

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3381**

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 27 2024

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 627

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 627, submitting for study and consideration the nomination of:

MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

G.M. No. 627 BENJAMIN KUDO,  
for a term to expire 06-30-2027,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by Benjamin Kudo for service on the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the appointment of Benjamin Kudo from one member of the Hawai'i County Council, SanHi Government Strategies, and three individuals.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Mr. Kudo's background and dedication to serving the public qualify him for appointment to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. Mr. Kudo presently serves as counsel to the law firm of Ashford & Wriston, which handles major real estate transactions, commercial litigation, and tax law throughout the State. Your Committee notes that prior to his legal career, Mr. Kudo held positions within Castle & Cooke, Inc. and Amfac, Inc., two of Hawaii's major agriculture and land development corporations. Mr. Kudo has also been an invited speaker and seminar lecturer to various professional organizations on real



property law, land use law, Native Hawaiian rights, and water rights. Your Committee additionally notes that Mr. Kudo has also advised state and county legislative and administrative bodies on various land use projects, including the drafting of state and county land use and administrative laws and regulations. Your Committee further finds that Mr. Kudo's knowledge and experience will be assets to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. Your Committee therefore recommends that Benjamin Kudo be appointed to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority based on his experience, knowledge, and commitment to public service.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water and Land that is attached to this report, your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominee, has found the nominee to be qualified for the position to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nomination.

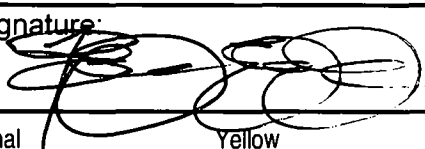
Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Water and Land,

  
LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Water and Land**  
**WTL**  
**Advise and Consent**

Governor's Message No.:* <b>GM 627</b>	Committee Referral: <b>WTL</b>	Date: <b>3/6/24</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340 <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345</span>				
<b>Members</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Aye (WR)</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Excused</b>
INOUYE, Lorraine R. (C)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.				✓
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓	<i>Luis</i>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted</span>				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

**\*Only one Governor's Message per Record of Votes**