

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LAND USE COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM
OFFICE OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DANIEL ORODENKER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Statement of
Daniel E. Orodener
Executive Officer
State Land Use Commission

Before the
Senate Committee on
Water and Land

Monday April 11, 2022
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Room 229 Virtual Video Conference

In consideration of
GM 854

**REGARDING THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF MICHAEL YAMANE TO
THE LAND USE COMMISSION, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2026**

Chair Inouye; Vice Chair Keith-Agaran; and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Michael Yamane's appointment to the Land Use Commission. Mr. Yamane is well qualified to serve as a commissioner on the land use commission. He has extensive experience with energy issues, a growing and important aspect of current LUC activity. He also has extensive experience with developing cooperative solutions to problems and inclusiveness with the public in his activities. His experience with government operations and policy issues also gives him key insight into how to handle difficult decisions.

Mr. Yamane is well respected in the community and will be a credible and well-respected addition to the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Yamane's appointment. We are honored to have him and look forward with pleasure to his participation.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Testimony of
Derek S.K. Kawakami
Mayor, County of Kaua'i

Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, April 11, 2022; 1:30 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In consideration of
**GM 854 Relating to the Appointment of
Michael Yamane
To the State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission**

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

I am honored to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Michael Yamane's appointment to the State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission. Mr. Yamane's knowledge and experience will bring depth and strength to this commission.

I have had the pleasure to work with Mr. Yamane while I served on the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) Board of Directors. His expertise as a licensed professional engineer provided the skill set necessary for the planning and decision-making which brought KIUC to the forefront of utilities across the country converting to renewable energy and ultimately, the cooperative as an industry leader in energy storage.

However, knowledge alone does not result in success. Mr. Yamane's leadership skills and ability to work with others has been key in driving forward the innovative policies of our utility. An open mindedness and willingness to see different perspectives are the same elements that will enhance his participation and effectiveness while serving on the Land Use Commission.

The Land Use Commission is often tasked with challenging considerations of land use management. I am confident that Mr. Yamane will contribute with balanced and thoughtful deliberations and make decisions best suited for the public welfare.

I ask this Honorable Committee to advise and consent to Michael Yamane's nomination, and forward to the full Senate for consideration.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Testimony of

Michael A. Dahilig

Managing Director, County of Kaua'i

Before the

Senate Committee on Water and Land

April 11, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Room 229 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of

GM 854 - Michael Yamane

Gubernatorial Nominee for the

State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of Mr. Michael Yamane's nomination to the Land Use Commission. As a nominee, he is well qualified to fulfill this responsibility given his professional and life experiences, his temperament, and desire to serve.

I have known Mr. Yamane as the Chief of Operations and Technology for the Kauai Island Utility Corporation (KIUC) for over a decade. His work with our electric utility has been a critical element toward Kauai being a leader in renewable energy generation across our state and country.

His extensive experience in the utility industry necessarily made him aware of the development challenges facing our county, and how their services are one of the critical elements toward making or breaking a project. In some respect, his understanding of how development processes work naturally suits the intellectual exercise necessary for deliberation on this critical commission, especially when acting in a quasi-stewardship capacity lending to development entitlements that will change the face of our state for years to come.

Mr. Yamane's track record for service in other venues is well established. Over the years, he served on both the Wilcox Hospital and Hawaii Pacific Health Boards of Directors, and also served a term on the Hawaii Employers Council Board of Governors.

The Land Use Commission and the State will undoubtedly be enriched by his service on this critical commission. I have confidence in Mr. Yamane's ability to make sound and deliberative choices in the land management of our state and respectfully ask the committee to **ADVISE AND CONSENT** to his nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**Kris N. Nakagawa
1604 Ruth Place
Honolulu, HI 96816**

April 7, 2022

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Governor's Message 854, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL YAMANE, for a term to expire June 30, 2026.

Hearing: Monday, April 11, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 229

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

I am writing in strong support of the appointment of Michael Yamane to serve as a Commissioner for the Land Use Commission ("LUC").

I am an attorney licensed in Hawaii since 1992 and presently employed at Young Brothers, LLC. I first met Mr. Yamane in the early 2000s when he was employed at Kauai Electric/Kauai Island Utility Cooperative ("KIUC"), and I was employed at the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission. Subsequently, I was also honored and privileged to work with Mr. Yamane again when I was employed at Morihara Lau & Fong LLP, and represented KIUC in various public utility, regulatory, and government affairs matters.

I believe Mr. Yamane has the requisite character, knowledge and experience to sufficiently perform the necessary duties as a Commissioner of the LUC. Mr. Yamane is familiar with the regulatory process and procedures and was exposed to various land use and environmental issues during his career at KIUC. He also has practical and technical experience as an engineer in addressing various complex issues before administrative agencies. I found him to be honest, fair, ethical and impartial, and he always strived to educate and encourage others around him to do the same. Accordingly, I believe Mr. Yamane will be a great asset to the LUC and the State of Hawaii. I respectfully request your favorable consideration in the appointment of Mr. Yamane as a Commissioner of the LUC.

Sincerely,


Kris N. Nakagawa

Monday, April 11, 2022 at 1:30 PM
Conference Room 229 and Via Video Conference

Senate Committee on Water and Land

To: Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

From: Ray Vara
President & CEO

Re: **GM 854 – Testimony in Support
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Michael Yamane for a term to expire 06-30-2026.**

My name is Jen Chahanovich and I am the chief executive officer of Wilcox Medical Center. Founded in 1938, Wilcox Medical Center is a not-for-profit hospital dedicated to providing the Kaua'i community with accessible, quality health care. Wilcox is the largest medical facility on Kaua'i and has been recognized as one of the nation's best small hospitals. With more than 200 physicians on staff, Wilcox Medical Center offers island residents and visitors expert diagnosis and treatment for more than 22 specialties. It is a state-of-the-art acute care facility with a full suite of services including emergency, OB/GYN, pediatrics, cardiology, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, pulmonology, nephrology, orthopedics, neurology, internal medicine, trauma, family practice, radiology, urology, otolaryngology and general surgery.

I am writing in SUPPORT of GM 854 which submits for consideration and confirmation Michael Yamane to the Land Use Commission, for a term to expire on 06/30/2026.

The State Land Use Law (Chapter 205, Hawai'i Revised Statutes) was adopted in 1961, establishing a framework of land use management and regulation through which all lands in the State of Hawai'i are classified into one of four land use districts. The Land Use Commission is charged with the task of administering the Land Use Law. Based on his professional training and experience, Mr. Yamane is well qualified to serve on the Land Use Commission.

Mr. Yamane was the Chief of Operations & Technology for the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC), and was responsible for the areas of transmission and distribution, production, engineering, IT, legislative and regulatory affairs. Mr. Yamane held many positions over his many years at KIUC (formerly Kauai Electric), including associate

engineer, staff engineer, customer engineer in the Engineering Department, power systems engineer and substation operations engineer in the Transmission and Distribution Department, manager of the Information Services Department, manager of Regulatory and Planning, and manager of Engineering before being promoted to Chief of Operations.

He also served on the Board of Governors for the Hawaii Employers Council from 2014 to 2019. Mr. Yamane has been a director of Wilcox Medical Center since 2014, and has been a director of Hawaii Pacific Health since 2020. He has a demonstrated ability of analyzing and understanding complex issues. Through the years, Mr. Yamane has dedicated himself to serving the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Yamane's nomination.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Monday, April 11, 2022, 1:30 P.M.

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

GM 854 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL YAMANE, for a term to expire 06-30-2026

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

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

Pūlama Lānaʻi is in **support of GM 854**, a consideration and confirmation request for the Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL YAMANE, for a term to expire 06-30-2026 to the Land Use Commission (Commission).

To administer land use law, the Legislature established the Commission, which is responsible for preserving and protecting Hawaiʻi's lands and encouraging those uses to which lands are best suited. The Commission's primary role is to ensure that areas of state concern are addressed and considered in the land use decision-making process. The Commission establishes the district boundaries for the entire State, acts on petitions for boundary changes and requests for special use permits within the Agricultural and Rural Districts, and designates important agricultural lands.

Hawaiʻi has limited land and there are competing uses for these lands, which include energy, housing, and agriculture-- to name a few. Mike's background and skills will be beneficial to the collective group of commissioners as decision makers in future land use applications. As a retired utility executive that was instrumental in Kauaʻi's transition to a renewable utility he has years of experience in strategic planning, technical insight, and regulatory processes. He has also had to balance community, environmental impacts and renewable energy development in his previous role as a utility executive. All valuable skills to build upon during his potential role as a commissioner.

Pūlama Lānaʻi has had the privilege to work with Mike since his retirement as a consultant on a multitude of energy initiatives on Lānaʻi. His guidance and expertise has allowed Pūlama Lānaʻi to accelerate its energy resilience by implementing several renewable options for housing and commercial operations.

We respectfully request that you favorably vote to move GM 854 forward for confirmation by the Senate.

GM-854

Submitted on: 4/10/2022 12:44:00 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Azama	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I submit my opposition to appointing Michael Yamane onto the Land Use Commission for reasons of fear of private interest influencing decision-making. I am cautious when it comes to former public servants creating their own firms prior to being appointed to a higher position where such can be a conflict of interest.

The next few years of the direction the State goes are crucial to creating the future for my generation. I am a firm advocate for the protection of our agricultural lands, with decisions on the future designation of my island of O‘ahu’s Important Agricultural Lands as well as surmounting pressure to turn such lands along with other lesser ag land designations into solar and wind farms, I am deeply concerned with the future of Hawai‘i’s food security and if we are seeking solutions or simple profit-based decisions.

It is my understanding that Mr. Yamane formerly worked under the Kaua‘i Island Utility Cooperative, who I although I do applaud for demonstrating an alternative business model outside of HECO, I do question decisions that swept the community under a rug with streams diverted for hydroelectric facilities. These facilities massacred huge amounts of subsistence by killing ‘o‘opu and so much more stream wildlife vital to our ecosystem. For me I look for action, and what I seen from my friends on Kaua‘i is this idea of "taking" from these different sources, to "take us into the future" with little regard to what we "takeaway" from future generations. Such models and metrics for me are unacceptable.

As an ‘ōpio, I do support having diverse technical backgrounds, but there are people with such backgrounds that can still find solutions that are far less detrimental and do keep in mind the need to improve and not undermine our island’s ecosystems which also undermine our ability to grow food our live subsistence lifestyles on the land.

With the recent reprimand of Representative Ty Cullen and Senator Kalani English, I would hate to speculate on whether or not poker chips are being moved to support individuals like Mr. Yamane to step in at such a time when the so-called "green" energy sector is pressuring many of our public officials to take action without consideration to what is lost for future generations.

We do not need more individuals that are self-serving in their private interests to be making decisions that must consider the overall public.

Again I ask you to oppose this nominee.

Mahalo,

Bronson Azama

GM-854

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 5:43:59 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allan Ambrose Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Mr. Yamane for this position. He has the experience and passion to have our Lands and Water continue to thrive.

GM-854

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 7:21:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

THE SENATE

Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Monday, April 11, 2022 1:30 pm

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

By Doris Ching, Emeritus Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Hawai'i System

GM 854 FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE LAND USE COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MICHAEL YAMANE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2026.

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Members of the Committee Senator Misalucha, Senator Riviere, Senator Fevella:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as a private citizen and member of the community in support of GM 854 to consider and confirm gubernatorial nominee Michael Yamane to the Land Use Commission for a term to expire 06-30-2026. Having had the privilege of being a lifelong resident and educator in the State of Hawai'i, I fully understand the significance of responsible land use commissioners who will focus on the preservation and protection of Hawaii's valuable lands in decisions regarding uses to which lands are best suited. I believe Michael Yamane will serve as a responsible commissioner.

Over the decades I have known Mr. Yamane, I have observed his personal philosophy, attitudes, and knowledge on a wide range of issues and topics, including cultural, economic, and environmental factors. I have been favorably impressed with his insights reflecting his wide range of experiences, the consistency of his thoughts and actions, and his continuous search and practice of effective ways to build a better community for future generations. His appointment to the Land Use Commission will allow him to continue to contribute meaningfully to the State of Hawai'i and ensure that areas of state concern are addressed and considered in land use decisions, goals, and policies.

Mike Yamane is highly regarded as an authentic and honest individual. His knowledge,

technical expertise, and experience in regulatory and legislative processes are respected and valued by those who have worked with him. Most importantly, he is consistently trustworthy and demonstrates high integrity in professional and formal settings, as well as in personal and informal settings. I, therefore, strongly support GM 854 considering and confirming Michael Yamane's gubernatorial nomination to the Land Use Commission for a term to expire 06-30-2026. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

DAN V. GIOVANNI
4428 KAI IKENA DRIVE
KALAHEO, HAWAI'I 96741
DVGIOVANNI333@GMAIL.COM
808-228-8232

April 5, 2022

Honorable Lorraine Inouye
Chair, Senate Water and Land Committee
Hawai'i State Senate

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of the Nomination of Michael Yamane to the LUC

REFERENCE: GM854

Aloha Chair Lorraine Inouye, Vice-Chair Keith Agaran, and Committee Members:

I am a resident of Kaua'i and Vice Chairman of the Hawai'i Land Use Commission. I offer my personal testimony in strong support of GM854, Gubernatorial Nominee Michael Yamane to the Hawai'i Land Use Commission.

I have had the privilege of working professionally and as a peer with Mr. Yamane for the past 20 years in Hawai'i. He is person of very high character and professional integrity, extensive experience working the the private sector (recently retired as Chief of Operations for Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative), first-hand knowledge of the interworkings of legislative and regulatory processes in Hawai'i, and highly respected in our community.

Mr. Yamane would add his engineering and project management expertise to the team of commissioners as the LUC addresses critically important matters involving the best and proper use of lands throughout the state. He is an ideal candidate for the Commission, and would I would greatly appreciate your favorable consideration of his nomination.

Very truly yours,



Dan V. Giovanni

Testimony of
Linda K. Rosehill
President, Rosehill & Associates

Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, April 11, 2022
1:30 PM, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
GM 854, Michael Yamane
for the
Land Use Commission, Gubernatorial Nominee

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

I am Linda Rosehill. I strongly support the nomination of Mike Yamane to the Land Use Commission. I have known Mike for nearly 20 years and had the pleasure of working with him throughout and prior to his tenure as Chief Operating Officer of Kauai Island Utility Corporation (KIUC).

Mike is diligent, thorough, and fair in addressing issues and in working with people. These traits will serve him well in the important deliberations and issues that are presented before the LUC. As COO, he's had the opportunity to address a broad array of both issues and people. He works hard, not afraid of putting in the time necessary to thoroughly understand whatever he is tasked to do. He has developed skill sets that will also serve him well at the LUC.

I ask you favorably consideration of Mike Yamane's nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Mahalo,



Linda K. Rosehill

April 8, 2022

Aloha,

My name is Jacqueline Kanna and I am submitting a testimony for Michael Yamane's confirmation to the Land Use Commission.

I've known Michael "Mike" Yamane most of my life growing up on the island of Kauai and our families share many special gatherings together each year.

I feel I know Mike not only on a personal level, but also the business level as we often find ourselves at the same community events or have discussions on island issues.

Mike has integrity, solid ethics, and a heart for Hawaii. He is a local boy who graduated at UH Manoa as an Electrical Engineer and worked for Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) for 30 years and gives back and volunteers on various boards that serve our community.

As the Chief of Operation at KIUC, I believe Mike has built his reputation for being steady, honest, smart, experienced, and well connected in the community and government.

Mike has good character, something that is rare to find these days. What I admire most about Mike is his ability to be "quick to listen and slow to speak". He listens well, allows a person to share their thoughts, facts or opinions, and in return the communication is open for a better understanding on the issue, however it may turn out.

Mike is not afraid to be honest though, but he is honest, respectfully. Over his years of experience as Chief of Operations at KIUC, various community boards and meeting with government representatives, Mike has built his reputation for being fair, trustworthy and someone you want on your team. He is well respected.

Mike is a family man. True to his heart, he believes in family values and holds strong to them, instilling his family upbringing onto his two sons so that they too can carry the traditions of his family values and give back to his community that raised them.

It is an honor to submit a testimony for Michael Yamane's confirmation to the Land use Commission.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline K Kanna

**Testimony in support of GM 854 Michael Yamane
Nomination to the Land Use Commission**
Submitted by Amy Agbayani

I am submitting my strong recommendation in support of Michael Yamane as a private citizen. My support for Mr. Yamane is informed by my past professional work and my continuing community work in the area of diversity, inclusion, civil rights, higher education, immigrants and women.

Michael Yamane has a strong track record of leadership and service working as CEO and Technology for the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative and as an active community volunteer (Hawaii Employers Council, Wilcox Hospital and Pawaii Pacific Health board). He is a person on integrity with decades of experience working for a complex organization that required working with private companies and multiple government authorities. He can communicate technical matters to experts. He has a deep knowledge of our multiethnic communities and has the ability to reach out to community groups.

I am impressed with his integrity, knowledge, professionalism and leadership experience. He is hard working and respectful and will be a strong, competent, thoughtful and independent member of the Commission. I am taking this opportunity to thank him for his community volunteer work and commitment to public service.

I strongly support Mr. Yamane's nomination to the Land Use Commission.

Amy Agbayani