

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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. Kanaka'ole
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING 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 of
DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson**

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

**Friday, April 5, 2024
1:00 PM**

State Capitol Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

**In Consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 594
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN KANAKA'OLE
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 7, 2026**

Governor's Message 594 submits for confirmation, Ryan Kanaka'ole, as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. **Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) strongly supports this nomination.**

Mr. Kanaka'ole has worked in government almost his entire career, starting at the Office of the Corporation Counsel for Hawai'i County, moving to the State Auditor's Office, and stopping at the Attorney General's Office before coming to DLNR. He is very familiar with the way government works, with the legislative process and brings his relationships with other agencies to DLNR.

Mr. Kanaka'ole graduated with a Juris Doctor and a Certificate in Native Hawaiian Law. It will be an asset for the Department to have a Richardson Law School graduate with such a Certificate on its side. Understanding Native Hawaiian's relationship to the land, their legal rights to access places where they traditionally gathered, fished, and farmed is key to reframing the Department's relationship with Native Hawaiians and other key stakeholders who access DLNR lands.

While at the Attorney General's Office, Mr. Kanaka'ole had the opportunity to work on litigation for the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) and provided advice and counsel to the Legislature on the Public Land Trust, which makes up most of the DLNR land holdings.

Mr. Kanaka'ole's work with Nā Mamo o Kāwā, as a Director and Interim Chairperson perhaps foreshadowed his work at DLNR. Nā Mamo o Kāwā works to restore native habitat and reduce

wildfire threat in Kāwā. Through the practice of Aloha ‘Āina, he gained practical knowledge of a community’s relationship to the land and the importance of restoration.

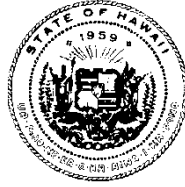
While Mr. Kanaka‘ole is well qualified to serve as DLNR’s Deputy Director, it is his cultural foundation of growing up in Ka‘u along with his work with community stakeholders who share a similar mission to DLNR that benefits both our Department and the people of Hawai‘i.

During the last three months that he has served as the Governor’s nominee of Deputy Director to the Department, he has assumed the role of Legislative Coordinator, reviewing, and weighing in on hundreds of bills that directly impact the Department. In addition, he continues to be an active participant in the Maui Wildfire Recovery Support Function where he coordinates with other state, county, and federal agencies on a number of projects that involve DLNR.

Ryan Kanaka‘ole has fully assumed all the responsibilities of the Deputy Director for the Department, and it would be with great honor and privilege to have him continue to serve in this important role. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Governor’s nominee to the position of Deputy Director to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
677 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 300
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
FAX: (808) 587-0600

Statement of
DEAN MINAKAMI
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Friday, April 05, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

In consideration of
GM 594

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director,
Department of Land and Natural Resources, gubernatorial nominee, RYAN
KANAKAOLE, for a term to expire 12-31-2026. (Term expiration date amended to
12-07-26 by GM693).**

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

HHFDC **supports** the consideration and confirmation of Ryan Kanakaole as the Deputy Director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

During his time serving as a Deputy Attorney General providing counsel to the HHFDC, staff found Mr. Kanakaole to be knowledgeable, conscientious, and energetic.

His passion for the environment and natural resources—as evidenced by his community involvement with Na Mamo o Kawa and publication of the water use permit contested case— demonstrate his passion and commitment to help to lead DLNR in its mission to enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii’s unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for GM 594.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024
1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

GOVERNORS MESSAGE NO. 594

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN KANAKA'OLE, for a term to expire 12-31-2026. (Term expiration date amended to 12-07-26 by GM693).

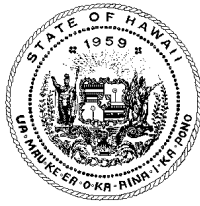
Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, Ryan Kanakaole as the Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Ryan has served the state since his graduation from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 2011, starting as a law clerk in the First Circuit Court of Hawaii, being selected for positions of increasing responsibility at the County and State Offices, and since 2017, has been part of the Department of Attorney General as a Deputy Attorney General. This impressive work history is one reason I respectfully request your consideration to confirm his nomination. His fair and cogent comments as the DLNR designee to the Board of Agriculture add to my confidence that he has the experience and qualities to serve as DLNR Deputy Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalu Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Pamela J. Sturz
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 594
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF RYAN KANAKA'OLE TO BE THE DEPUTY
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

By
Tommy Johnson, Director

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Friday, April 5, 2024; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Via Video Conference

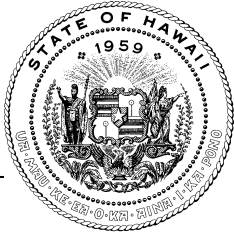
Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

I submit testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Mr. Kanaka'ole has a diverse work background with the County of Hawai'i, the Office of the Auditor of the State of Hawai'i, and the Department of the Attorney General for the State of Hawai'i.

Mr. Kanaka'oke's work experience makes him the ideal candidate to be the Deputy Director of the DLNR. He clearly possesses the education, managerial skills, and interpersonal skills required for such a complex and far-reaching position.

I strongly urge the committee to recommend advice and consent for this highly qualified nominee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Governor's Message No. 594 and Mr. Kanaka'ole.



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:
Web:

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 451-6648
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Friday, April 5, 2024
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

In SUPPORT of
GM 594

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director,
Department of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN
KANAKA'OLE, for a term to expire December 7, 2026.**

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports GM 594, which submits for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Gubernatorial Nominee, Ryan Kanaka'ole, for a term to expire December 7, 2026.

Mr. Kanaka'ole has demonstrated a personal and professional commitment to public service and giving back to Hawai'i; two qualities HSEO believes are key for the DLNR Deputy Director position. Mr. Kanaka'ole's experiences at the Hawai'i County Office of the Corporation Counsel, Hawai'i Office of the Auditor, Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General, First Circuit Court of Hawai'i, and Nā Mamo o Kāwā exemplify his ability to successfully blend his legal and cultural expertise in pursuit of holistic, community-based resource management strategies. His desire to incorporate traditional resource management practices and empower communities who are most experienced in the stewardship of their land speak to Mr. Kanaka'ole's role as a community-centric leader.

HSEO is encouraged by Mr. Kanaka'ole's commitment to enhance operational effectiveness and efficiency through detailed program evaluation – an approach that should help DLNR develop a well-informed strategic framework to meet its legislative mandates. Mr. Kanaka'ole's abilities to navigate complex legal and cultural systems, develop critical decision-making processes, and uplift community voices and cultural traditions will strongly support DLNR's mission of conserving and managing Hawai'i's natural resources. Mr. Kanaka'ole's legal education at the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law provides a foundation steeped in the Public Trust doctrine, which is so crucial to the management of and access to Hawai'i public land, water, and coastal resources.

Mr. Kanaka'ole's direct involvement in environmental and community projects in Kā'u demonstrate his capacity to fully appreciate the proper consideration of Hawai'i's place-based archeological resources and protected species. We respectfully ask that you confirm Ryan Kanaka'ole as Deputy Director of DLNR.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

April 3, 2023

To: The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Date: Friday, April 5, 2023
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 229

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: G.M. 594; Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN KANAKA'OLE, for a term to expire 12-31-2026. (Term expiration date amended to 12-07-26 by GM693).

The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) **strongly supports** the confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)

Mr. Kanaka'ole earned his Juris Doctor and certificate in Native Hawaiian law from the University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law and has served as counsel to the First Circuit Court of Hawaii, Hawaii County Corporation Counsel, Office of the Auditor and the Department of the Attorney General with a focus on real property, land use, Hawaiian law, civil litigation, trusts, contracts and administrative law.

Mr. Kanaka'ole possesses the knowledge and experience to successfully lead the DLNR. His community engagement, particularly with Native Hawaiian communities and environmental organizations demonstrates that he can find common ground amongst stakeholders and successfully support major projects while protecting the cultural heritage of the environment.

The DLIR believes Mr. Kanaka'ole is a qualified steward that will enhance, protect, conserve, and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural, and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii Nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 594.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



WENDY L. GADY
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

**TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Friday, April 5, 2024
1:00 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

GM 594 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN KANAKA´OLE, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

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

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) **supports** GM 594, submitting for the consideration and confirmation of Mr. Kanaka´ole’s appointment as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

ADC supports his appointment wholeheartedly. Mr. Kanaka´ole has provided thoughtful insight from a land, water, and business perspective since joining the ADC Board of Director’s. His style of calm, thoughtful leadership is based on many years’ experience from the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, the Mauna Kea Stewardship Oversight Authority, and Department of Hawaiian Homelands brings a unique perspective. The

knowledge from prior years in departments across the state will provide a unique and dynamic perspective in his new role.

ADC is confident he has the experience and skills required to serve as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and respectfully asks for your consideration and support of his nomination.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



Ka Moku'aina 'O Hawai'i Aha Moku O Pae'Aina

State of Hawai'i Aha Moku

P. O. Box 621

Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Testimony of the Hawaii State Aha Moku

Before the Senate Committee on

Water and Land

Friday, April 5, 2024

1:00 PM

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

IN SUPPORT of GM 594

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee RYAN KANAKA'OLE, for a term to expire 12-31-2026. (Term expiration date amended to 12-07-26 by GM693).

The Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) supports this Gubernatorial Nominee.

Based on his extensive experience in demonstrated leadership and successful management in transactions in conservation, community capacity building, conflict resolution and ecosystem restoration, Aha Moku supports Ryan Kanaka'ole. But more than this, we acknowledge and honor his skills in empowering local communities to steward cultural landscapes, as well as his expertise in knowing and understanding the Hawaii State legal environment..

Further, Mr. Kanaka'ole is a native Hawaiian who was raised with the traditional values of his indigenous culture. He is respectful to Kupuna which is critically important to communities in Hawaii. Originally from Ka'u, Island of Hawai'i, he understands the value of generational knowledge and that each moku and ahupua'a in the State is unique in their natural and cultural resources.

Aha Moku works with native Hawaiians on all the main Hawaiian Islands. In speaking to native Hawaiian practitioners and families on Moku O Keawe (Hawaii), Moku O Piilani (Maui), Nana'i Kaula (Lana'i), Kakuhihewa (O'ahu), and Manokalanipo (Kaua'i), all were in support of Ryan Kanaka'ole's nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to sharing our mana'o with you. We believe in, and strongly support Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and urge his confirmation.

Respectfully,

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka'i/Executive Director

Hawaii State Aha Moku

808-640-1214

Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov

Rocky Kaluhiwa, Mokupuni Po'o

Hawaii State Aha Moku

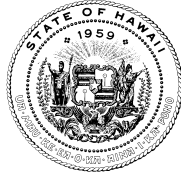
808-286-7955

rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com

Pae'Aina: Moku O Keawe, Moku O Piilani, Moku O Kanaloa, Nana'i Kaula, Moloka'i Pule O'o, Moku O Kakuhihewa, Manokalanipo, Ka'Aina O Kawelonakala

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawai'i*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRMAN, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. DUCATT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
HEARING ON APRIL 5, 2024 AT 1:00PM IN CR 229

IN SUPPORT OF

GM 594

for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director,
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Gubernatorial Nominee, **RYAN KANAKA'OLE**,
for a term to expire 12-7-2026

April 5, 2024

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Ryan Kanaka'ole as Deputy Director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

As a former Deputy Attorney General, Mr. Kanaka'ole served as the lead counsel for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). He also provided advice and counsel to the Hawai'i State Legislature and Executive Branch agencies on the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust and the Public Land Trust ("Ceded Lands"). In this capacity, DHHL benefitted from Mr. Kanaka'ole's thorough research work and steadfast commitment toward dealing with some of DHHL and the State of Hawai'i's most important and sensitive issues.

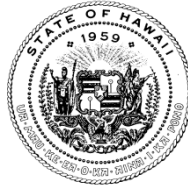
Mr. Kanaka'ole assisted DHHL with regard to Act 14, SLH 1995, by helping staff to create a submittal work plan to complete pending land transfers pursuant to Act 14, SLH 1995. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Kanaka'ole advised DHHL concerning procurement matters such as contract execution and extensions for the purpose of rental assistance for applicants on the DHHL waiting list. Lastly, Mr. Kanaka'ole has offered countless testimonies and opinions on behalf of DHHL regarding a large range of issues from cesspool conversions to the DHHL waiting list.

DHHL is confident that the institutional knowledge Mr. Kanaka'ole has gained from his work for both DLNR and DHHL, as well as other government agencies and non-profit organizations will continue to benefit the State of Hawai'i. The impact of Mr.

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
April 5, 2024
Page 2

Kanaka'ole's leadership and community work resounds across the pae 'āina (archipelago) of Hawai'i. For these reasons and more, DHHL strongly supports Ryan Kanaka'ole as Deputy Director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

DHHL looks forward to continuing to work with Ryan Kanaka'ole and we respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O
HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA
'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Monday, April 5, 2024
1:00 P.M.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
State Capitol

In consideration of
Governor's Message 594

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson,
Department of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ryan Kanaka'ole

Senate Committee on Water and Land

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Mr. Kanaka'ole received his Juris Doctor from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and his B.A. degree in political science and government from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Mr. Kanaka'ole recently served as the Deputy Attorney General for the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) and the Maunakea Stewardship Oversight Authority (MSOA).

The DOT believes that Mr. Kanaka'ole brings a wealth of experience, a deep understanding of Hawaii's unique environmental challenges, and a profound commitment to conservation and sustainable management of our precious natural resources. His leadership, expertise, and unwavering commitment to conservation make him the ideal candidate to help steer Hawaii towards a sustainable and prosperous future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony of Curt Cottrell, Administrator,
Division of State Parks
Department of Land and Natural Resources
In support for consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee
Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources

I am writing this testimony in support of the confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Land Deputy for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I am a 30+ year veteran of DLNR and in my tenure have experienced several of the cyclical changes in DLNR leadership over time. In Ryan's short time here at DLNR, entering the position during the complicated, time sensitive and accelerated workload of Legislative Session, Ryan has demonstrated skill, acumen, thoughtfulness, and an overall good nature in the execution of his duties.

His background in land management and State government at DHHL provide a good baseline of experience as he transitions to the complicated and often controversial natural and cultural resource management issues here at DLNR.

Additionally, and equally important, given the depth and value of the cultural resource and landscapes that are under the purview of DLNR, having Kanaka Ma' oli in leadership positions brings the added values of our host culture to decision making and management of land and ocean resources that we steward for current and future generations.

I hope the committee agrees and supports Ryan's confirmation. I would look forward to working with him in the years to come.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560



**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

In consideration of G.M. No. 594

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resource, gubernatorial nominee, Ryan Kanaka'ole

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Water and Land

DATE: Friday, April 5, 2024
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

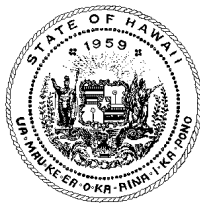
Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of the confirmation of Mr. Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

I believe Mr. Kanaka'ole is an excellent candidate. His experience as a government lawyer with focus in the areas of real property, land use, Native Hawaiian law, trusts, contracts, and administrative law, and his work in land and environmental stewardship, has enabled Mr. Kanaka'ole to successfully transition into his Deputy Director role. I am also familiar with Mr. Kanaka'ole from when we were both deputies at the Department of the Attorney General and I can attest that he is an extremely capable, bright, hardworking, and honest individual. I am confident that Mr. Kanaka'ole will continue to be a great asset to DLNR and to the State if permitted the opportunity to continue serving in his current position.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 594.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai

715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. **2024-0103**

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR MESSAGE NO. 594
RELATING TO THE NOMINATION OF RYAN KANAKA`OLE
TO BE THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR
DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE

By

Jordan Lowe, Director

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Friday, April 5, 2024; 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 229 & Via Videoconference

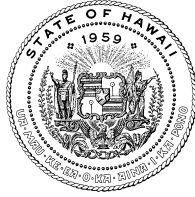
WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

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

I submit this testimony in support of the nomination and confirmation of Ryan Kanaka`ole to be the Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Mr. Kanaka`ole has extensive work experience in government and Native Hawaiian law and community non-profit organizations focusing on native preservation of the environment. His experiences in the native land and Hawai`i laws gives him the knowledge and understanding that will make him the best candidate for this position.

Mr. Kanaka`oles' ability to have an understanding of the beliefs and needs of the native Hawaiian community and knowledge and experience in the laws that govern this state, deserves the support and trust in his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 594 and Mr. Ryan Kanaka`ole.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of
Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawaii

Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land

Friday, April 5, 2024
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229, and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 594, amended by Governor's Message No. 693

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 594, amended by Governor's Message No. 693, appointment of Ryan Kanakaole to serve as Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

With over a decade of public service, Ryan has brought to DLNR solid work experience and an understanding of State and county governments and their processes, public policy, and law. While serving as DLNR's Interim Deputy Director since the start of this year, Ryan has taken a lead role, working in strong, collaborative tandem with the leadership of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) Chair Dawn Chang and the expertise and experience of DLNR division heads and staff, testifying before the Legislature, as well as heading the coordination, drafting, and review of legislation of DLNR. His emphasis on building strong working relationships and partnerships embody his contributions to a work culture that is collaborative, accountable, and results focused. Ryan has also been proactive in articulating DLNR's positions and perspectives before the Legislature.

Prior to serving as DLNR's Interim Deputy Director, Ryan was counsel to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation and the Mauna Kea Stewardship Oversight Authority and lead counsel for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. His extensive work experience at the Department of the Attorney General as a deputy attorney general included providing advice and counsel to the Legislature

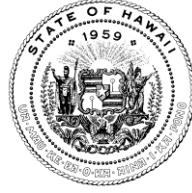
Testimony of Office of the Governor
Governor's Message No. 594,
amended by Governor's Message No. 693
April 5, 2024
Page 2

and executive branch agencies. Ryan's knowledge of, and familiarity with, the issues and their complexities before the Board have greatly contributed to the work of DLNR. Lastly, his years of experience at the Office of the Auditor, including as Associate General Counsel/Analyst, have also added to his ability to handle issues before the Board and lead in the operations and management of DLNR.

Ryan earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Hawaii at Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science with highest honors from the University of Hawaii at Hilo. For his record of outstanding academic achievement, Ryan was honored with a University of Hawaii Board of Regents Presidential Scholarship.

I am confident that Ryan Kanakaole's sound track record, commitment to the responsibilities of the job, and skills and experiences he brings to the position will enable him to serve the State and community well as Deputy Director of DLNR.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

DEAN I. HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, April 5, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference

On the following measure:
G.M. 594, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL
RESOURCES,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN KANAKA'OLE,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-2026

Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Y. Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the appointment of Mr. Ryan Kanakaole as the Deputy Director to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

During Mr. Kanaka'ole's tenure at the State of Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General, he has displayed his dedication to public service, and deep commitment to the preservation and stewardship of Hawai'i's natural resources.

Throughout his career, Mr. Kanaka'ole has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to protecting and advocating for the interests of the people of Hawai'i and the unique cultural and environmental heritage of the islands. As Deputy Attorney

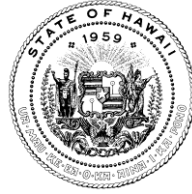
General, he played a pivotal role in advising on critical issues related to the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust and the Public Land Trust, earning him a reputation as a trusted legal expert in matters of Native Hawaiian law, land use, and civil litigation.

Mr. Kanaka'ole's experience extends beyond the courtroom, as evidenced by his tenure at the State Auditor's Office, where he led and performed audits, studies, and evaluations of state agencies and programs. His ability to apply standards and procedures to develop objective findings and recommendations speaks to his meticulous attention to detail and commitment to ensuring accountability and transparency in government operations.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Kanaka'ole has been an active and engaged member of the community, serving on the board of directors for Nā Mamo o Kāwā, a nonprofit organization dedicated to cultural and environmental stewardship in the Ka'ū District. His leadership in spearheading initiatives such as the coastal and dryland forest revegetation program underscores his passion for conservation and his ability to translate vision into action.

Mr. Kanaka'ole's exemplary track record of leadership, legal expertise, and dedication to the people and natural resources of Hawai'i make him qualified to serve as Deputy Director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I am confident that Mr. Kanaka'ole's extensive experience, leadership skills, and commitment to excellence make him an excellent candidate as the Deputy Director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
KA 'OIHANA PILI KĀLEPA
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310
P.O. BOX 541
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856
cca.hawaii.gov

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

**Testimony of
DEAN I HAZAMA
Deputy Director for the
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Friday April 5, 2024
1:00 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference**

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 594 RELATING TO
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the committee:

I strongly support the confirmation of Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole to the position of Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

He is very knowledgeable and exhibits a positive, collaborative leadership style on working several issues of concern with our department. His past experience and background serving in the Attorney General's, State Auditor and Hawaii County Corporation Council offices will be a great asset to the people of Hawaii.

Mr. Kanaka'ole has demonstrated his willingness to help those in need, is unafraid to tackle the tough issues and most importantly, is the best person for this job.

As Governor Green's administration is committed to addressing the many issues facing our State in a direct and forthright manner, he will be an integral part of the team

Testimony of Dean I Hazama
G.M. 594
Page 2 of 2

to achieve the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 594

April 5, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Room 229 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN KANAKA'OLE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-2026. (TERM EXPIRATION DATE AMENDED TO 12-07-26 BY GM693).

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

I strongly support the appointment of Ryan Kanaka'ole to the position of deputy director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department). I am working with Ryan Kanaka'ole in my professional capacity as Director of Finance.

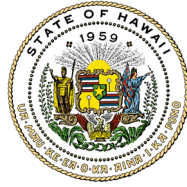
Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Mr. Kanaka'ole is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Mr. Kanaka'ole has been serving as the deputy director at the Department of Land and Natural Resources since January 2024. Prior to that, he has experience working at the State of Hawai'i Department of Attorney General as deputy attorney general. His work experience will benefit the department and the State; therefore, I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 594,
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE RYAN KANAKA'OLE

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

BY
BRIGADIER GENERAL STEPHEN F. LOGAN
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

APRIL 1, 2024

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Water and Land Committee:

I am Brigadier General Stephen Logan, Deputy Adjutant General, Department of Defense, State of Hawaii. I respectfully submit testimony in **SUPPORT of GM594**, relating to the Gubernatorial Nomination of Mr. Ryan Kanaka'ole as Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

As a fellow deputy cabinet member, Mr. Kanaka'ole has demonstrated leadership and partnership in working with local communities relevant to DLNR's mission, including stewardship of the Hawaiian Home Lands and the Public Land Trust, and direct involvement in environmental and community projects in Ka'u. I believe he will continue to serve the people of Hawaii with integrity and thoughtfulness.

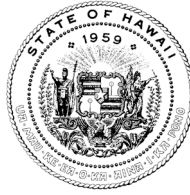
Mr. Kanaka'ole's accomplishments as a public servant complement his extensive experience in real property, land use, Native Hawaiian law, civil litigation, trusts, contracts, and administrative law. When you combine with his significant experience in auditing and evaluating state agencies and programs, he is well qualified for this position.

I would be honored to continue to serve with Mr. Kanaka'ole. His track record and results at the most senior levels speak for themselves, and I am confident he will be a pillar to help guide and lead our state into the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

BG Stephen F. Logan: stephen.f.logan@hawaii.gov; 808-672-1003.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'AINA



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2024

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 594
NOMINATION OF RYAN KANAKA'OLE AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LAND
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of Governor Josh Green's nomination of Ryan Kanaka'ole as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DNLR).

Mr. Kanaka'ole's deep-rooted connection to Hawai'i and his extensive legal and government background make him uniquely qualified for this position.

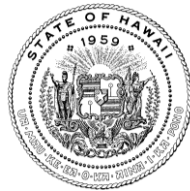
Most recently, he worked as a Deputy Attorney General with the Department of the Attorney General, serving as an attorney for the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) and the Mauna Kea Stewardship Oversight Authority.

From 2017-2023 he served as the deputy Attorney General for the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL).

He was appointed to the Public Land Trust Working Group due to his expertise on issues related to public land trust.

He also was involved in audits of DLNR, the University of Hawai'i, the State Foundation of Culture and the Arts, the Department of Transportation, Department of the Attorney General, the Hawai'i Energy Office, and the Department of Human Services (DHS).

I believe Mr. Kanaka'ole is dedicated to the responsible management of lands, resources, and funds held by the government, and I am very pleased to support his confirmation.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 594

April 5, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Room 229 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN KANAKA'OLE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-2026. (TERM EXPIRATION DATE AMENDED TO 12-07-26 BY GM693).

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

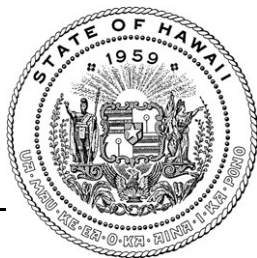
I strongly support the appointment of Ryan Kanaka'ole to the position of deputy director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department). I am working with Ryan Kanaka'ole in my professional capacity as Deputy Director of Finance.

Governor Green's administration shares his priorities of homelessness and housing, the cost of living, climate change, and health care for the people of Hawai'i. We are committed to take action to make the needed changes to move Hawai'i forward.

Mr. Kanaka'ole is an integral part of a team that is dedicated to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Mr. Kanaka'ole has been serving as the deputy director at the Department of Land and Natural Resources since January 2024. Prior to that, he has experience working at the State of Hawai'i Department of Attorney General as deputy attorney general. His work experience will benefit the department and the State; therefore, I support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKAI

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Testimony of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Friday, April 5, 2024
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
GM 594

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director,
Department of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee,
RYAN KANAKA'OLE, for a term to expire 12-07-2026.**

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee.

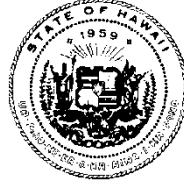
I **support** the appointment of Ryan Kanaka'ole to serve as the Deputy Director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Mr. Kanaka'ole has over a decade of experience working at both the county and state levels, with positions held at the Hawai'i County Office of the Corporation Counsel, State of Hawai'i Office of the Auditor, and most recently at the State of Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General where he was a Deputy Attorney General serving as counsel for the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation and the Mauna Kea Stewardship Oversight Authority. He also provided advice and counsel to the Hawai'i State Legislature and Executive Branch agencies on the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust and the Public Land Trust and was appointed to the Public Land Trust Working Group.

Mr. Kanaka'ole has extensive background with real property, land use, Native Hawaiian law, civil litigation, trusts, contracts, and administrative and construction law and has led and performed audits, studies, and evaluations of state agencies and programs. With his professional background, extensive experience, and educational achievements, I believe that Mr. Kanaka'ole will continue to be an asset in this role.

I respectfully ask for the confirmation of Mr. Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director of DLNR. I look forward to continuing to work with him to fulfill our departments' respective missions. Thank you for the opportunity to offer my support.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 17907
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO:

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Friday, April 5, 2024
1:00 PM
Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
GM 594

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN
KANAKA`OLE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.**

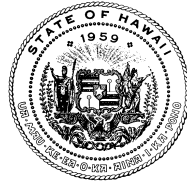
Honorable Chair Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 594, to consider and confirm Ryan Kanaka`ole to the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have known Ryan for many years, and I am honored to be working alongside with him in Governor Green's Administration. He is an integral part of a team that is committed to addressing the many issues facing our State and I believe that he will be able to effectively fulfill his role through his life experiences and professional expertise.

There is no doubt in my mind that he will continue to bring a fresh perspective on how to deliver services, improve the experience of those we serve, and strive to maximize taxpayer dollars efficiently and effectively.

The HPHA urges the Committee to pass GM 594 and confirm Ryan Kanaka`ole to the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'AINA O KA MOKU'AINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., M.G.A., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM594
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director, Department of
Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN KANAKA'OLE, for a
term to expire 12-31-2026.

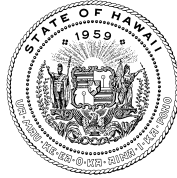
SENATOR LORRAINE R. INOUE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Hearing Date: April 5, 2024

Room Number: 229

- 1 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports the nomination of
2 Mr. Ryan Kanaka'ole for Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).
3 Mr. Kanaka'ole's resume describes significant accomplishments at multiple levels and branches
4 of government, as well as the non-profit sector, consisting of leadership and consultative
5 opportunities on some of the more significant public policy topics of recent years relating to land
6 stewardship. Furthermore, his professional responsibilities show great range, starting from
7 fundamental transactions such as contracting, audits, and legal drafting; to legal representation
8 before several courts at the state and federal levels; and on through contributions to professional
9 and academic literature.
- 10 In the brief exchanges DOH staff have had with Mr. Kanaka'ole in recent months, in particular
11 during the current Legislative session, he has performed his duties with great professionalism
12 and enthusiasm and is quick to establish and foster collegial relationships of trust.
- 13 DOH looks forward to further collaboration with Mr. Kanaka'ole and the DLNR 'ohana on an
14 agenda of science-based and culturally sensitive stewardship of Hawaii's current and future
15 natural resources.
- 16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

APRIL 5, 2024, 1:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 594
SUBMITTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN KANAKA'OLE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-31-
2026.

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 594. I **support** the nomination of Mr. Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

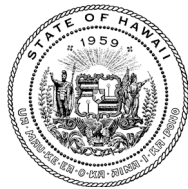
Mr. Kanaka'ole has led DLNR as Deputy Director since January 2024. He has also served as Deputy Attorney General at the Department of the Attorney General. In addition to those two roles, Mr. Kanaka'ole served as Associate General Counsel at the State of Hawai'i Office of the Auditor as well as Deputy Corporation Counsel at the Hawai'i County, Office of the Corporation Counsel.

Mr. Kanaka'ole's extensive experience, community service and skill set makes him an ideal candidate to serve as DLNR Deputy Director. He has dedicated his career to public service and has a passion for environmental and cultural stewardship. I am confident that Mr. Kanaka'ole will continue to be an invaluable asset to State government if confirmed. I humbly ask for your support of his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

TESTIMONY OF
KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

G.M. 594, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director,
Department of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee,
RYAN KANAKA'OLE, for a term to expire 12-31-2026

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Water and Land

DATE: Friday, April 5, 2024
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 229

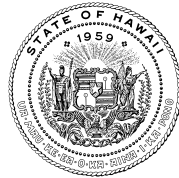
Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole as Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Mr. Kanaka'ole previously served as a Deputy Attorney General for the Department of the Attorney General, where he served as counsel for the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, Mauna Kea Stewardship Oversight Authority, and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and practiced in the areas of land use and Native Hawaiian law. He has also served as an Associate General Counsel for the State of Hawai'i Office of the Auditor, a Deputy Corporation Counsel for Hawai'i County, and a law clerk in the First Circuit Court of Hawai'i.

Since his appointment as Deputy Director, I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Kanaka'ole on matters affecting both of our departments and have found him to be knowledgeable and collaborative. I am confident that Mr. Kanaka'ole has the knowledge, experience, and leadership skills to serve as DLNR's Deputy Director. I therefore urge the Committee to confirm his appointment. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor's Message 594.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'AINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY OF
MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN, DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 594
Friday, April 5, 2024, 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN
KANAKA'OLE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support for the confirmation of
Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Mr. Kanaka'ole has been serving as the Deputy Director in DLNR since January 2024,
after having served as a Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Attorney General for
over six years where his focus of practice was on real property, land use, Native Hawaiian law,
civil litigation, trusts, contracts, and administrative law. He has also gained significant auditing
experience from his employment at the State Office of the Auditor.

With his prior legal and audit background, Mr. Kanaka'ole comes with the experience
and expertise relevant to and in alignment with DLNR's mission. I believe that he will be an
invaluable asset and can contribute greatly to the administration of a department whose
mission it is to manage and conserve Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support and I respectfully ask
your committee to advise and consent to this nomination.



MICHELLE PESCAIA
Chairperson
FAITH KAHALE SAITO
Vice Chair

DAWN N.S. CHANG
'ĀNELA EVANS
SAUMALU MATAAFA
BENTON KEALII PANG, Ph.D
KEONI SOUZA

Michael K. Nāho'opi'i
Executive Director

KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA
KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
KŌMIKINA MĀLAMA KAHO'OLAWE

811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793
Telephone (808) 243-5020 Fax (808) 243-5885
Website: <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony of
MICHAEL K. NĀHO'OPT'I
Executive Director

Before the Senate Committee on

WATER & LAND

Friday, April 5, 2024
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

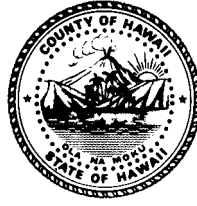
In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 594 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN KANAKA'OLE

Governor's Message No. 594 submits for consideration and confirmation, Ryan Kanaka'ole to serve as the Deputy Director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). On behalf of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, I wish to express my **strong support** and **recommend** for his confirmation.

Ryan Kanaka'ole has faithfully served the State in the Department of Attorney General as counsel for numerous land and Native Hawaiian issues that has provided him with a unique background and experiences to quickly and better understand the issues and challenges that the DLNR faces each day. As a Native Hawaiian, Ryan has a strong tie to his culture and able to use his legal training to find equitable solutions to the many contentious problems and issues that the department must navigate with its constituents.

So far, Ryan has hit the ground running and lead the department's efforts navigating a very unusual and challenging legislative session. He is quickly becoming a valuable asset to the department and an institutional leader. The KIRC strongly recommends his confirmation.

Susan L.K. Lee Loy
Council Member
District 3



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

HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Hawai‘i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 594: Nomination of Ryan Kanaka‘ole as the Deputy Director, DLNR

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to express support for Mr. Ryan Kanaka‘ole as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Mr. Kanaka‘ole’s extensive experience in state government and the judiciary demonstrates his adeptness in navigating intricate regulatory landscapes. Moreover, his leadership in environmental stewardship initiatives showcases his commitment to sustainable practices and community well-being. Through his involvement in cultural and environmental preservation efforts, Mr. Kanaka‘ole has consistently exemplified a dedication to public service and the betterment of his community.

I have every reason to believe Mr. Kanaka‘ole will contribute effectively to our communities and will be an excellent addition to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan L.K. Lee Loy".

Susan “Sue” L.K. Lee Loy
Council Member, County of Hawai‘i

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:51:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Branco	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Dear Chair Inouye and Members of the Senate Water & Land Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the nomination of Ryan Kanaka‘ole to serve as the Deputy Director of the State of Hawai‘i’s Department of Land and Natural Resources. As someone who has seen Mr. Kanaka‘ole’s progression from middle school to now, I can attest to his unwavering dedication to public service, his exceptional legal insight, and his impeccable judgment.

Mr. Kanaka‘ole has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to serving his community and protecting the natural resources of Hawai‘i. His passion for the environment and his cultural heritage as a Native Hawaiian have been evident throughout his career. From his involvement in community efforts on Kaho‘olawe to his advocacy for sustainable land management practices, Mr. Kanaka‘ole has proven himself to be a tireless advocate for the preservation of Hawai‘i’s natural beauty and cultural heritage.

In addition to his dedication to public service, Mr. Kanaka‘ole possesses a brilliant legal mind and a keen understanding of the complex issues facing the Department of Land and Natural Resources. As an attorney, he brings a unique perspective informed by his deep connection to the land and his commitment to upholding the principles of justice and equity.

Perhaps most importantly, Mr. Kanaka‘ole has consistently demonstrated the discretion and judgment necessary to effectively serve in a leadership role within the Department of Land and Natural Resources. He approaches every decision with thoughtfulness and care, weighing the needs of the community against the imperatives of environmental stewardship and cultural preservation.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly believe that Ryan Kanaka‘ole is exceptionally qualified to serve as the Deputy Director of the State of Hawai‘i’s Department of Land and Natural Resources. His track record of public service, his legal expertise, and his unwavering commitment to the people and the land of Hawai‘i make him an ideal candidate for this important position. I urge you to confirm his nomination without hesitation.

Mahalo for considering my testimony in support of Ryan Kanaka‘ole's confirmation.

Sincerely,
Patrick Branco

To:
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

RE: Strong Support of GM594,
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN KANAKA'OLE, for a term to expire 12-31-2026. (Term expiration date amended to 12-07-26 by GM693).

Hrg: Friday, April 5, 2024, 1:00 PM, Conference Room 229 & videoconference

Aloha Senators Inouye and Elefante,

My name is Matthew Kaulana Ing, and I am in **strong support of GM594**.

I believe that Ryan Kanaka'ole is the ideal candidate to serve in the role of Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

In the two decades that I have known Mr. Kanaka'ole, I have witnessed firsthand his incredible intellect, his stalwart sense of honesty and justice, and his love for the people and land of Hawai'i. Mr. Kanaka'ole has the unique ability to consider perspectives from people from diverse walks of life and facilitate creative, just solutions that advance pono for all.

Mr. Kanaka'ole has led a career of disciplined integrity, and his professional accomplishments are apparent in his resume. But the works he has quietly and freely given to his community outside of the office are even greater.

I saw how Mr. Kanaka'ole helped to preserve culturally important wahi pana as a leader of the Hawai'i nonprofit Nā Mamo o Kawā. I witnessed Mr. Kanaka'ole help countless community members, volunteering his time, grace, and patience to counsel regular families during times of great need. He has saved 'ohana from going bankrupt, and having to leave the islands, and small businesses from closing, like Wong Yuen Store in Ka'ū.

Personally, choosing to stay in Hawai'i and raise my family here is difficult and expensive. I sacrifice much to remain on this 'āina. As a Native Hawaiian, I believe that being in reciprocal relationship with the land of Hawai'i is integral to the identity of myself and my child. To me and my family, land is more than just property to be owned or resources to be leveraged. The life of the land is the life of the people. This land is 'ohana. We are Hawai'i.

That is why it is so vital that the individual appointed to the important position of Deputy Director be someone whom I can trust to make decisions in the best interest of these lands. Someone whom I know appreciates the uniqueness of these islands, whose proven expertise is matched by his aloha for all who call this place home, especially those who have it the hardest.

I have heard Mr. Kanaka'ole wax poetic of hiking trails, favorite native plants, and surfing spots as one speaks of a loved one. He is a man with a deep sense of kuleana to these lands.

I believe that Ryan Kanaka'ole is exceptionally qualified to serve as the Deputy Director of DLNR. He is a person of character, and one of the most detail-oriented, organized organizational leaders I have ever met.

I humbly ask for your SUPPORT of GM 594 and confirm the appointment of Ryan Kanaka'ole to the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo,

Matthew Kaulana Ing
Wahiawa, HI 96786

GM 594 Consideration and Confirmation of RYAN KANAKA`OLE for Deputy Director, Department of
Land and Natural Resources
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Water and Land
Friday April 5, 2024
CR 229 1:00 PM

Testimony of JOBIE MASAGATANI in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Confirmation of Ryan Kanaka`ole

Chair Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair Brandon Elefante, and esteemed members of the Committee.

During my recent tenure at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), first, as the Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission and later as the Executive Assistant to Chairman William Aila, I had the pleasure of working very closely with Ryan when he served as a Deputy Attorney General in the unit that supported DHHL.

As you can imagine, the DHHL unit is not an easy place to work. The issues are complicated, varied, and abundant. Commission meetings can be contentious and grueling, often requiring travel and time away from family, and there is no shortage of administrative contested cases and active litigation, at all levels. In a word, working for the DHHL unit is tough.

In my interactions with Ryan, I found him to be extremely hard-working, dedicated, and smart. He never seemed stressed, short of temper, or overwhelmed by the demands of the job. Always professional, one could trust that Ryan would “do the homework,” thoroughly researching the issue and its history before rendering an opinion or recommendation. At one point, the DHHL Unit was severely understaffed, with Ryan the only full-time Deputy A.G. available to manage DHHL’s legal work. The team is usually made up of three to four full-time attorneys and a portion of time from the supervising Deputy Attorney General. During that challenging time, Ryan just handled the work with grace and tolerance, showing up every day, putting in the work, and managing an impossible workload until reinforcements showed up. Not many would have endured or remained. I appreciate that Ryan did, demonstrating his commitment, his grit, and his capabilities.

I believe Ryan will do an excellent job at the Department of Land and Natural Resources as its Deputy Director. I stand in strong support of his confirmation and respectfully ask that the Committee vote in favor of recommending confirmation for Ryan.

Testimony of Dave Day in STRONG SUPPORT of the Confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole for the Position of First Deputy of the DLNR

Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee:

I currently serve as the Special Assistant to the Attorney General, I am testifying in my personal capacity. I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole for the position of First Deputy of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

When I moved to Hawai'i in 2011, Ryan was one of my first friends here. I got to know Ryan and was always impressed by his calm temperament and easygoing manner, as well as his love of Hawai'i. He has always been a legal scholar, and someone who deeply believes in the rule of law and the importance of constitutional provisions protecting the environment and traditional and customary rights. For as long as I've known him, Ryan has an excellent reputation as an honest and decent man and someone who is respected by those who know him.

I have worked with Ryan since 2017 when he joined the Department. Ryan was known as a true legal expert on all matters relating to environmental law, traditional and customary rights, Native Hawaiian law and policies, and matters concerning public lands and the public-trust doctrine. His legal work product is top notch, and he is a person that we would go to in tough situations for advice or representation. Ryan is universally respected in the Department for his strength and presence of mind under pressure and his inability to become flustered.

When I have gone to Hawai'i Island, everyone who I run into knows Ryan and says how proud they are of him and what he has accomplished. As someone who was born and raised in Hawai'i, but from outside of the Honolulu urban area, Ryan brings a wonderful, broad perspective to DLNR.

Nothing would make me happier than for you to confirm Ryan as First Deputy. I offer him my strongest support and recommendation.

Sincerely,
Dave Day

Special Assistant to the Attorney General, testifying in personal capacity

GM-594

Submitted on: 3/28/2024 4:08:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trevor Tamashiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senate Committee on Water and Land, Chair Inouye and Vice Chair Elefante:

I am writing to strongly support the candidacy of Ryan Kanaka‘ole, Esq., to be confirmed as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Kanaka‘ole in our first year of law school at the William S. Richardson School of Law. Through law school, I had the pleasure of getting to know him personally and as aspiring professionals. Upon graduating, I admired his professional growth as a colleague and member of the Hawai‘i State Bar in 2011. I believe he is an excellent fit to serve the DLNR specifically, and the State of Hawai‘i.

Mr. Kanaka‘ole has, since our time studying together as first year law students, been a sharp legal mind with a strong commitment to serving the community. He continued to sharpen that mind through an impressive breadth of work as a Clerk at the First Circuit Court under Judge Steven Alm, a Deputy Corporation Counsel for the County of Hawai‘i, and as my coworker at the State of Hawai‘i, Office of the Auditor. With experience serving in various roles of State and local government, as well as an intimate understanding of the interplay between public policy, the rule of law, and boots on the ground implementation, I believe that Mr. Kanaka‘ole will be an excellent candidate to serve this community and the DLNR.

Further, Mr. Kanaka‘ole possesses an incredible disposition that has served him, and his employers well through the years. Knowing Mr. Kanaka‘ole for well over a decade, I have never seen him lose his temper. In spite of being tested with a stressful profession, and challenging day to day circumstances, Mr. Kanaka‘ole has displayed an impressive ability to approach his work with tact and professionalism that can be attributed to growing up in Hawai‘i - he truly has aloha for his colleagues and all involved with his work.

I believe that Mr. Kanaka'ole stands strongly as a candidate to be confirmed for the Deputy Director role within the DLNR, and would urge you to confirm him to the post.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider my thoughts,

Trevor N. Tamashiro, Esq.

Douglas Meller
2615 Aaliamanu Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
dougasmeller@gmail.com

**Testimony on GM 594
Requesting Confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director, DLNR**

Submitted to Senate Committee on Water and Land
Friday, April 5, 2024, 1 pm, State Capitol Room 229 & Videoconference Hearing

Please show Ryan Kanaka'ole this testimony and ask whether he will assign DLNR staff to assess administrative fines authorized under §200-3.5(c), HRS, to discourage "presetting" of unrented commercial beach equipment on the public easement over Waikiki Beach between the Royal Hawaiian groin and Kuhio Beach Park.

[§200-3.5] Prohibited commercial activities on certain beaches; administrative fine. (a) *No commercial vendor shall preset commercial beach equipment on any beach under the jurisdiction of the department unless the customer is physically present for the immediate use of the commercial beach equipment....*

(c) *Any commercial vendor who violates subsection (a) shall be subject to an administrative fine of:*

- (1) *\$5,000 for a first offense;*
- (2) *\$10,000 for a second offense; and*
- (3) *\$15,000 for a third or subsequent offense.*

(d) *This section shall apply to beaches:*

- (1) *Under the jurisdiction of the department, including private beaches in which the State has an easement or other property interest....*

(e) *As used in this section:*

"Commercial beach equipment" means recreational equipment for rent, including chairs, umbrellas, surfboards, paddleboards, kayaks, and other non-motorized watercraft equipment.

"Preset" means to set up or have physically ready for use commercial beach equipment by a commercial vendor.

3/21/24 8:30 am Commercial Presetting on Public Easement Makai of Royal Hawaiian



3/21/24 8:32 am Commercial Presetting on Public Easement Makai of Royal Hawaiian



3/21/24 8:32 am Commercial Presetting on Public Easement Makai of Royal Hawaiian



3/21/24 8:33 am Commercial Presetting on Public Easement Makai of Outrigger Waikiki



3/21/24 8:36 am Commercial Presetting on Public Easement Makai of Moana Surfrider



3/21/24 8:35 am Commercial Presetting on Public Easement Makai of Moana Surfrider



1/1/24 8:27 A.M. COMMERCIAL PRESETTING OF RENTAL EQUIPMENT
ON THE PUBLIC EASEMENT OVER WAIKIKI BEACH MAKAI OF THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN



1/1/24 8:28 A.M. COMMERCIAL PRESETTING OF RENTAL EQUIPMENT
ON THE PUBLIC EASEMENT OVER WAIKIKI BEACH MAKAI OF THE ROYAL HAWAIIIAN



1/1/24 8:29 A.M. COMMERCIAL PRESETTING OF RENTAL EQUIPMENT
ON THE PUBLIC EASEMENT OVER WAIKIKI BEACH MAKAI OF THE OUTRIGGER WAIKIKI



1/1/24 8:31 A.M. COMMERCIAL PRESETTING OF RENTAL EQUIPMENT
ON THE PUBLIC EASEMENT OVER WAIKIKI BEACH MAKAI OF THE MOANA SURFRIDER



7/21/21 (8 – 8:30 AM) PICTURES OF HUNDREDS OF UNRENTED COMMERCIAL BEACH CHAIRS AND UMBRELLAS ON THE PUBLIC EASEMENT, WHERE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IS PROHIBITED, MAKAI OF THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN, OUTRIGGER WAIKIKI, AND MOANA SURFRIDER HOTELS

























GM-594

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 11:48:41 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Galimba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to offer my strong support Ryan Kanakaole for the position of Deputy Director of the DLNR. He will bring a valuable perspective to the position through his ties to native and rural communities.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michelle Galimba

GM-594

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 11:57:27 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to: - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN KANAKA'OLE, for a term to expire 12-31-2026.

GM-594

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 1:08:19 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyle Roe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in *strong* support.

GM-594

Submitted on: 3/29/2024 6:03:07 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Okinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the committee:

Please accept this testimony in support of the appointment of Ryan Kanaka`ole as Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). As the University of Hawaii's Vice President for Legal Affairs and University General Counsel, I have personally worked with then-Deputy Attorney General Kanaka`ole on extremely complicated, controversial and challenging legal matters, like Maunakea and ceded lands. Ryan was assigned these matters because of his keen intellect, his deep understanding of the letter and the spirit of the laws of our nation and our State, and his demonstrated commitment to serving not just his clients, but our community at large. Like his mentor, Charleen Aina, his brains, heart, and courage have served the State well, and I believe he is up to the challenge presented by appointment to Deputy Director, DLNR.

In summary, I believe Ryan is not just qualified to be confirmed, but also that Governor Green and the people of Hawaii are extremely well-served by his appointment to this position. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

March 31, 2024

Dear Chair Lorraine Inouye and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

Re: General Measure 594, Confirmation of Ryan Kanakaole as First Deputy of the Department of Land and Natural Resources

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the confirmation of Ryan Kanakaole as the First Deputy of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Mr. Kanakaole for over five years in his capacity as a Deputy Attorney General for the State of Hawaii and have witnessed firsthand his dedication, expertise, and passion for the people of Hawaii. Mr. Kanakaole's legal background has equipped him with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively manage and protect Hawaii's diverse ecosystems and navigate complex historical issues associated with the management of lands under DLNR's purview. His leadership abilities, coupled with his deep-rooted connection to the land and culture, make him an ideal candidate for this important position.

I have no doubt that Mr. Kanakaole will excel in his role as the First Deputy of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. His integrity, work ethic, and vision for a sustainable future make him an invaluable asset to the department and the state of Hawaii as a whole. I am confident that he will serve with excellence and make significant contributions to the protection and preservation of Hawaii's natural beauty.

Sincerely,

Andrew Choy

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/1/2024 3:07:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaison Ontai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to off my **STRONG SUPPORT** for the nomination of Ryan Kanaka'ole to serve as the Deputy Director of DLNR. Having known Ryan for over 20 years, I can faithfully attest to his unwavering committment to public service and am confident he possess the qualities to excel in this vital role.

Throughout his career, Ryan has demonstrated a profound dedication to environmental conservation, sustainable development, and the positive well-being of Hawaii's workforce. In addition to his professional qualifications, Ryan emodies the core values that are integral in the mission of DLNR, which is to "Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors".

I am confident Ryan will bring integrity, vision, and a steadfast dedication to public service to the role of Deputy Director of DLNR. I urge this committee to support and confirm Ryan, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact he will undoubtedly make in this very important position.

Mahalo!

Testimony of Amanda L. Donlin

April 1, 2024

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Senate Committee of Water and Land
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: In Strong Support of the Confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy
Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources, GM 594
Hearing Date/Time: April 5, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee,

I write in strong support of the confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). I currently serve as the Supervising Deputy Attorney General of the Employment Law Division, Department of the Attorney General, but am writing in my personal capacity.

I first met Ryan when we were law students at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, William S. Richardson School of Law. We shared classes, since we were both working toward certificates in Native Hawaii law, and we graduated together. Ryan was also a fellow Law Clerk at the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, and we worked together as Deputy Attorneys General (DAG) at the Department of the Attorney General.

I have always known Ryan to be intelligent, insightful, and wise beyond his age. He is diligent and dependable, and his peers look up to him as a leader. Raised in the rural district of Ka'ū and educated at the Kamehameha Schools in Kapālama, Ryan is deeply connected to his Hawaiian roots and community. It is no surprise that this mix of attributes have led him to be nominated as the Deputy Director of DLNR.

Ryan is the right person for this job. As a DAG, he represented the Mauna Kea Stewardship Oversight Committee and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. He provided the Legislature and Executive Branch agencies with advice on the Hawaiian Home Lands and the Public Land Trust. He also served on the Public Land Trust Working Group. During his personal time, Ryan served as a Director and Interim Chairperson of the nonprofit organization, Nā Mamo o Kāwā, which provides cultural and environmental stewardship over a large swath of undeveloped shoreline in Ka'ū. All of this experience has primed him for the duties he would undertake as the Deputy Director of DLNR.

I have no doubt that Ryan will be an asset to DLNR and the State, and urge you to confirm him. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
KANANI KEALALIO

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND LAND

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 594

**Friday, April 5, 2024
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
AS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-07-2026

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

I **strongly support** the nomination of Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole as Deputy to the Chairperson at the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

While I have only had the pleasure of meeting and working with Ryan since his time with DLNR, he has shown to be a very quick study, coming up to speed on all major aspects of the Department. He is fully engaged with staff, state, county, and federal agencies, and the diverse stakeholders that interact with DLNR. He has also immersed himself in the fast-paced legislative process where he serves as the Department's point of contact for reviewing all testimony and the hundreds of bills that have an impact to DLNR.

Ryan's extensive government experience and his understanding of Hawai'i's unique ecosystems and traditional cultural practices is an asset that gives him a greater appreciation for many of the issues we face at DLNR. He has proven his commitment to the stewardship of Hawai'i and his dedication to public service through his past work with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Hawai'i Housing Finance Development Corporation, the State Auditor's Office, and the Office of the Attorney General.

During Ryan's short time with DLNR, I have witnessed his immediate impact of guiding the Department through the current legislative session, working with the divisions towards filling critical positions to enable the Department to fulfill its missions, and assisting with the coordination of the various ongoing and crucial Maui Recovery efforts.

I have no doubt that Gubernatorial Nominee Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole will continue to have a positive influence at DLNR, and I respectfully request that he receive the consent of your committee and be forwarded to the full Senate for confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 3:44:32 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Taschner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Catherine Taschner. I am currently the Director of the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Land Management. I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Ryan Kanaka'ole in his nomination as Deputy Director of the State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

I first met Ryan in 2008, when we began as first year law students at the University of Hawai'i, William S. Richardson School of Law. Immediately, Ryan established himself as a hard worker, and as someone incredibly motivated to align his studies with his passion for public service and the protection and preservation of Hawai'i and its people. Ryan's dedication earned him a JD, as well as a certificate in Native Hawaiian Law.

Since graduation, Ryan has worked in various governmental offices, and in each case, has continued to seek out opportunities to leverage his skills and talents towards the improving stewardship of public lands, resources, and funds. Most recently, Ryan was a Deputy Attorney General who provided counsel to the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, the Mauna Kea Stewardship Oversight Authority, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Notably, Ryan was appointed to the Public Land Trust Working Group due to his expertise on issues related to the public land trust.

Ryan understands deeply the public trust mission and kuleana of DLNR to maintain our unique and limited natural, cultural, and historic resources in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawai'i. Ryan leads with integrity, is thorough, conscientious, reasoned, and always considers both the near- and long-term impacts of his counsel, action, or decision. In all my dealings with him, both personal and professional, I have found Ryan to be honest, collaborative, and thoughtful. I am confident that his extensive experience, strong body of work, and most importantly - his core values - makes him an ideal candidate as the DLNR Deputy Director.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: **In Support of the Nomination of Ryan Kanakaole to the Position of
Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources
GM 594
Hearing Date/Time: April 5, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.**

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

I write in strong support of the nomination of Ryan Kanakaole to the position of Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). I currently serve as First Deputy Attorney General, but I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity.

Mr. Kanakaole and I have worked together since 2017 when he began serving as counsel to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. We forged a close working relationship and I came to rely heavily on his intelligence, intuition, and ability to work well with others. These traits will undoubtedly serve Mr. Kanakaole well as DLNR's Deputy Director, a position that places him at the epicenter of many of the most important and challenging land and water issues facing the State of Hawai'i. I have full confidence in his ability to navigate these issues and make a positive impact on the State.

I was sad when Mr. Kanakaole left the Department of the Attorney General, but I was very happy for DLNR to gain such a talented individual. He is exceptionally well-qualified for this position and I urge the committee to support his nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Dvonch

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 4:52:31 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William J Aila Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Aloha Chair Senator Lorraine Inouye and Vice Chair Senator Brandon Elefante.

I write in support of the Confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole as Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources. (GM594). As former Chairman of DLNR, Deputy and Chairman of DHHL, I understand the complexities and weight of the Kuleana of the job.

Ryan possesses the skills and knowledge to make great contributions in protecting and in the sustainable use use of Hawaii's Natural Resources. He is a good listener and can see all sides of the issues before him. He is a good facilitator which is essential to success in this position.

Ryan has the fortitude to work through controversial situations finding balance between Native Hawaiian values and Western law and policies. This quality is extremely important in finding resolution to many of todays DLNR challenges, whether it be issues related to mauka or makai.

In the eight years Ryan and I have worked together at DHHL I have observed him to be grounded in his Ohana and culture, work many long hours, and have never heard a complaint from him about the sacrafices of being a public servant. His energy levels are impressive.

Often I would require complex and detailed recommendations from him. He never failed to share advice that I may not have wanted to hear but, needed to hear. Ryan is qualified to serve as Deputy Director at DLNR and I have no hesitation to testify in support of his Confirmation.

Mahalo for the privilege and opportunity to provide testimony.

William J. Aila Jr.

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 6:20:25 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan Yamane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of GM 594 for consideration and confirmation of Mr. Ryan Kanaka'ole as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I stand on my written testimony and regret that I am unable to appear in person.

I am proud to be a personal reference for Mr. Kanaka'ole. He was a colleague of mine at the Office of the Legislative Auditor from 2013 through 2016. As then-Acting State Auditor, I had the pleasure of recruiting and hiring Mr. Kanaka'ole, and later promoting him to Associate General Counsel. He was very good at performance auditing, sunrise studies, and funds review. When leading teams, he was thoughtful in his approach and insightful beyond his years. He also had a sharp legal acumen and balanced both performance auditing and legal counsel duties and responsibilities with confidence.

His work style was steady and balanced even under the pressures, demands, and deadlines of legislative priorities. He always brought his best skills and abilities to the table, but remained humble throughout and willing to spend time to guide and teach less experienced staff. He is a natural leader.

Again, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of GM 594 and Mr. Kanaka'ole's appointment. He would be a strong leader with vision for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Sincerely,

Jan K. Yamane

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

GM 594

April 3, 2024

TESTIMONY OF TYLER IOKEPA GOMES
IN **STRONG SUPPORT** OF THE CONFIRMATION OF RYAN KANAKA‘OLE TO THE
POSITION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

In my personal capacity, I am submitting this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the confirmation of Mr. Ryan Kanaka‘ole to the position of Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I’ve known Ryan in my personal capacity for over twenty years, when we first met as classmates at Kamehameha Schools - Kapālama. We both were members of the Speech and Debate Team - a very nerdy flex - but I raise this because speech and debate instilled the poise, confidence, and skill necessary to be persuasive and effective communicators that Ryan so effortlessly displays.

Ryan and I would reconnect at the William S. Richardson School of Law in our legal education, where he received both his Juris Doctor and his Certificate in Native Hawaiian Law from Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law. While a JD is inarguably an incredibly useful tool in Ryan’s arsenal, it is the Certificate in Native Hawaiian Law that notably provides him both the legal and historical frameworks necessary for the role of Deputy Director.

We would again cross paths when I served as Deputy to the Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and Ryan served as one of the Deputy Attorneys General assigned to our agency. Ryan was a monumental support in the regular challenges of operating one of the most contentious agencies in the State. He often found himself alongside the Chairman and myself at legislative hearings deftly explaining and supporting the complex nature of State and Federal regulations that impact the Department. It is through this time that we worked directly together that gives me the utmost confidence that Ryan, as a next generation leader amongst Kānaka Maoli, is more than qualified and prepared to serve in this role.

I respectfully ask for your support in confirming his nomination.

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:01:04 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Taira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

It is with pride and pleasure that I write in support of the nomination of Ryan Kanaka'ole as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

I was Mr. Kanaka'ole's supervising attorney for a number of years at the Department of the Attorney General when he was a deputy attorney general representing the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Mr. Kanaka'ole is smart, quick on the pick-up, does not shy away from challenges, is well spoken, a good communicator at all levels. He is knowledgeable in a wide variety of areas, ethical, and hard working. He is a good writer, experienced in litigation and adept as an advisor and counselor.

Notably, during my tenure as his supervisor, when a Hawaii Supreme Court argument was scheduled during the extended leave of the assigned attorney, Mr. Kanaka'ole did not hesitate to substitute into the case and take on the argument, which he handled enthusiastically, impressively, and in winning fashion. This was not an easy task. Since he was new to the case, Mr. Kanaka'ole had to come up to speed in short fashion, which he did with care and dedicated effort. "Impressive" would be a good word to describe him.

During his tenure as a Deputy Attorney General, Mr. Kanaka'ole also represented the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation and assisted the AG in various other ways, which is further testament to his versatility. His prior experience working with the State Auditor and the County of Hawaii, undoubtedly, also helpfully serve to inform his approach to his work.

Work experience has clearly shaped Mr. Kanaka'ole into a well-suited candidate for the Deputy Director position at DLNR. I believe, however, that his most notable quality comes from within--his thoughtfulness and appreciation for how actions or events may affect all involved. He has fond memories of his childhood and growing up on Hawai'i Island. He is a blend of many cultures. And, while his knowledge and appreciation of his Hawaiian culture and the issues important to the Hawaiian community may distinguish him, Mr. Kanaka'ole has a deep sense of awareness that consideration of all factors is critical in deciding a path forward.

Last, and probably foremost, Mr. Kanaka'ole is a proud family man--a caring husband and dad to two young keiki. So, in addition to all of the knowledge and qualities he has developed over time

and his natural affinity for Hawai'i, he has a vested interest in ensuring a strong foundation for Hawai'i's future.

Mr. Kanaka'ole is a solid choice for Deputy Director of DLNR and it is my hope that you will conclude likewise.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony supporting the nomination of Ryan Kanaka'ole.

Diane K. Taira

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:03:44 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Yee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Ryan Kanaka‘ole for Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

I worked with Mr. Kanaka‘ole while he was a deputy attorney general. He is intelligent, calm, and personable. He understands the legal and practical means by which native Hawaiian rights and land stewardship are best protected. He spends his energy calmly finding solutions, not just lamenting the problem. He also has the people skills to listen to and connect with the many different stakeholders that DLNR must deal with.

He will be an asset to DLNR, and I strongly support his nomination.

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 12:17:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support Ryan Kanaka'ole's nomination for DLNR First Deputy.

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 2:10:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa April Fuse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

I strongly support the appointment and confirmation of Mr. Ryan Kanaka‘ole as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) as he possesses the background, knowledge, expertise, and commitment that makes him well-qualified to lead the DLNR with its Chairperson.

Deputy Director Nominee Mr. Kanaka‘ole received his Juris Doctor and certificate in Native Hawaiian Law from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. He also received multiple academic excellence and achievement awards in his fields of study.

Through Mr. Kanaka‘ole positions as Deputy Attorney General for the State of Hawai‘i and Deputy Corporation Counsel for Hawai‘i County, he has expertise in matters relevant to the management, conservation, protection, and enhancement of Hawai‘i’s public lands and waters and of the natural, cultural and historic resources therein. Through his extensive legal background as an attorney, he is competent in addressing legal matters related to areas such as land use, real property, Native Hawaiian law, administrative law, construction law, civil litigation, trusts, and contracts. Through his involvement in audits and evaluations of multiple state agencies and programs, he is knowledgeable in assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of government operations and facilitating improvements to government programs and services.

I had the privilege of working with Mr. Kanaka‘ole in our previous roles in public service. He has a strong work ethic and demonstrated the analytical, problem-solving, project management, communication, and leadership skills that make him an excellent candidate to serve as Deputy

Director of DLNR. Furthermore, he has a deep understanding of his and DLNR's kuleana to protect what makes Hawai'i special and unique for future generations.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support Mr. Ryan Kanaka'ole's confirmation.

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

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 2:43:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Bryant	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony as a private citizen in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Ryan Kanakaole's confirmation as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Ryan and I served as Deputy Attorneys General for the Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands. During our time working together, Ryan showed his dedication to government and public service, and his ability to lead. Ryan is always deeply invested in anything that he works on, but is particularly passionate about our home, Hawaii. He is solution-oriented, thoughtful, and intelligent, and DLNR will be lucky to have Ryan as part of their leadership. I strongly support confirmation of Ryan Kanakaole as Deputy Director of DLNR.

Mahalo,

Alana L. Bryant

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 4:00:23 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dexter Kishida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have had the pleasure of working with Ryan over the past few months. He has been a great partner and communicator, assisting in connecting our departments to tackle a wide range of issues from Iguana's in Waimanalo to water and land issues. I humbly submit my strong support for Ryan Kanakaole as Deputy Director, DLNR.

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 4:46:48 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allen Bartolome	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and esteemed members of the Committees on Water and Land, I am writing to express my support for the nomination and confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Having known Mr. Kanaka'ole for the past 18 years, since our time as classmates at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, I have had the privilege of witnessing his personal growth and professional success. Throughout the years, Mr. Kanaka'ole has not only excelled in his education and career but has also demonstrated an unwavering commitment to embodying the spirit of aloha in all aspects of his life through the dedication of his work in the community.

I am confident that Mr. Kanaka'ole's extensive experience, exceptional communication skills, and remarkable leadership abilities will greatly benefit the DLNR and the entire State of Hawai'i. Therefore, I wholeheartedly endorse and advocate for his nomination and confirmation as the new Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for considering my support for Mr. Kanaka'ole's nomination.

Respectfully,

Allen Bartolome

Hawai'i Island (Puna) Resident, Member of DPH, Former District 4 Chair

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 4:48:01 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lincoln Ashida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit testimony in strong support for the confirmation of Ryan Kanaka`ole as Deputy Director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawai`i. I have known Ryan for well over 15 years as an attorney and fellow Big Island boy. I appointed Ryan as Deputy Corporation Counsel during my 13.5 years of service as the Corporation Counsel for the County of Hawai`i. Ryan's strong work ethic, collaborative approach, and calm demeanor were remarkable qualities that allowed him to excel as an advisory division attorney. Ryan quickly earned the respect of the departments in the County he serviced, and also the respect of his peers and our office leadership.

I recently interacted with Ryan when he served as Deputy Attorney General assigned to the DHHL Commission. Despite having a complicated case with contentious parties, Ryan both represented and defended the Commission well, and again used his calm and thoughtful approach in an effort to facilitate settlement. Ryan is a talented lawyer, but his collaborative style and professional and pleasant demeanor are skills that are not easily learned. They come naturally to Ryan, because that is exactly who he is.

With due respect to the authority of this Committee, I would unqualifiedly recommend Ryan Kanaka`ole for your consideration. Ryan possesses all the professional and human qualities that suit him perfectly for service as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

DAVID B. KA'APU

Attorney at Law

KAILUA-KONA OFFICE

Territorial Centre, Suite 201

75-5751 Kuakini Highway

Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

Telephone No.: (808) 329-1385

Facsimile No.: (808) 329-0512

E-mail: dbk@kaapulawoffice.com

KAMUELA OFFICE

Kala Cottage, Suite 8

65-1231 Opelo Road

Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

April 3, 2024

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Honorable Chair Lorraine Inouye

Re: GM 594 Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole

Aloha Senators:

This letter is written in support of Ryan Kanaka'ole's consideration and confirmation as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I worked with Ryan when he was the Deputy Attorney General assigned to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands from 2017 through June 2022 when I served as the DHHL West Hawaii Commissioner. I had many opportunities to interact with Ryan and to hear and discuss his legal advice. As an advocate for the Department, Ryan was thoughtful, ethical, and professional in carrying out his duties as our Deputy AG and brought insightful perspectives to difficult legal discussions.

I believe that Ryan has the experience and background to be an excellent Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. He has demonstrated his leadership skills in all the previous positions that he has held with the State and County governments. I believe that he will be an asset to the Director and to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I strongly support Ryan's nomination and am hopeful that your Committee will move to confirm Ryan as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo,

David B. Kaapu

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 6:06:45 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Likeke Scheuer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Inouye and Members:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the nomination of Ryan Kanaka`ole as the first deputy to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. As someone deeply invested in the responsible management of `āina, I believe Mr. Kanaka`ole possesses the qualities and experience necessary to excel in this crucial role.

I have had the privilege of knowing Ryan as he served as a Deputy Attorney General advising the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, during which time I have witnessed his unwavering commitment to the rule of law and to preserving the cultural heritage of our islands. His profound understanding of the complexity in balancing conservation and development, rooted in his upbringing and cultural heritage, uniquely positions him to help us collectively tackle the complex challenges facing Hawaii's natural resources.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Ryan Kanaka`ole's nomination as the first deputy to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. His integrity, expertise, and passion for environmental conservation make him an outstanding candidate for this vital role. I am confident that he will serve with distinction and contribute significantly to the protection and preservation of Hawaii's precious natural resources.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Likeke Scheuer

April 3, 2024

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee of Water and Land, I am writing to express my support for the nomination and confirmation of Ryan K. P. Kanaka'ole as Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources ("DLNR").

I have known Ryan for over 18 years. We were classmates at both the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and William S. Richardson School of Law at Mānoa. We began our legal careers as law clerks at the First Circuit Court in Honolulu and later moved back home to Hawai'i Island to begin practicing law as County of Hawai'i employees. Ryan worked as a Deputy Corporation Counsel and myself as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney.

I've had the privilege to watch Ryan grow through his studies, public service, leadership, and as a family man. Ryan is a local boy, who possess a keen understanding of our heritage, community, 'āina, and people.

I believe that Ryan possesses the knowledge, professionalism, compassion, work ethic, and skills to assist DLNR in enhancing, protecting, conserving and managing Hawai'i's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources for current and future generations. Given his educational background, work experience, and dedication to our community, Ryan will be a valuable asset at DLNR.

Mahalo for your consideration and the opportunity to testify in support of Ryan's nomination and confirmation.

Kelden B.A. Waltjen
Hawai'i Island resident

Testimony of **KATHERINE A. GARSON** before the **Senate Committee on Water and Land**,
April 5, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in **SUPPORT** Governor's Message (GM) 594 submitting for
consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural
Resources, **RYAN KANAKA'OLE**

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I submit this testimony in strong **SUPPORT** of GM 594, and the appointment of Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I am currently a partner at Carlsmith Ball LLP and the administrative partner in charge of the firm's Hilo office. I first became acquainted with Ryan when he was still an undergraduate at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and interned for the County of Hawai'i Office of the Corporation Counsel where I was a supervising Deputy Corporation Counsel. Ryan impressed us with his dedication, professionalism, and maturity as an undergraduate such that when he applied for a law clerk position while he was in law school we again hired him to assist the Office of the Corporation Counsel with research and writing. When Ryan moved back to the Big Island in 2012 as a lawyer we were overjoyed that he decided to join the Office of the Corporation Counsel as a Deputy Corporation Counsel.

As a Deputy Corporation Counsel Ryan not only approached all of his assignments as a hardworking and skillful lawyer, but he also sought practical solutions to various County issues. Ryan is also humble despite his many accomplishments. He is able to listen and digest different viewpoints before coming to a conclusion which is a skill that will serve him well as a Deputy Director. Ryan's commitment to the community is evidenced by his choice to do government work even as an undergraduate.

I strongly support GM 594 and request this Committee vote in favor of confirming Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Katherine A. Garson

Trista N. Speer

April 5, 2024, at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 225

Senate Committee on Water and Land

To: The Honorable Senator Loraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

From: Trista N. Speer

Re: **Testimony in Strong Support**
GM594, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director,
Department of Land and Natural Resources, RYAN KANAKA‘OLE

Hearing: April 5, 2024, at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

I am Trista N. Speer, and I am writing in my personal capacity. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Ryan Kanaka‘ole for the position of Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

I had the pleasure and privilege to work with Ryan when we served together as Deputy Attorneys General at the Department of the Attorney General from March 2022 through July 2023. Ryan consistently demonstrated his ability to address complicated matters and issues of critical state departments effectively and efficiently, while simultaneously working as a team player with an exceptional ability to naturally lead. Ryan’s dedication to public service, as well as his unwavering commitment to conduct himself and his work with the utmost integrity, ethical standards, and compassion for his team, and his willingness to offer guidance and assistance to his colleagues, was apparent each day. Ryan has consistently displayed his dedication to the people of Hawai‘i. His work ethic, integrity, and willingness to collaborate with colleagues is unwavering, and I strongly support his confirmation.

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:13:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Tamanaha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elephante, and Members of the Water and Land Committee,

Please accept my testimony in support of GM594 for the consideration and confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have had the pleasure of first meeting and working with Ryan Kanaka'ole at the Office of the Auditor for the State of Hawai'i. I worked closely on audit teams with Ryan leading our team. Ryan's management of the audit, ability to become knowledgeable with unfamiliar subjects, and his patience guiding less experienced staff showed me what an effective leader he is. I was able to become a more effective auditor because of Ryan and his teachings help me to this day.

On a personal level, Ryan and I became friends and have stayed in touch since departing the Office of the Auditor over five years ago. Ryan has been a great friend to me and has been there for me during life's harder moments. He is always willing to grab lunch and lend an ear.

It has been a privilege to call him a friend and I fully support his nomination as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I am positive he will make an impact and be a successful leader.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Lauren Tamanaha

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:33:40 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig Iha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee:

I am in strong support of the nomination of Ryan Kanaka‘ole to be the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I am testifying as an individual citizen.

I have known Ryan Kanaka‘ole since 2017 when he joined the Department of the Attorney General’s Hawaiian Home Lands unit. That assignment was a demanding one given DHHL’s important mission and the seemingly infinite variety of legal issues that its attorneys must address. Mr. Kanaka‘ole made an immediate positive impact with his intellect, as well as his government auditing, administrative law, and other skills and experiences that are too numerous to describe here.

More than that, Ryan helped our team with his personality, character, and integrity, which do not shine in his impressive resume – but which I have come to know from working closely with him over the past seven years.

Ryan is uncommonly calm and cool under pressure. He approaches problems methodically, while still acting decisively and quickly when needed. His level-headedness is infectious and makes everyone better at their jobs.

Ryan has a strong sense of duty, but one that is guided by a deep caring for others. He follows the law while never forgetting how individual people can be impacted by government action. I have always seen him “do the right thing.”

Ryan is soft-spoken and humble – but do not be fooled. His ability to listen to other points of view helps make him a zealous and effective advocate.

Ryan Kanaka‘ole is the perfect person to be the DLNR Deputy Director. Thank you allowing me to testify on his behalf.

Sincerely,

Craig Iha

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:04:44 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
john komeiji	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for the confirmation of Ryan Kanakaole as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Ryan served as the assigned Attorney General for the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. He provided excellent legal advice relying upon his deep knowledge of the applicable law and his keen analytical abilities. His legal advice also incorporated the broader factual context and other practical considerations. He was able to clearly articulate his thoughts, as well as making complex issues understandable.

His people skills are excellent. His low key approach allowed him to work well with all members of the Authority. He has the ability to gain the confidence of others, while developing a trusting relationship. He certainly will bring leadership skills and direction in support of the Director and Department.

Since his appointment Ryan has served as the DLNR representative to the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. He has actively participated and been an valuable asset to our efforts.

Most importantly, Ryan is a "good guy". His heart is in the right place and brings his compassion for others to all that he does.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my wholehearted support for his confirmation.

John Komeiji

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:15:19 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

This testimony is in support of the confirmation of Ryan Kanaka‘ole as Deputy Director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

To be completely transparent and honest, I have known Ryan for a number of years now. He has been a great friend in many ways, but through all these years that I’ve known him I can also say with complete sincerity that he is a man with genuine love for his people, his land, and his country. Time and time again he has made a point of volunteering his time to practice his civic duty. The example that sticks in my mind right now is that he made a point of helping with controversial Kau Inoa initiative back when we were in college. Not everyone around him agreed with Kau Inoa at the time, including myself, but it is very hard to not respect someone who is willing to work so hard for something he believed would help his people. He believed it was a way to help native Hawaiians achieve a better life. I believe that Ryan will do whatever he can to better Hawai‘i and her people, and that he will not be afraid to do what needs to be done when things get hard.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Noah Gomes

ALYSSA-MARIE Y.H. KAU
66-908 Alena Loop
Waialua, Hawai'i 96791-9726

April 5, 2024

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chairperson
Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol Room 229
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM 594 Nomination of Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director of the Department
of Land and Natural Resources
Hearing: April 5, 2024 at 1:00 P.M.

Chairperson Inouye, Vice Chairperson Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole to be confirmed as Deputy Director to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). I have had the honor and privilege of working with him since 2021 when I joined the Hawaiian Home Lands unit at the Department of the Attorney General and he was the Lead Deputy Attorney General for the unit. I submit this testimony solely in my personal capacity.

Mr. Kanaka'ole possesses legal, policy, and business expertise in a wide variety of practice areas including real property, environmental law, commercial law, administrative law, and trust and estate matters. These areas are all key for the understandings of DLNR, whose mission deals with the delicate balance of protecting and managing Hawai'i's public trust resources for current and future generations. Mr. Kanaka'ole has dedicated his personal and professional career to public service and ensuring that the government operates in a fair and effective way; he wants to ensure that government is accessible and effective in resolving issues that have a substantial impact on the public.

As a Deputy Attorney General, he was often assigned to work on projects concerning Native Hawaiian issues, including the Hawaiian home lands trust, the public lands trust, and the Mauna Kea Stewardship Authority. Mr. Kanaka'ole showed adept skills and intellect with his abilities to listen, contain, and synthesize a large amount of facts to appropriately apply them to the issues at hand. He is intimately familiar with the cultural sensitivities surrounding these issues and the injustices faced by the Native Hawaiian community, and conscientiously considers these factors in his decision making process. His calm and composed, yet firm, manner of regularly addressing these complicated and delicate controversies demonstrated his dedication to seeking resolutions consistent of the highest ethical and moral standards. His diligence, integrity, and character is beyond reproach.

Within the office, Mr. Kanaka'ole was an indispensable member of our division. He was a team player, showed empathy for others, and consistently demonstrated a balanced temperament and the highest standards of trustworthiness and honesty. He was thorough in his written and oral

analysis, always well-prepared, and possessed a strong work ethic. He always conducted himself in a professional and ethical manner. He extended professional courtesies without compromising the interests of his clients, and represented his clients diligently without overstepping the bounds of good advocacy.

Mr. Kanaka'ole dedicated his time to training several young attorneys. As my mentor, I routinely sought his counsel on legal (and some not so legal) matters. He has a great deal of patience, is open-minded, understands and articulates different viewpoints, and provides pragmatic and reasonable opinions based on cogent logic and sound legal principles. He has the rare ability to get to the heart of the issue to determine the relative equities to best predict a sensible outcome while also focusing on the details of a scenario. He also has an approachable demeanor that presents an aura of respectability.

Based on all these qualities, I believe Mr. Kanaka'ole's professional background, character, and commitment to Hawai'i, its people, and its natural resources would make him an ideal Deputy Director of DLNR. Confirming him would be an invaluable investment in Hawai'i's future. Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

Me ka ha'a ha'a,

/s/ Alyssa-Marie Y.H. Kau

Sherry P. Broder
Attorney at Law
500 Ala Moana Blvd., #7400
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
sherrybroder@sherrybroder.com

April 4, 2023

Re: Recommendation for Ryan Kanaka`ole, Deputy Director, DLNR

Dear Senate Committee on Water and Land Chairwoman Inouye and Committee Members,

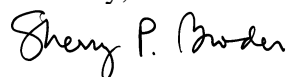
I am honored to provide this testimony containing the highest recommendation possible for Ryan Kanaka`ole to be confirmed as first Deputy Director, DLNR. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Kanaka`ole on several legal issues during his long tenure as a deputy attorney general with the Department of the Attorney General.

Mr. Kanaka`ole has proven himself to be an outstanding lawyer. He always demonstrates his steadfast commitment to excellence. He understands complex facts and legal principles in issues and works to find practical solutions. He is very dedicated and persistent in his research and analysis. He is a very loyal advocate for his agency client and at the same time he works to understand and incorporate what is in the best interests of the people of Hawai'i. Mr. Kanaka`ole will bring his extensive experience in many aspects of state government operations to the position which will be a great asset to DLNR.

Mr. Kanaka`ole is an excellent communicator and listens to others. I have always been impressed by his quick understanding of issues, articulation of problems and possible solutions, clarity of reasoning and focus, and ability to frame positions forcefully and persuasively. I am confident he will make important contributions as a leader to the operations and implementation of the goals and work product at DLNR. He knows how to build positive professional relationships and whenever he provides guidance it is knowledgeable and appropriate.

Mr. Kanaka`ole has demonstrated a strong commitment to service to the community and to public service. He is very generous with his time and knowledge and is willing to share his professional competence in the service of the community. He has demonstrated without a doubt that he has the highest intelligence, work-ethic, moral character, and courage. He will be an excellent ambassador for DLNR. I am very confident that he will excel in the position, serve with honor and distinction, and enhance the relationships of DLNR with stakeholders, lawmakers, communities, and the public.

Sincerely,



SHERRY P. BRODER, Esq.

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:18:00 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Sagaysay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Senator Inouye and Committee Members:

I am in strong support of the nomination of Ryan Kanaka‘ole to be the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity.

I have had the honor and pleasure of working with Ryan at the Department of the Attorney General. As a colleague, Ryan was always very knowledgeable, hardworking, and passionate. He has a broad base of experience and knowledge, specifically in public service. He is extremely bright, diligent, and conscientious of his work product.

Ryan has the credentials, the experience and character to effectively serve as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I am confident that he will serve the department and the people of the State of Hawaii in a respectful, responsible, and professional manner. I strongly support his nomination.

Michelle Sagaysay

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 11:27:08 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James J Akau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To The Senate Committee on Water and Land,
With regard to measure GM594.

I, James Jacob Akau, submit this testimony in wholehearted support for Gubernatorial Nominee, Ryan Kanaka'ole, to be seriously considered and confirmed as the Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources, for a term to expire 12-31-2026 (Term expiration date amended to 12-07-26 by GM693). Ryan exemplifies the qualities of the ideal candidate for this position as demonstrated in his lifelong commitment to public service, invaluable professional experience, and dedication to the care and stewardship of Hawai'i's cultural and natural resources.

I met Ryan in the playground at Pahala Elementary School where we forged a lifelong friendship that had our lives intersect at Kamehameha Schools, Kapālama High School, and most recently as board members of the community based non-profit organization Na Mamo O Kawa. Throughout the course of our lives, Ryan has been a steady pillar for his 'ohana and community serving as a guiding force providing much needed support whenever called upon. Integral to Ryan's character is his collected approach to life's challenges, diverse wealth of knowledge, calm disposition, critical discernment, enduring patience, optimistic outlook, unwaivering love for his 'ohana, and deep connection to the land.

In our time in highschool, we boarded together at Kamehameha Schools, sharing time away from our 'ohana, developing a strong sense of independence at a young age. During those formative years, Ryan was already a role model to those around him. He was a very disciplined and motivated individual whose list of accolades include his enrollement in honors English, involvement in Speech and Debate club (competing in a State wide tournament), Judo, and paddling. In our senior year, I was able to paddle with Ryan. During our short tenure together paddling, our team went undefeated for the entirety of the long distance season. Ryan was not only a gentleman and a scholar, but also an exceptional athlete. His dedication to excellence extended to all aspects of his life and is truly someone I've looked up to for most of my life.

Upon graduating our lives diverged, where Ryan enrolled as a Political Science Major at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. At this point in time, Ryan lost his father who suffered from a heart attack while competing in a body surfing competition at Sandy's beach on O'ahu. This was utterly devastating. We were experiencing the high of having accomplished a major mile stone

in our lives, while he was simultaneously having to bear the grief of losing a loved one. Ryan was thrust into adulthood where he bore financial and emotional kuleana for the care of the remains of his late father. This was quite a shock to us both, and an unimaginable hardship that demonstrated Ryan's strength and unwavering care for his 'ohana. All things considered, Ryan put himself through school and was able to complete his undergraduate studies in a matter of three years.

In the fall, Ryan was accepted into the University of Hawai'i Manoa Richardson School of Law. Ryan's Juriary Doctorate dissertation examined the Native Hawaiian gathering rights and its application to non aboriginal family members. Ryan's mom had remarried a person of non-Hawaiian descent, which prompted this critical look at Native Hawaiian gathering rights. I've always admired Ryan's open heart that has inspired myself and countless others to reexamine widely accepted assumptions. This was someone who always thought of others using his intellect and expertise to extend care and consideration to those deserving.

Ryan's professional career includes time working with the Office of the Auditor, Department of Hawaiian Homes, and Na Mamo O Kawa. As a result of Ryan's time with the Office of Auditor, our board of directors for the non-profit organization Na Mamo O Kawa benefitted immensely. He was able to counsel our organization on how to conduct much of the administrative duties. This input was invaluable as it allowed our organization to grow and more than double in our financial, and administrative capacity within just a couple of years. The purpose of Na Mamo of Kawa is to curate and steward the cultural and natural resources of Kawa, a County of Hawai'i Public Open Space Natural Perservation Commission property. Through these efforts, we were able to perform community led restroration projects, provided upkeep and maintaince of the road/trails, springs, and beach areas, and orchestrate cultural and educational opportunites. I was fortunate to serve along side Ryan, having him support all of my efforst as Executive Director. In this role, Ryan was extremely dependable, helped us to perform our due diligence, and was always two steps ahead of everyone in the organization. Ryan provided the much support needed for our organization to put together programs for the community, and to better steward a place we cherish and love.

I would like to again echo my wholehearted support for Ryan to be confirmed as Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources, for a term to expire 12-31-2026 (Term expiration date amended to 12-07-26 by GM693). Ryan's list of accomplishments are more than impressive and have made Ryan more than suitable to perform his duties in this new role. Most importantly it is the content of Ryan's character that I would like to laud as his most desired asset. I hope that this sincere and heartfelt testimony is well recieved. It is in my honest opinion that we in Hawai'i shall fair better off with Ryan as our newly confirmed Deputy Director. Mahalo for reading my testimony, I truly appreciate this honor to be able to support my friend in this new and exciting endeavor.

Sandra A. Ching
526 Ulili Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

April 4, 2024

Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol Room 229
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM 594 Nomination of Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director of the
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Hearing: April 5, 2024 at 1:00 P.M.

Chairperson Inouye, Vice Chairperson Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole's nomination as Deputy Director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). My name is Sandra Ching, and I am a deputy attorney general for the State of Hawaii, but I am submitting this testimony solely in my personal capacity.

I have known Mr. Kanaka'ole for approximately 8 years as a fellow deputy attorney general. More recently in 2023, I had the privilege of working very closely with Mr. Kanaka'ole as we were both assigned as deputy attorneys general for the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC). During that year, Mr. Kanaka'ole made great contributions in providing legal advice and counsel to the HHFDC on development, financing, legislation, planning, compliance, fiscal, litigation, and administrative matters.

In all my dealings with Mr. Kanaka'ole, he has exhibited the utmost professionalism and courtesy. He is highly regarded within our department and was often tasked with challenging, complex, and controversial matters which he handled with insight and thoughtful analysis. His communication style encourages participation and consensus building. He possesses an innate ability to garner input from coworkers, clients, and stakeholders, and takes a measured approach before making a reasoned decision. He conducts himself in a respectful and calm manner regardless of the issues presented to him.

I believe that Mr. Kanaka'ole possesses the intellectual ability as well as the temperament and demeanor that makes him uniquely qualified to take on the important leadership role as Deputy Director of DLNR.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ha'aheo M. Kaho'ohalahala, Esq.
P.O. Box 11219
Hilo, Hawai'i 96721

April 4, 2024

To: The Water and Land Committee
Hawai'i State Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol
Letter submitted via website

RE: SUPPORT FOR NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF RYAN K.P.
KANAKA'OLE, FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

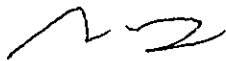
Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

I write in support of the appointment of Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Directory for DLNR. I have known Mr. Kanaka'ole for over ten years as I attended Law School with him and then clerked with him at the First Circuit Court, State of Hawai'i.

Mr. Kanaka'ole is a graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law and has been practicing law since 2011. His commitment to the community is immanent through his dedication of his career to public service as a government attorney in different capacities. His prior education and experience not only at the Department of the Attorney General but also the Office of the Auditor, Corporation Counsel and with the Judicial and Criminal Justice System makes him not only qualified but also provides him with an in-debt knowledge that is needed for this position.

Mr. Kanaka'ole was born and raised on Hawai'i Island and now resides on O'ahu with his 'ohana. His upbringing and familiarity within different communities especially those on neighbor islands also provides him with experiences and perspectives that are much needed in government positions such as this one. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit support on this nomination.

Mālama Pono,



Ha'aheo M. Kaho'ohalahala, Esq.

April 5, 2024, at 1:00 pm
Conference Room 229

Senate Committee on Water and Land

To: The Honorable Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
The Honorable Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

From: Joseph Campos II

Re: **Testimony in Strong Support**
GM594, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director,
Department of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYAN
KANAKA'OLE

I am Joseph H. Campos II, and I am writing in my personal capacity. My assessment and testimony are informed by my position as Deputy Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). I am writing this letter in **Strong Support** of the nomination and confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole, Deputy Director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Deputy Director Kanaka'ole's background and extensive experience qualify him for appointment and confirmation as the DLNR Deputy Director. Mr. Kanaka'ole has demonstrated that he has the leadership and experience to serve as the DLNR Deputy Director, especially in times of crisis and recovery. Mr. Kanaka'ole served in various positions that will enhance his insight and thoughtfulness around matters before him at DLNR.

As the Deputy Director of DHS, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Kanaka'ole since January 2024, and I have seen his commitment to the people of Hawaii in this short period of time. I am continually impressed with his willingness to work with other departments and ensure that issues are addressed to facilitate the timely processing of DLNR issues. Mr. Kanaka'ole has shown himself to be responsive and willing to guide departments through the DLNR processes. Mr. Kanaka'ole has been extremely helpful to the State's 450 temporary home build and his proven leadership will serve Hawaii well through the transition to recovery.

Mr. Kanaka'ole's humility and openness are essential parts of his leadership. With his leadership and guidance, DLNR will continue to be responsive to the needs of Hawaii's residents, Legislative Branch, and Executive Branch.

I **strongly support** the nomination of Mr. Kanaka'ole to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Testimony of Valerie M. Kato, Deputy Director of the Department of Health

In SUPPORT of Governor's Message 594

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy Director,
Department of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee,
RYAN KANAKA'OLE, for a term to expire at 12-07-2026.

SENATOR LORRAINE R. INOUE, CHAIR

SENATOR BRANDON J.C. ELEFANTE, VICE CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Hearing Date: April 5, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Room Number: 229

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

I am writing in my individual capacity in **strong support** of the nomination and confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

While I was First Deputy Attorney General, I had the opportunity to work with Ryan while he served as legal counsel for DHHL and HHFDC. I believe he is intelligent, diplomatic, efficient, and committed to public service. He provided sound legal advice in support of the initiatives of the Office of the Attorney General, and has extensive expertise on real property and land use issues which will serve him well at DLNR. I have enjoyed working with Ryan in the past and look forward to working with him in the Executive Department. Ryan is a proven leader and I believe he will be an asset to DLNR and the State.

Therefore, I respectfully ask for the confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole as the Deputy Director of DLNR. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Testimony of
Charleen M. Aina

Before the Senate Committee on Water and Land
Friday, April 5, 2024, 1:00 p.m., CR 016 & Videoconference

In consideration of **GM 594**

Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the Deputy Director, Department of Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee RYAN KANAKAOLE, for a term to expire 12-31-2026(Term expiration date amended to 12-07-26 by GM693)

TO: The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Thank you for considering Ryan Kanakaole's nomination to serve as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. I write as a friend and former colleague at the Department of Attorney General, to urge you and the Senate to confirm his nomination.

The State needs the knowledge and experience Ryan has acquired while serving first as an analyst in the Legislative Auditor's Office, a deputy attorney general for more than five years after that, and currently as DLNR's interim Deputy Director today.

At the Auditor's Office, he learned and applied the principles and procedures of the State's budget, accounting, and procurement systems to the fiscal and program audits he helped prepare. As a Deputy Attorney General, he used that knowledge and his training as a lawyer to advise the Attorney General, the Departments of Hawaiian Home Lands and Budget and Finance, and the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation, and to defend them and the State when they were sued. And, since January, he has worked at DLNR and learned first-hand what DLNR's and its staff's responsibilities are. He has also worked with and for you as the Senate's Committee on Water and Land, and learned firsthand what you do.

The State needs Ryan Kanakaole to continue doing for the State what he has done so far because he has done it so effectively. He *shares* what he knows, and explains why what should be done, needs to be done. He participates in what needs to be done, and has a knack for getting the best out of all whose job it is to do the work of the State of Hawaii.

Most importantly for me, we need Ryan Kanakaole to continue doing what he's doing for the State because *he is willing, and will be able to continue doing what he is more than capable of doing, for a long time.*

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:10:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in my individual capacity in strongly support of the nomination and confirmation of Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole to serve as Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Kanaka'ole has been serving as the DLNR, Deputy Director for several months. Mr. Kanaka'ole has already demonstrated himself to be a highly productive and effective administrator. He has a distinguished public service history, serving in many roles as a Deputy Attorney General since 2017. He possesses a sense of kulena to our natural resources and people of Hawai'i. His experiences as a litigator, advocate and understanding of the traditions of Hawai'i will be a great asset to the people of hawai'i and the Department.

Therefore, I respectfully request Mr. Kanaka'ole's confirmation as the Deputy Director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:27:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
R. Hokulei Lindsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong support of Gubernatorial nominee Ryan Kanakaole as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Although I write in my personal capacity, I know Ryan professionally. I worked at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands writing its administrative rules and departmental policies, and worked with Ryan when he served as a Deputy Attorney General for DHHL. In my experience, Ryan is diligent and thoughtful in his work, and his legal guidance and analyses are complete and communicated clearly. Moreover, Ryan understands working for an agency with trust responsibilities and a community that is engaged and that can be passionate in their engagement.

One project that stands out to me is DHHL’s “supplemental dwelling units” or the additional dwelling unit program. Together, we fine tuned language for the program's administrative rules, balancing needs expressed by beneficiaries with the legal parameters of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. While it seems like an obvious step today, because of legal and programmatic nuances, the shape of the SDU program was a topic of rich discussion for the Department and for the Hawaiian Homes Commission; many questions needed to be satisfactorily addressed. Ryan’s legal guidance helped to resolve some of those issues. His work played a significant role in shaping the administrative rules. Today, the program is available to provide essential housing options for beneficiaries and beneficiary families.

Please vote favorably and send Ryan Kanakaole to the full Senate for Confirmation as Deputy Director for the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely, R. Hokulei Lindsey

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
SENATOR LORRAINE R. INOUE, CHAIR**

Friday, April 5, 2024, 1:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**Personal Testimony of Deborah Kim Morikawa, Deputy Director
Department of Health
In SUPPORT of Governor's Message 594**

I am writing in my individual capacity to express my support of the nomination and confirmation of Ryan Kanaka'ole to serve as Deputy Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Kanaka'ole has devoted his career to public service and demonstrated a commitment to addressing land use issues. His legal background and deep connection to Hawaii make him an ideal candidate for this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of James Kunane Tokioka to serve as Director, Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

LATE

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 2:40:14 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Yamashiroya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Gary Yamashiroya and I was the Special Assistant to the Attorney General when Ryan Kanaka'ole was a Deputy Attorney General in the Public Safety, Housing and Hawaiian Homelands Division. Ryan is one of the most conscientious and intelligent people I know and always provided thoughtful and well-reasoned advice and opinions on subjects, some of which were controversial and/or complex. His even-keeled manner made him a joy to work with and he was always willing to take on any task with dedication and enthusiasm and was definitely considered one of our "go-to" people in the Department.

I wholeheartedly and strongly support Ryan's confirmation as the Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and I know he will do a great job and what's best for the people of Hawai'i.

LATE

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 3:54:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leatrice Burrows-Nuuanu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Leatrice W. Burrows-Nuuanu, I am submitting testimony in Support of Ryan Kanakaole as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Mahalo!

GM-594

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 11:23:17 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/5/2024 1:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lianne McBride	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of Ryan Kanaka‘ole for the position of First Deputy of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). I have had the honor of knowing Ryan for the past sixteen years - since our first day of law school orientation at the University of Hawai‘i - William S. Richardson School of Law.

I believe Ryan would be the ideal candidate for the position because he possesses all the qualities and characteristics important for a DLNR First Deputy. Ryan has always been a steward of the ‘aina, always conscious of our impact on the islands, always putting the land first. Ryan holds great leadership skills and takes action. He has helped to organize community work days on the island of Hawai‘i to keep the land clean while bringing people together. Throughout his career, Ryan has gained tremendous knowledge and expertise on land issues, making him an asset to DLNR. He has always had a thirst for knowledge and this inquisitiveness has led him to grow into a well-informed and well-rounded individual and attorney. At his core, Ryan is contemplative, thorough, and decisive. Throughout his life, Ryan has been acutely aware of the importance of conservation and responsible management of the land and its natural resources. He is the very person you would want to lead a department in charge of conservation.

For these reasons, I support Ryan Kanaka‘ole’s nomination for the position of First Deputy of the DLNR.

Sincerely,

Lianne M. McBride