riley W. Smith for approval to the Board of Land and Natural Resources

Respectfully submitted,

W. Frank Brandt

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 11:23:34 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward V. Richardson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Edward V. Richardson, retired Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii, and I am submitting testimony in support of Riley Smith to serve as a member of the State Board of Natural Resources.

I have known Riley for over 30 years and can attest to his outstanding character, competence and integrity. His previous experience working for the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii County and private industry in various positions requiring social, technical and managerial expertise makes him a perfect candidate for this position.

As we look into the future, the State Board of Land and Natural Resources will be facing many issues that will have a huge impact on the people of Hawaii. We need the very best people serving on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Riley Smith is one of the very best.

Edward V. Richardson

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 11:35:24 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Natalie Kurashima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What is your background in natural and cultural resource management, conservation, or environmental sciences?

Should the U.S. military and the University of Hawai'i be re-issued leases for training and observatory development after their repeated, ongoing failures to protect our public trusts lands and waters?

Should water leases allow more than half of any given stream to be diverted for years on end? Do 30-year water leases make sense in the climate change era?

Have you ever opposed efforts to protect water and its public trust uses through water management area designation?

Will you protect the rights of Native Hawaiians and the Department of Hawaiian Homelands as recognized in the Hawai'i Constitution and Hawaiian Homes Commission Act?

ZENDO KERN
P.O Box 1381
Kea'au, HI 96749

March 8, 2022

Hawai'i State Legislature
Committee on Water and Land
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Gilbert Keith-Agaran and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: Board of Land and Natural Resources – Nominee Riley Smith

I am honored to express my strong SUPPORT for the consideration of Governor, David Ige's nomination of Mr. Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

I have had the privilege and opportunity to work with Mr. Smith in both the public and private sector and have the highest confidence that with Mr. Smith's extensive professional background in land use and resource management, along with his considerable engagement in community service and that he is a lifelong resident of the State of Hawai'i make him an exemplary candidate to the BLNR.

My personal experience with Mr. Smith in both the private and public sector is that Mr. Smith provides meaningful contributions and discussion, is able to articulate well, knowledgeable, and of sound judgment. Mr. Smith has always been reliable and does his research and review in advance of said meetings or hearings.

In addition to experience, being that Mr. Smith was born and raised in Hawai'i and has family roots that run many generations, Mr. Smith has a strong sensitivity and understanding of Hawai'i's culture and responsibility to protect our utmost precious resources to allow for many future generations to thrive and enjoy.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and I humbly ask for your support of Mr. Riley Smith.

Sincerely,



ZENDO KERN
Hawai'i County Planning Director

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 11:53:17 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Gonzalez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Riley is knowledgeable, thoughtful, and respectful. He cares deeply for his community and is tireless in making things better. Those traits in addition to his professional training and experience make him a valuable addition to the BLNR.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 11:56:19 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Decisionmakers,

I am a long time Big Island resident living in Ka'u Moku, Keauhou ahupua'a. I oppose Riley Smith to represent the Big Island for BLNR board. We need someone with a conservation educational and professional background to replace Chris Yuen. We do not need more business and development background members deciding our important natural and cultural resource management issues.

Riley Smith is the CEO of Lanihau Properties, which is a member of the Hawai'i Chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) <https://www.naiophawaii.org/>. NAIOP "is the nation's leading trade association for developers, owners, investors, asset managers and other professionals in industrial office and mixed-use commercial real estate." The listing of members of the Hawai'i Chapter are listed below, a veritable who's who of development interests.

Mr. Smith works with the Hawai'i Leeward Planning Conference (HLPC) which represents large landowners (including Lanihau Properties on the leeward side of the island of Hawai'i. He is associated with real estate development interests in West Hawai'i and is part of the "traditional" political power structure on this island.

Please reconsider the governor's nomination to best represent the constitution's public trust doctrine, natural and cultural resource protection.

Malama pono,

Diane Ware, 99-7815 Kapoha Pl, Volcano Hi 96785

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 12:00:45 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Willibrord Tallett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Willibrord K. Tallett,. I am a retired Senior Vice President of Real Estate and Corporate Development for the former, Hawaii Big Five firm, C Brewer and Company Limited.. I have known Mr. Riley Smith for over 20 years and know him to be extremely knowledgeable in Hawaii Real Estate matters. Riley is also very knowlegable in Hawaii cultural issuss and rules protecting the enviroment. I highly endorse and recommend Mr. Riley Smith to be nominated as a DL&R board member.

Thank you,

Willibrord K. Tallett

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 12:18:28 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Mcknight	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I, along with many of my neighbors and associates living on the Big Island are troubled by the nomination of Mr. Riley Smith to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources. What many of us already know of this nominee is not salutary; certainly not *'pono'*.

We urge your members to thoroughly investigate his background and links with shady characters and activities. After doing your due diligence, you should agree that other better qualified nominees are available who deserve this important custodial position. (Alternatively, please consider Dr. Greg Asner on our island who similarly applied for the position *and who we trust!*)

As a principle, we should not be putting the *'fox in charge of the hen house'*.

Mahalo nui loa!

Jeff McKnight

Paauilo, Senate District 4

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 12:56:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Senators,

i've known Mr Smith on a pleasant basis for decades in government-related settings . As a long time member of the Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee as well as acting in other volunteer advocacy positions related to land use planning and environmental and cultural protection on Hawai`i Island, i have strong doubts that Mr. Smith is the best choice for this important position.

Until recently, i was unaware of his connections to possibly corrupt entities -- a situation which deserves the utmost consideration by this committee. if those allegations/associations are true, then this nomination should be immediately off the table.

My experience is that Mr Smith has too strong of an attachment to pro-development goals -- so much so that he would be unable to properly and impartially view matters critical to the well-being of our lands, waters, and people in a way that would represent the vast interests which the public has in protecting and using our irreplaceable Public Trust resources.

One important example of this is when Mr Smith strongly opposed proposed protection of the Keauhou aquifer through designation. Having come from a development background, it's not difficult to understand why he'd take the side of development interests in what was -- and continues to be -- a thorny battle. But, again, the BLNR is charged with upholding the State's constitution which requires the state to give the highest protection to our Public Trust resources.

therefore, i ask that you deny this appointment and choose a better candidate who, i've heard, is in the wings.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona



LATE

March 17, 2022

Dear Chair Inouye, vice-chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

I write in regard to GM 685 to endorse the nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I base my support of Mr. Smith's appointment to this important voluntary leadership role on the following considerations.

- **Relevant experience** – Mr. Smith has over two decades of executive level experience in various roles that have involved both the management, as well as the development of land and natural resources. As a result, he knows Hawai'i's lands, is well acquainted with the entitlement and transactional aspects of real estate and has a working relationship with many of the key stakeholder groups.
- **Commitment & energy to serve** – The packed agenda of the Board of Land and Natural Resources requires a heavy lift of its volunteer board members. The State is fortunate that an individual with Mr. Smith's scope of professional and personal responsibilities has offered to make a commitment to serve.
- **Respectful of other viewpoints** – Although I have not had direct business transactions with Mr. Smith, whenever I have encountered him, I have found him to be respectful of the viewpoints of others. I believe this is an essential courtesy Land Board members should accord the public and a quality that will help the Board to operate as a strong team representative of many views and constituencies.
- **Willingness to compromise and ability to balance** – I have never observed Mr. Smith to be strident and unyielding. Therefore, I anticipate that he would work to find equitable compromises and balance the interests of diverse stakeholders.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of Mr. Riley Smith's confirmation.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil J. K. Hannahs", written over a horizontal line.

Neil J. K. Hannahs
Founder & CEO

LATE

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 3:23:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqui Hoover	Testifying for Hawaii Island Economic Development Board	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

It is with great enthusiasm that the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB) support the nomination of Mr. Riley Smith to the BLNR. We greatly appreciate Mr. Smith's knowledge, experience, ability to thoughtfully and comprehensively consider data and other information, and commitment to the natural resources of Hawaii. Mahalo for this opportunity to support and we humbly request your confirmation of this nomination.

LATE

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 3:37:17 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqui Hoover	Testifying for Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference (HLPC) incorporated in 1974 is a member-based, private 501(c)3 organization committed to balanced planning, protection and best practices for land use, development, and sustainability in collaboration with government, private sector, and our community.

Riley Smith has served as a leader in HLPC for many years giving us firsthand opportunity to see his commitment to `aina, wai, thoughtful consideration of managing Hawaii's resources to ensure sustainability, resilience, and perpetuation for generations to come.

We strongly support his nomination to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

LATE

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 4:42:46 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Command	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please confirm Riley Smith as a member of the Board of Land and natural Resources. Riley has the technical land use knowledge necessary to be a valuable member of the BLNR. He is also keiki o ka aina and has a deep love for this island and Hawaii nei. I can't think of a better person to replace Chris Yuen as our konohiki for Moku O Keawe.

LATE

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 6:06:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose Riley Smith to BLNR board. GM685

I don't know Mr. Smith but I'm not comfortable with the issue of the ongoing investigation of Sandwich Isles Communications and whether he was involved in any wrong-doing as a former Sandwich Isles Communications regional manager.

It would be quite disconcerting if we find out he was involved - 'after' he is appointed.

I have asked a dozen long time Hawai'i Island residents who also regularly attend various state/county/community meetings, about Mr. Smith - and none of them had anything good to say about him.

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 10:04:49 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

After many conversations with older island residents & much consideration on the dubious history of this candidate, I ask the BLNR to please drop Riley Smith as nominee for appointment to the Board - we rather need truly dedicated public servants, he doesn't seem such a role model.... JW

LATE

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 7:27:20 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Rojas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is a Conflict of Interest - this needs to STOP, especially for positions in BLNR. The only people who need to be in this position, and all positions in the legislature are Kānaka Maoli Cultural Practitioners and those with Kānaka Maoli mindsets - that treat 'Āina, Wai, and all natural elements as a family member and NOT as transactions. Hawai'i is only Hawai'i because of Hawaiians. Their kuleana is to this 'Āina of their ancestors and NOT to foreign corporations, developers, and outsiders with the highest bid.

If this individual, Riley Smith, has or had any ties to Peter Martin and/or any developers he should and can NOT be in this position of Board of LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES whose goal is to PROTECT AND PRESERVE not to develop and destroy. BLNR's mission is stated to "enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawai'i's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawai'i nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors." Any person whose goal is to develop Hawai'i's land as a business or for profit is in conflict of interest with a BLNR position whose goal, again, is to protect and preserve.

This goal to PROTECT AND PRESERVE belongs in ALL POSITIONS in the legislature.

I OPPOSE GM685.

GM-685

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 9:34:55 AM
Testimony for WTL on 3/18/2022 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I'm writing to strongly oppose the nomination of Riley Smith to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Smith supported unbalanced views on critical water resource management issues and a shaky grasp on scientific facts in proceedings on the Keauhou water management area designation petition filed with CWRM in 2013. Smith would not help advance the state's administration of land and natural resources.

Yours,

Bianca Isaki

Patti Cook

Box 6960, Kamuela, HI 96743
(808) 937-2833 – cookshi@aol.com

March 17, 2022

**TO: Hawai'i State Senate House Committee on Water And Land
Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee Members**

LATE

RE: Hearing @ 1PM, Friday, Feb. 18, 2022

**GM 685 – Gubernatorial Nominee Riley Smith
Board of Land and Natural Resources**

Aloha from Waimea, Island of Hawai'i:

I have known and worked closely with Riley Smith as a community member for well over 20 years, and, given his wide-ranging professional expertise and community involvement as documented in his resume, I believe there are few in the entire state with such a diverse range of experience. Further, much of it relates to the wide-ranging responsibilities that come under the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Riley has successfully and effectively guided a wide array of projects – public, private and not-for-profit – adhering to the technical and legal intent of existing laws, rules and regulations, always maintaining transparency and a respectful collaborative approach to honor diverse opinions and needs. This approach has built community trust and engagement.

As a long-standing Board Member for Waimea Community Association and its former President, he helped our community understand and interact effectively with federal, state and county agencies as well as local businesses and not-for-profit organizations on such wide-ranging issues and opportunities as UXO cleanup to water resource management and protection, housing to communications services, transportation to emergency services and more.

I believe that there are few individuals in Hawai'i who have the diverse array of expertise, experience and integrity that Riley brings to the table to effectively help address the complex, diverse needs and challenges of the people of Hawai'i and their extraordinary land and marine resources.

I am grateful he has been nominated to serve on BLNR and urge you to please confirm him. Mahalo for your time.

Patti Cook