

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

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**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

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

**Wednesday, March 29, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 598
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE LEGACY
LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KIM
FALINSKI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2026**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources strongly supports Governor's Message 598 nominating Kim Falinski to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2026.

Kim Falinski, PhD, resides in Honolulu and possesses scientific qualifications (as evidenced by advanced degrees in Agricultural & Biological Engineering and Tropical Plant & Soil Science), thus fulfilling membership requirements for the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (Commission).

Pursuant to Section 173A-2.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), the Commission shall: 1) Advise the Department and the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) on any proposal, public or private, for the acquisition of any interests or rights in land having value as a resource to the State; 2) Advise the Department and the Board on any requests for grants from the fund to a qualifying state or county agency or nonprofit land conservation organization for the preservation of lands having value as a resource to the State; 3) Recommend to the Board the acquisition of interests or rights in certain lands having value as a resource to the State; and 4) Review and adopt rules relating to the criteria it applies in advising the Department and the Board and making recommendations to the Board regarding land acquisitions and grants made pursuant to Chapter 173A, HRS.

As an interim appointee, Dr. Falinski was an active, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable participant in the Commission's recent review of applications for Fiscal Year 2023 land acquisition grant awards. Her knowledge, experience, and overall savvy with field conditions, community science, and conservation transactions brings valuable insight to the Commission's work, and she is eager to continue learning about and supporting the Department's Legacy Land Conservation Program.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this nominee.

GM-598

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 7:29:11 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/29/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Penn	Testifying for DLNR	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

David Penn, DLNR Program Specialist.

Please see DLNR written testimony from Chair Chang.

I'm available for questions remotely via ZOOM.

Mahalo.

GM-598

Submitted on: 3/24/2023 3:26:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/29/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maigee Chang	Testifying for Farm of the Fearless Monkey	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am pleased to submit this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Dr. Kim Falinski's nomination to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

I have known Dr. Falinski for many years now, as she maintains an apiary at our family farm. Her hard work and dedication to the honeybees are truly inspirational. Her knowledge and advice on land use and resource conservation have been of great benefit to our farm.

Dr. Falinski's skills, experience, and expertise would also be of great benefit to the Commission and to the State of Hawaii's in its efforts to protect our natural resources and I strongly encourage your committee to confirm her nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Supporting GM 598, Nominating Kim Falinski to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission**

**Committee on Water and Land
March 29, 2023, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 229 and via Videoconference**



Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) strongly supports the appointment of Kim Falinski to the Legacy Lands Conservation Commission. Kim's expertise and experience will help the Commission meet its statutory responsibility to recommend and advise the Board and Department of Land and Natural Resources about lands having value as a resource to the State.

Kim currently works for TNC to help diagnose coastal and stream water quality issues throughout the State. She works closely with community partners and State agencies to provide the data and science needed to support watershed management efforts and coastal restoration. Her expertise in geology and water resources engineering, along with practical experience in all kinds of water quality monitoring, has helped to shape priorities and planning efforts. In Pelekane on Hawai'i Island, she helped to design vegetation replanting experiments to inform dryland restoration, while in Maui she serves as the technical advisor to the Hui o ka Wai Ola, a citizen sampling effort for regulatory quality data. In Lāna'i she surveyed coastal waters for areas of turbidity and groundwater, and helped to assess economic impact from restoration activities on the northern coastline of Kaua'i. She knows and loves all of the watersheds across the pae 'āina of Hawai'i.

The photos below are an example of the kind of conservation success Kim is working to achieve. He'eia meadowlands were once overgrown with invasive mangroves at the estuarine boundary – and today, after the work of many partners and access to a long term land lease, the land is home to native birds and plants.



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2022

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We believe Kim and her background and expertise in geology and water resources will be a significant asset to the Commission's review, evaluation, and recommendations for properties proposed for protection with resources from the Legacy Land Conservation Fund.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide support for the nomination of Kim Falinski to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Palmyra is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and work in over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties, and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and for the many benefits they provide to people.

GM-598

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 4:21:33 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/29/2023 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center	Testifying for Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testifying in strong support for Kim Falinski's nomination to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. She is a dedicated scientist who is actively working to help many communities in Hawai'i.

GM-598

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 5:01:40 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/29/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO!!

GM-598

Submitted on: 3/23/2023 8:48:37 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/29/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tova Callender	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

GM598 relates to the consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, KIM FALINSKI to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. I support her confirmation to serve in this Commission.

I have known Ms. Falinski personally and professionally for more than 10 years and have found her to possess considerable scientific and engineering expertise germane to natural resource management in Hawaii. She combines this with a passion to create a better future and make positive, meaningful, long-term impacts on the island's ecological sustainability. For these reasons, I believe her to be an excellent candidate for the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

GM-598

Submitted on: 3/26/2023 5:36:55 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/29/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Haase	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha & Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Kim Falinski for a term with the Legacy Lands Conservation Commission (LLCC). As Chair of the LLCC, I am in strong support of Kim for the open position, and have recently worked with her on the FY23 round of applications. Kim demonstrated exemplary knowledge crucial to the evaluation of applications requesting funding through the Legacy Land Conservation Program and will prove a valuable addition to the team of peer experts that comprise the LLCC. It would be an honor to serve with her in this capacity.

Mahalo, William "Butch" Haase

Chair, Legacy Lands Conservation Commission

GM-598

Submitted on: 3/26/2023 10:43:46 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/29/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Kai Lucas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, WTL Committee Members

The Legacy Land Conservation Commission recently finished its process of vetting and ranking projects for this year's funding recommendations. I am honored to have participated as a Commissioner. Dr. Falinski participated for the first time. Her strong scientific background in both water engineering and tropical plant and soil science were a valuable contribution to the discussion and decision making. Particularly so, since she has extensive field knowledge across Hawai'i not only from her professional science activities, but also her bee keeping business.

I sincerely hope you will approve her nomination, allowing her to continue contributing her considerable knowledge and insights to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission, which benefits us all.

me ka pono,

Kai Lucas

GM-598

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 11:33:44 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/29/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beryl Blaich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Senators,

Kim Falinski should definitely be a Legacy Lands Conservation Commissioner. Stepping into a science expertise seat, Ms Falinski brings multiple degrees in fields from tropical plant and soils science to hydrology and engineering to her work in projects of watershed management, water quality (wai and kai) assessment and wetland restoration. Much of her work is applied for and with communities throughout Hawai‘i. Quick, direct and enthusiastic, Kim easily fits in and furthers all group work. She is an effective teacher in all situations, casually sharing relevant resources when pertinent.

Kim is astoundingly productive and in demand. Beekeeping and selling honey is a side commitment! Please unanimously approve her appointment.

With respect and gratitude for your work.

Beryl Blaich, Legacy Lands Conservation Commissioner testifying as an individual

Po box 1434, Kīlauea HI, 96754

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GM-598

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:27:45 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/29/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda KawamotoDalire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Water and Lands Committee

We have worked with Ms Kim Falinski for over ten years. She works hard and efficiently in everything she believes in projects/jobs. We ask that you confirm her nomination.

John Dalire (beekeeper All Hawaiian Honey)

Linda KawamotoDalire (beekeeper & owner of All Hawaiian Honey LLC)

Letter of Testimony in favor of Kim Falinski
Legacy Lands Conservation Commission



March 28, 2023

Dear Water and Lands Commission,

I've know Dr. Falinski for a few years, now. We met through the Kaka'ako Farmers Market as we are both vendors there and we took interest in the other's product. Right away, however, we discovered some shared academic interests in ecology and the environment.

Since I've known her, I can't think of a single conversation I've had with her where some version of conservation, ecology, or land management hadn't popped up in some form or other. These ideas are preeminent in her mind and her heart.

She's a clever woman, a capable scientist, and a savvy entrepreneur. It delights me to know she's been serving as an interim position on this commission. I have no doubt she'll continue to be a spectacular member who brings experience and knowledge to the commission. I strongly support her nomination in favor of her position becoming permanent through the life of its term.

Thank you for considering her,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Shawn Steiman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shawn" and last name "Steiman" clearly distinguishable.

Shawn Steiman, PhD

Saleh Azizi Fardkhales, PhD
Letter of Support
3/28/2023



Aloha mai kākou, thank you for this opportunity to testify. I'd like to offer my **Strong Support** for Dr. Kim Falinski for the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Here are a few reasons why Dr Falinski would be a good fit for the Commission:

- Dr. Falinski's work with The Nature Conservancy to diagnose coastal and stream water quality issues throughout the State is truly impressive. By working closely with community partners and State agencies to provide the data and science needed to support watershed management efforts and coastal restoration, she is helping to ensure a healthy and sustainable future for Hawaii's ecosystems.
- Her expertise in geology and water resources engineering, along with practical experience in all kinds of water quality monitoring, has proven to be invaluable in shaping priorities and planning efforts. Her contributions in Pelekane on Hawaii Island and Maui have been instrumental in designing vegetation replanting experiments to inform dryland restoration and providing technical assistance to a citizen sampling effort for regulatory quality data.
- Dr. Falinski's dedication to providing food for her community through honey is truly admirable. It is great to see that she is supporting local farmers, and working towards understanding the importance of land and water for agricultural operations.
- Furthermore, her efforts of providing educational opportunities for students to learn about honey and the honey business shows her commitment to spreading awareness and knowledge about the importance of sustainable agriculture practices. This is essential in today's world where there is an increasing need for sustainable food systems to meet the demands of a growing population while also preserving our environment.
- Overall, Dr. Falinski's work not only benefits her community but also sets an example for others to follow in creating sustainable and responsible community practices.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need more information

Saleh Azizi Fardkhales, Ph.D.
(808) 383-5224 | saleh@hawaiigoodfoodalliance.org

LATE

GM-598

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:10:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/29/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rhea McWilliams Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Dr Falinski nomination to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

I have known her since 2004 primarily through her beekeeping work. I have found her to be highly intelligent, a fast learner and a hard worker. I have followed her progress toward achieving

her PHD and attended her defense of her doctorate thesis and her graduation ceremony.

She will be a tremendous asset to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

LATE

GM-598

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 10:20:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/29/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Metzger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I would like to take this opportunity to show my support for Kim Falinski to serve on the Legacy Lands Conservation Commission. I believe she would be a great asset to the commission as she has the background, knowledge, and experience needed for the job. Preserving our 'Āina is critical to the health of our island's ecosystem as well as the future generations who will call it home. I believe Kim has the right skill set to handle this great responsibility.