

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1891

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 15 2025

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 530

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 530, submitting for study and consideration the nomination of:

BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

G.M. No. 530 KAREN ONO,
for a term to expire 06-30-2028,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by Karen Ono for service on the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the reappointment of Karen Ono from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, two members of the Kaua'i County Council, Native Hawaiian Gathering Rights Association, Hui Maka'ainana o Makana, Hanalei Initiative, Kaua'i Visitors Bureau, and fifteen individuals.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Ms. Ono's experience and knowledge qualify her for reappointment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Your Committee finds that from 1979 to 2021, Ms. Ono was the Executive Director of the Kauai Board of REALTORS. During her tenure, Ms. Ono tracked real estate legislation and worked closely with the Housing Agency, Planning Department, and Building Division of the County of Kauai. Ms. Ono's responsibilities included interpreting legislation and describing the effects of the legislation for board membership.

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Your Committee also notes that Ms. Ono is active in her community and previously volunteered for the County Open Space Commission, Affordable Housing Committee, and Rice Street Revitalization Task Force. Testifiers acknowledge her dedication to her community, strong leadership, and fair and rational approach to complex issues. Your Committee finds that Ms. Ono has been a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources since 2022. Your Committee further finds that Ms. Ono thoroughly understands the roles and responsibilities of Board members and her commitment to preserving the natural beauty and cultural significance of Kauai will continue to be an asset to the Board. Your Committee therefore recommends that Karen Ono be reappointed to the Board of Land and Natural Resources based on her experience, knowledge, and commitment to public service.

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

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


LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair



