

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL</b>	<b>SUPPORT/OPOSE</b>
CARTY S CHANG	DLNR	SUPPORT
JOANN YUKIMURA	OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK COUNCIL SERVICES DIVISION	SUPPORT
KAREN EOFF	HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL	SUPPORT
LESLIE APIU KULOLOIO	AHA MOKU ADVISORY COMMITTEE	SUPPORT
LYNN MCCRORY	PULAMA LANAI	SUPPORT
MARJORIE ZIEGLER	CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII	SUPPORT
MARK FOX	THE NATURE CONSERVANCY	SUPPORT
TISH UYEHARA	ARMSTRONG PRODUCE	SUPPORT
GLADYS QUINTO MARRONE	BIA HAWAII	SUPPORT
AMY BRINKER	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
DARRELL TANAKA	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
DEBORAH CHANG	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
DIANA VAN DE CAR	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
DIXIE KAETSU	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
HARRY KIM	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
JESSE SOUKI	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
JOHN L REPPUN	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
KENNETH R KUPCHAK	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
KEVIN CHANG	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
MIKE CHANG	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
NANCY PISICCHIO	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
ROBERT T NISHIMOTO	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
RON TERRY	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
STANLEY H ROEHRIG	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
TISH UYEHARA	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT
ULALIA WOODSIDE	INDIVIDUAL	SUPPORT

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [amel.s.chun@hawaii.gov](mailto:amel.s.chun@hawaii.gov)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2015 11:50:05 AM  
**Attachments:** [GM541\\_LNR\\_03-27-15\\_WTL.pdf](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carty S. Chang	DLNR	Support	Yes

Comments:

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DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**CARTY S. CHANG**  
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**DANIEL S. QUINN**  
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

**W. ROY HARDY**  
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  
CARTY CHANG  
Interim Chairperson**

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

**Friday, March 27, 2015  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 541 (as amended by GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 544)  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF  
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CHRISTOPHER J  
YUEN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2018.**

Governor's Message 541 (as amended by Governor's Message 544) submits the Governor's nomination of Christopher J. Yuen for an at-large seat and member with a background in Conservation and Natural Resources on to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board). The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this nomination.

Mr. Yuen brings a wide breadth of experience to the Board. He is an organic farmer, supplying local markets with banana, lychee and rambutan. He has served as the Planning Director for the County of Hawaii, Deputy Counsel for the County of Hawaii and as an Interpretive Naturalist for the National Park Service at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Mr. Yuen asks pertinent questions during board hearings and is seen as an important partner by his fellow board members. Mr. Yuen also brings a wealth of community service experience to the Board. He is a member of the Advisory Councils for both the Laupahoehoe and Pu'uwa'awa'a Experimental Tropical Forests. He has served on various Hawaii Island community groups organized to protect the Hawaii shoreline or forests, and in most cases these groups have been successful.

Mr. Yuen Graduated from the William S. Richardson School of Law, has a Master's Degree from the State University of New York in Environmental Science, and a Bachelor's Degree in Human Biology from Stanford University. He graduated from St. Joseph's High School in Hilo.

The Department notes that Mr. Yuen has served admirably on the Board on an interim basis since July 2014. Further, the Department notes that this is Mr. Yuen's second stint on the Board, first having served from 1990-1998. As such, the Department strongly supports Mr. Yuen's nomination to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

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**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [cyamauchi@kauai.gov](mailto:cyamauchi@kauai.gov)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2015 2:58:50 PM  
**Attachments:** [GM\\_541.pdf](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Office of the County Clerk, Council Services Div.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Attached, please find testimony for Councilmember JoAnn A. Yukimura of the Kaua'i County Council in strong support of GM 541.

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**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Mason K. Chock  
Gary L. Hooser  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
KipuKai Kualii'i  
JoAnn A. Yukimura



**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

Ricky Watanabe, County Clerk  
Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone (808) 241-4188  
Fax (808) 241-6349  
Email cokcouncil@kauai.gov

**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

March 25, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF JOANN A. YUKIMURA  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON**

**GM 541, RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE CHRISTOPHER J. YUEN TO THE BOARD OF  
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Friday, March 27, 2015  
2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 224**

Dear Chair Thielen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Christopher J. Yuen to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) (GM 541). I am writing in my capacity as an individual member of the Kauai County Council.

BLNR is one of the most important boards affecting the future of our State. That is why I urge you to confirm the appointment of Christopher J. Yuen, an experienced and proven conservationist, to the BLNR.

There are few people in the State who rise to the level of expertise, experience, and commitment to conservation that Chris has achieved. His background is diverse and stellar. Chris graduated from Stanford University with distinction; received a master's degree in Environmental Science; received the highest grade point average at William S. Richardson School of Law; wrote a law review article with the late Jon Van Dyke, a former professor, legal scholar, and practitioner in international, human rights, environmental, ocean, and constitutional law; served as Planning Director under Mayor Harry Kim; was a former BLNR member; and is a businessman and organic farmer.

Just as important, Chris has been involved in several successful efforts to acquire and protect lands worthy of public stewardship. He has both the perseverance and skills to find practical solutions in conservation and land stewardship.

Chair Thielen and Members of the Committee

RE: GM 541, Relating to the Consideration and Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Christopher J. Yuen to the Board of Land and Natural Resources

March 25, 2015

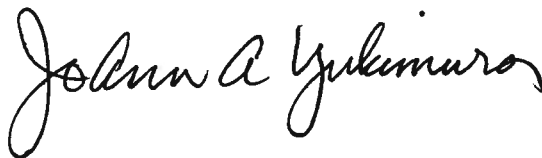
Page 2

From reading the Environment Hawai'i newsletter about recent BLNR meetings (in which Chris has participated in as an Interim BLNR member), it is clear that Chris will play a valuable role in clarifying information and decision-making options facing the BLNR. His strategic thinking and excellent communication skills will strengthen the Board's decision-making capacity. His expertise, experience, and excellence will help the Board find solutions to the complex issues it must address.

In summary, confirming Governor Ige's appointment of Chris Yuen to the BLNR will greatly enhance the capacity of the BLNR to do its challenging work and will help Hawai'i move toward a sustainable future

Thank you for this opportunity to provide supporting testimony. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or the Office of the County Clerk, Council Services Division at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joann A. Yukimura". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "A".

JOANN A. YUKIMURA

Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AB:cy

**From:** [Eoff, Karen](#)  
**To:** [WTLTestimony](#); [Sen. Laura Thielen](#); [Sen. Brickwood Galuteria](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT for Chris Yuen"s Nomination to BLNR - 3.27.15 - 2:45 PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 23, 2015 2:52:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Support for Chris Yuen"s Nomination to BLNR.pdf](#)

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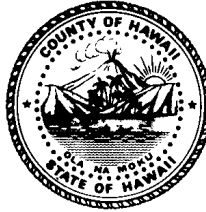
Please find attached, my testimony in support of the nomination of Chris Yuen to the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

<p><b><u>GM541</u></b> Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER J. YUEN, for a term to expire 6-30-2017 (term amended to 6-30-2018 by GM544).</p>	<p>3/27/2015 2:45 PM</p>
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-  


*Karen Eoff*  
*Hawai'i County Council*  
*District 8, North Kona*  
*323-4280*

**Karen Eoff**  
Council Member, N. Kona  
Chair, Finance Committee



Phone: (808) 323-4280  
Fax: (808) 329-4786  
Email: keoff@hawaiicounty.gov

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 23, 2015

Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

Email: [WTLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:WTLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Email: [senthielen@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senthielen@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
Email: [sengaluteria@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengaluteria@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Re: **Christopher J. Yuen; Confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources - GM541**

Dear Chair Thielen, Vice Chair Galuteria and Senate Committee Members:

I am writing this letter to you today in strong support of Chris Yuen's confirmation (GM514) to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. By law, one member of the BLNR must have a background in conservation and natural resources, and Mr. Yuen was designated to fill that position at the time of appointment in 2014 based on his master's degree in environmental science and work experience.

Mr. Yuen served on the Board of Land and Natural Resources from 1990-1998 under Chairs William Paty, Keith Ahue, and Mike Wilson, and is familiar with the efforts of former Chair, William Aila. Mr. Yuen served as Planning Director for Hawai'i County from 2000 to 2008 and set the foundation for the eventual dedication of the Kekaha Kai State Park and Kohanaiki Shoreline Park into the public trust. Mr. Yuen and I worked together for several years with regard to Kohanaiki.

Mr. Yuen would continue to bring perspective to natural resource management, law, and conservation. He is well versed regarding land use, which knowledge is mandatory to make decisions that the Board of Land and Natural Resources is confronted with. Mr. Yuen currently serves on advisory councils for the Hawai'i Experimental Tropical Forest in Laupahoehoe and Pu'uwa'awa'a.

Over the years, Mr. Yuen has demonstrated his successful negotiating skills and collaborative efforts towards resolving land use issues with regard to land exchanges and acquisitions to preserve beachfront land and open space. For over forty years, his passion for Hawai'i's environment, coupled with experience in State and County Government, makes him ideal to serve on the BLNR.

Mr. Yuen's passion for Hawai'i's environment is unending, and I believe this Hawai'i Island seat has been served excellently by Mr. Yuen and he will continue to serve the Board of Land and Natural Resources with integrity if chosen. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

---

KAREN EOFF, Council Member  
District 8, North Kona

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**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Leimana.K.Damate@hawaii.gov](mailto:Leimana.K.Damate@hawaii.gov)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2015 11:53:07 AM  
**Attachments:** [AMAC Testimony GM 541-WTL 32715.docx](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/26/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leslie Apiu Kuloloio	Aha Moku Advisory Committee	Support	No

Comments: AMAC Executive Director Leimana DaMate will be available to answer questions if needed.

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**Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Aha Moku Advisory Committee  
State of Hawaii  
Post Office Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of  
Leslie Kulolio, Chair  
Aha Moku Advisory Committee

Before the Senate Committee on WATER AND LAND

Friday, March 27, 2015  
2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**Governor's Message No. 541**

**Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Christopher J. Yuen, for a term to expire 6-30-18.**

The Island Po'o of Kahoolawe, Lana'i, O'ahu, Kaua'i and Ni'ihau of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee supports Governor's Message No. 541 on the appointment of Mr. Christopher Yuen to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) for a term to expire on June 30, 2018. We were not able to consult with the Po'o of the Islands of Hawaii, Maui and Moloka'i.

The purpose of the AMAC is to advise the Chairman and the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) on issues related to land and natural resources management through the Aha Moku System, a system of best practices that is based upon the indigenous resource management practices of moku (regional) boundaries which acknowledges the natural contours of land, the specific resources located within those areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain resources and the community.

Mr. Yuen, as a current interim Board Member served with the attention to detail and integrity that he is known for. He works well with members of the AMAC and is deeply aware of the importance of the tasks set before the BLNR. His experience as a former member of the board, his tenure as the Hawaii County Planning Director and his many contributions of insight and advice to the diverse communities of the Island of Hawaii enhances his contributions to the BLNR and solidifies his willingness to serve.

The majority of the AMAC supports the nomination of Christopher Yuen and asks that this Committee approve this confirmation.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [lmccrory@pulamalanai.com](mailto:lmccrory@pulamalanai.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2015 11:20:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [GM541 Chris Yuen to BLNR\\_03-27-15.docx](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/26/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynn McCrory	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony for  
Committee on Water and Land  
Friday, March 27, 2015, 2:45 p.m., Room 224

Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

**GM 541 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee  
Christopher J. Yuen**

Dear Chair Thielen and Members of the Committee:

This letter is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 541 which nominates Christopher J. Yuen for a position on the Board of Land and Natural Resources for a term to expire on June 30, 2018. I am Lynn McCrory, and I served as the Kauai Land Board member with Chris during his earlier term as the Hawaii Board Member.

Chris brought a wealth of information, along with strong reasoning and compassion skills to what were difficult and often times contentious issues. His knowledge of the various divisions and their responsibilities, along with his understanding of the Hawaii Revised Statutes that were applicable to the Board's responsibilities were invaluable. Having been on the Board with Chris, his strengths were accepted and his input was welcomed.

With new Board members it is very important to have the senior Board member who more than likely has seen the issue previously or can apply comparisons that provide information and knowledge to his fellow Board members. His history and passions provide this and more.

I humbly ask that you support for a Board of Land and Natural Resources position GM 541 Christopher J. Yuen. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana  
With warm aloha,

Lynn P. McCrory  
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 23, 2015 5:20:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [CCH testimony GM 541 Yuen.pdf](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marjorie Ziegler	Conservation Council for Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

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**Conservation Council  
for Hawai'i**

*Hawai'i's voice for wildlife*

*Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu*



Testimony Submitted to the  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Hearing: Friday, March 27, 2015 2:45 pm, Room 224

In Support of GM 541

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER J. YUEN, for a term to expire 6-30-2017  
(term amended to 6-30-2018 by GM544)

Aloha, Chair Thielen, Vice Chair Galuteria, and Members of the Committee. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports GM 541 and the nomination of Christopher J. Yuen to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Yuen's love for the land and sea, his legal training, and his past experience on the BLNR and with the County of Hawai'i will serve the board, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the people well.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler

*Conservation Council for Hawai'i is a nonprofit, environmental membership organization dedicated to protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems for future generations.*

*Established in 1950 and based in Honolulu, CCH is one of the largest and most effective wildlife organizations in Hawai'i with more than 5,000 members and supporters, including concerned citizens, educators, scientists, government agencies, and elected officials.*

*Through research, education, service, organizing, and legal advocacy, CCH works to stop the destruction of native wildlife and wild places in Hawai'i.*

*Since 1973, CCH has served as the Hawai'i state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.*

Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org) | web: [www.conservehi.org](http://www.conservehi.org)  
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 | Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Hannah Kihalani Springer | Vice-President: Julie Leialoha | Treasurer: Bianca Isaki | Secretary: Wayne Tanaka  
Directors: Rick Barboza | Ryan Belcher | Maka'ala Ka'auomoana | Koalani Kaulukukui  
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



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**Cc:** [stangonan@tnc.org](mailto:stangonan@tnc.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2015 1:39:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [GM 541 Yuen TNC Testimony 03 27 15.pdf](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Fox	The Nature Conservancy	Support	Yes

Comments:

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The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Program  
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96817

Tel (808) 537-4508  
Fax (808) 545-2019  
nature.org/hawaii

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting GM 541 Gubernatorial Nominee Christopher J. Yuen for  
Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Friday, March 27, 2015, 2:45PM, Room 224**

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*For more than 35 years, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i has been working closely with government agencies, local businesses, private landowners, non-profit partners, and interested communities across the state to preserve the lands and waters upon which all life in these islands depends. The Conservancy is a private non-profit conservation organization that has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i, and support 19 coastal communities seeking to co-manage marine resources in partnership with the State of Hawai'i.*

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**The Nature Conservancy supports the confirmation of Chris Yuen to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.**

We have known Chris for the better part of three decades. As planning director for Hawai'i County and as a BLNR member in the 1990s, Chris consistently demonstrated his deep knowledge, care and priority for the well-being of the natural and cultural resources of Hawai'i. His experience, educational background and personal commitment allowed him to guide important policies and decisions for land use and management. For example, we worked with Chris in considerable detail on collaborative efforts to bring conservation protections to Kahuku Ranch and other areas on Hawai'i island. We are grateful that Chris will again offer his skills to the BLNR.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this nomination.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mark E. Agne Paul D. Alston Alan H. Arizumi Christopher J. Benjamin Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III  
Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge Thomas M. Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes III Mark L. Johnson  
Dr. Kenneth Y. Kaneshiro Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Kathy M. Matsui Wayne K. Minami  
A. Catherine Ngo James C. Polk Chet A. Richardson Jean E. Rolles Scott C. Rolles Crystal K. Rose  
Dustin E. Sellers Dustin M. Shindo Nathan E. Smith Peter K. Tomozawa James Wei Eric K. Yeaman



802 Mapunapuna Street ~ Honolulu, HI 96819 ~ Phone: (808) 538-7051 ~ Fax: (808) 523-7646

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TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF CHRISTOPHER J. YUEN TO THE BOARD OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 541,  
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND.

Senator Thielen and Members of the Committee:

It gives me great pleasure to support the nomination of Chris Yuen to the Board of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Most people know Chris in his capacity as Planning Director on the Big Island or as an attorney in private practice or with the Corporation Counsel. We, at Armstrong Produce, have known Chris for over a decade in a different capacity, as a farmer. Chris and his family operate The Family Farm, along the Hamakua Coast, where they produce some of the state's best lychee every summer. The Yuens are also the only organically certified lychee farm in the state and are very conscientious about land stewardship and natural resource conservation.

After Chris retired from the County as Planning Director back in 2008, he decided to concentrate on farming, enjoy traveling and other more leisurely pursuits. I am very glad that Chris is willing to return to the Land Board to share his vast knowledge and experience in the area of land use and the environment. The State will benefit from Chris' special insights having served eight years on the Land Board as the Big Island representative as well as his years as Hawaii County Planning Director together with his understanding and special reverence for our environment.

As a Land Board member from 1990-1998, he was involved in the revision of conservation district rules, a most daunting task, and the review of more than 400 conservation use permits. Chris has also been involved in community groups to preserve coastlines on the Big Island. I ask that this Committee confirm the nomination of Chris Yuen to the Board of the Department of Land and Natural Resources as he will be an invaluable member to help the Board face many challenges in the years ahead.

Aloha,

Tish Uyehara  
Director of Marketing

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [gqm@biahawaii.org](mailto:gqm@biahawaii.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2015 2:41:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [150327 GM 541 DLNR Christopher Yuen.pdf](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/26/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gladys Quinto Marrone	BIA Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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## Testimony to the Senate Committee on Water and Land Friday, March 27, 2015 2:45 p.m. State Capitol - Conference Room 224

### **RE: Governor's Message 541, Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTOPHER J. YUEN**

Chair Thielen, Vice-Chair Galuteria, and members of the Committee:

My name is Gladys Marrone, Chief Executive Officer for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii), the Voice of the Construction Industry. We promote our members through advocacy and education, and provide community outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. BIA-Hawaii is a not-for-profit professional trade organization chartered in 1955, and affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

BIA-Hawaii **supports** G.M. 541, for the consideration and confirmation to the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, Christopher J. Yuen.

Mr. Yuen has an extensive and successful career serving the residents of the State of Hawaii. He is the owner and manager of The Family Farm, Inc, a certified organic farm, since 1995. He has served as Planning Director, Hawai'i County, from 2000 to 2008. Prior to that he served as an attorney in private practice from 1987 to 2000 and Deputy Corporation Counsel for County of Hawai'i from 1982 to 1987. He also has an extensive history of community involvement including:

- At-large member, Board of Land and Natural Resources, 2014-present
- Advisory Council, Laupahoehoe Experimental Tropical Forest, 2012-present
- Advisory Council, Pu'uwa'awa'a Experimental Tropical Forest, 2012-present
- Hawaii Island Member, Board of Land and Natural Resources, 1990-1998
- Ka 'Ahahui o Pu'uwa'awa'a, Vice-president, 1998-2001
- Friends of Makalawena

We appreciate the opportunity to express our **support** for Christopher J. Yuen to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [amybrinker@mac.com](mailto:amybrinker@mac.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM\*  
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2015 10:48:36 PM

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/26/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [sunshineorchids@gmail.com](mailto:sunshineorchids@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2015 12:26:06 PM

---

**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Darrell Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments: seems to have common sense and intelligence, caring of our natural resources.

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**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kulaiwi@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kulaiwi@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2015 9:25:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [Confirmation of Chris Yuen to BLNR.docx](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Deborah Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Deborah L. Chang  
P.O. Box 202  
Pa`auilo, HI 96776  
March 25, 2015

Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Hawai`i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

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

SUBJECT: GM 541

I ask for your support of Christopher Yuen's appointment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Chris has been serving on the Board since his interim appointment in 2014 and served previously on the Board from 1990-1998.

I have known and worked with Chris for about 30 years in land-use and environmental concerns. He carefully researches issues and seeks sensible, practical, and well-balanced solutions. He cares deeply about the well-being of our islands' natural resources and our people. He will serve with integrity and sincerity. I consider him an ideal candidate for the BLNR.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Deborah Chang  
kulaiwi@hawaiiantel.net

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [diana.vandecar@gmail.com](mailto:diana.vandecar@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 23, 2015 10:07:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [Testimony in Support of GM541.docx](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diana Van De Car	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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DIANA L. VAN DE CAR  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

P. O. BOX 385, VOLCANO, HAWAII 96785  
TELEPHONE (808) 896-3538

March 23, 2015

Senator Laura H. Thielen  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land

Re: Testimony in support of GM541 – Christopher Yuen

Dear Senator Thielen and other members of the committee:

I write in support of the selection of Christopher Yuen to serve as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I have known Mr. Yuen for many years. We shared an office for several years when we were both practicing attorneys in Hilo. Before sharing an office, we worked on many cases together - including cases where we vigorously opposed each other.

Mr. Yuen is a wonderful choice for the Board. He is a former member of the Board, having served from 1990 to 1998. He was later Planning Director for Hawaii County under the administration of Harry Kim. As an attorney, he was involved over the years with a broad range of issues involving land and land use planning. He is well-versed in issues of sustainability and environmental responsibility. His educational background includes a master's degree in environmental science. The experience and skills he brings to the Board are unmatched.

Mr. Yuen is an effective advocate for a position, when advocacy is necessary in a situation. Conversely, he is also an effective facilitator who can bring parties together to find common ground when searching for solutions to issues. His calm demeanor and professionalism are invaluable in difficult situations. He is a quick study, extremely intelligent, and possessed of an abundance of plain common sense. Finally, he is simply an ethical and dedicated professional.

I urge the committee to support his nomination.

Yours truly,

DIANA L. VAN DE CAR

DLV

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dixiekaetsu@gmail.com](mailto:dixiekaetsu@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2015 8:48:31 AM  
**Attachments:** [Chris Yuen confirmation letter.docx](#)

---

**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dixie Kaetsu	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for your consideration.

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Dixie Kaetsu  
P.O. Box 1614  
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

March 25, 2015

Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Laura Thielen, Chair  
Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: GM541 – In **SUPPORT** of the Confirmation of Christopher Yuen to the  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Chair Thielen and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Chris Yuen to the Board of Land and Natural Resources as an at-large member.

I had the pleasure of working closely with Chris when he was the Planning Director for the County of Hawaii and I was the County's Managing Director. He is extremely intelligent, and has encyclopedic knowledge of both planning and environmental laws and issues. His law degree and experience complemented by his master's degree in environmental science would make him a valuable member of the BLNR.

While he was Planning Director his department implemented significant projects such as Community Development Plans, an update to the General Plan, closing loopholes in the condominium property regime laws, and working with communities and developers to make more shoreline access available to the public.

His ability to quickly grasp the essentials of an issue, and to work with developers, environmentalists, and the general public were tremendous assets to the County of Hawaii, and would also be tremendous assets to the State of Hawaii as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for taking the time to read this as you consider the confirmation of Chris Yuen to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I do not think you can find anyone else as qualified and dedicated as Chris.

Aloha,

Dixie Kaetsu  
(808) 345-5586

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [hiloharrykim@gmail.com](mailto:hiloharrykim@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2015 7:38:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [Harry Kim confirmation letter.docx](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/26/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Harry Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Harry Kim  
471 Ho'okipa Place  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

March 26, 2015

Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Laura Thielen, Chair  
Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: GM541 – In Support of the Confirmation of Christopher Yuen to the  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Chair Thielen and Committee Members:

It is an extreme pleasure and honor to have the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the confirmation of Chris Yuen to the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Chris Yuen served as the Planning Director for the County of Hawaii during the years of 2000 through 2008, during my term as Mayor of the County of Hawaii. In every single situation where I needed fair, accurate information and review of land issues, Chris Yuen was my most reliable source that I depended on. It was of extreme confidence that his review and recommendation would be of truth, fairness, and commitment to do what is right by law and for the benefit of Hawaii's people.

Chris Yuen has dedicated his entire adult life to a mission of the protection of Hawaii's land. On a personal basis, I will remember always when I questioned him in my early years of association with him on his principles of decision-making. Mr. Yuen stated that we should always remember that a decision made for land use must be based on law, and above all, listening to the people of the land.

His appointment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources would be such a positive one for Hawaii's people

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

Harry Kim  
(808) 933-9208

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**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jsouki@imanaka-asato.com](mailto:jsouki@imanaka-asato.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2015 9:21:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [CHRISTOPHER YUEN Support Testimony 032715.pdf](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jesse Souki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony on GM541  
Confirmation of Christopher J. Yuen  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

Jesse K. Souki, Esq.

Senate Committee on Water and Land  
March 27, 2015  
2:45 p.m. in Room 224

Chair Thielen, Vice Chair Galuteria and Committee Members:

I respectfully request your **support** in confirming the appointment of Christopher J. Yuen to serve on the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), under the guidance of BLNR, manages and regulates millions of acres of public lands consistent with the overarching principles of the public trust doctrine and the state's responsibility to ensure that native Hawaiians are able to continue their traditional and cultural practices on public lands. Mr. Yuen's demeanor, intellect, and experience will help lead to better decisions about preserving, protecting, and managing Hawaii's natural resources for current and future generations.

As the recent past first deputy of DLNR, I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Yuen who has been serving on BLNR since last year. I appreciated Mr. Yuen's calm, rational presence, and his deep understanding of the issues that confront a public agency making complex, multidimensional decisions on land use matters. Mr. Yuen draws from his experience having served on BLNR from 1990 to 1998, as Hawaii County planning director, and as a Hawaii County corporation counsel. His current work as a successful farmer and membership on the advisory councils for the Laupahoehoe and Puuwaawaa Experimental Tropical Forest, adds to his practical knowledge of real and current issues affecting Hawaii's public lands.

I am confident that Mr. Yuen will serve BLNR, Governor Ige, and the people of Hawaii well.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jreppun@keyproject.org](mailto:jreppun@keyproject.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2015 12:30:31 PM

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/26/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John L. Reppun	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please accept my strong support for nominee Chris Yuen, His extensive experience, expertise and passion make him an exemplary candidate for service on and with the State of Hawaii's Board of Land & Natural Resources. John L. Reppun, Resident of Ko`olaupoko, O`ahu.

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**Cc:** [krk@hawaiilawyer.com](mailto:krk@hawaiilawyer.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:58:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [KRK Testimony re Christopher Yuen Nomination.PDF](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/24/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kenneth R. Kupchak	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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Kenneth R. Kupchak  
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1600  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
krk@hawaiilawyer.com  
Tel: (808) 531-8031 Fax: (808) 533-2242

March 24, 2015

Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senate, State of Hawaii  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of the Nomination of Christopher J. Yuen  
To the Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Hearing: March 27, 2015 at 2:45 pm

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Kenneth R. Kupchak. I support the nomination of Christopher J. Yuen as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources ("BLNR").

In complex Kahauale'a geothermal contested case proceedings before the BLNR, circa 1982- 1988, I first met Chris Yuen. He represented the County of Hawaii as its Deputy Corporation Council in those proceedings. I was representing many other parties in those matters, who, at times, strongly differed with many of the County's positions. Despite the considerable differences of opinions between our clients, we began to get to know each other which evolved into first trust and then genuine professional respect.

Since then our paths have crossed many times, sometimes on the same side, sometimes on parallel sides and, on occasion, opposite sides. What started as a professional relationship soon burgeoned into a social relationship and an enduring friendship.

Mr. Yuen is a child of the Big Island. His parents were significant members of the Island's community. As a result, from the earliest age, Chris came to understand and appreciate the many evolving issues affecting the Big Island, including its people, its land and its environment, both culturally and scientifically.

As an adult, Chris Yuen has been active in practically every aspect of Big Island life, as I am sure that others have and will testify. This included passage from student to teacher, to administrator, to practicing lawyer, to farmer, to parent of a number of community spirited constructive, positive contributors, one of which we tried, unsuccessfully, to recruit as a teacher at Mid-Pacific Institute where I serve as Chair of the Board.

Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senate, State of Hawaii  
March 24, 2015  
Page 2

Constructive and positive are traits that exemplify Chris Yuen as well as his children. He has always maintained an open mind with an eye toward making the Big Island a better place to live. He has continually demonstrated this as Planning Director, BLNR and LUC member, or provider of pro bono services to those who could not represent themselves where an important Big Island issue needed to be publically considered.

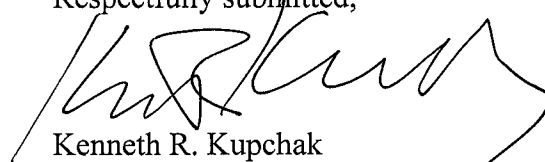
Chris is considerate of the views of others and seeks to find common ground. There may be no subject that you cannot discuss in depth with him. He is constructively inquisitive, trustworthy and genuinely interested in the welfare and well-being of those that he meets. He does not talk up or down to people, but rather he talks with them as equals.

BLNR may well be the most complex State Agency ever created. Its mandate is varied and, some say, may on occasion be inconsistent or even conflicting. This is yet another good reason why Mr. Yuen is well suited to serve on this Board. Where appropriate, he can be expected to search for a balance and/or meld of apparent inconsistencies and conflicts, consistent with the intent of the laws and rules in play in a logical and positive manner.

For these and many similar reasons, I strongly support the nomination and urge the Senate's consent.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenneth R. Kupchak

KRK:kynf  
271600

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [changkwaix@aol.com](mailto:changkwaix@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2015 8:02:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [KC Support of GM 541 3-27-15.pdf](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/26/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony of Kevin K.J.Chang  
Before The Senate  
Committee on Water & Land **IN SUPPORT OF GM 541**  
Support of Christopher Yuen, Nominee, Board of Land and Natural Resources  
Friday, March 27, 2015, 2:45PM, Room 224

My name is Kevin Chang and I support our Governor's nomination (GM 541) of Mr. Christopher Yuen to the State Board of Land and Natural Resources.

I am an attorney and have worked in the field of cultural and natural resource management for almost 10 years now. In those years I worked in the large conservation NGO sector, in government at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and now in my capacity as the Executive Director of state based Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA) where we work to support and empower grassroots community based management efforts. My service and work have been both on the ground and at the policy level.

One of the first people I ever worked with in the field of land conservation was Mr. Yuen whose dedication and passion to protect and wisely manage our public trust resources has resonated with me ever since. At the time of my meeting him (we have only spoken over the phone) he was a newly retired from the County of Hawai'i. My task as a young land conservation staff member was to engage him to continue in dialogue with a land owner to trade lands for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i County. Though I do not know if this transaction has ever been completed- it had its own complications- I was impressed by the voluntary spirit and passion Mr. Yuen chose to have and continue to help facilitate a public benefit irregardless of his personal obligations.

I support this nomination because I believe Mr. Yuen takes kuleana and the public trust seriously.

Mahalo for this opportunity.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mchang187@yahoo.com](mailto:mchang187@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM\*  
**Date:** Friday, March 20, 2015 4:46:35 PM

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/20/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [npisicchio@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:npisicchio@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 23, 2015 7:21:53 AM  
**Attachments:** [GM541 Chris Yuen 2015.docx](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy Pisicchio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Nancy Pisicchio**

78-7240 Kuakini Hwy  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
Phone: (808) 322-3118  
Email: npisicchio@hawaii.rr.com

3/23/15

Senator Laura Thielan, Chair  
Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Land and Water  
415 South Beretania Street  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Board of Land and Natural Resources, GM541

Dear Senator Thielan,

As a former member of the Hawaii County Council, I am writing to you to express my support of the application submitted by Mr. Chris Yuen to be reappointed to sit on the State Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Mr. Yuen's education, work history and interest in resource management makes him especially qualified to serve in this capacity.

In addition, his pragmatic approach to problem solving is an important tool in seeking attainable solutions to sometimes complex issues impacting Hawaii's natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy Pisicchio

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 23, 2015 7:46:53 AM  
**Attachments:** [Chris Yuen.docx](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert T. Nishimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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PO Box 90  
Ninole, Hawaii 96773  
March 22, 2015

TO: Senator Laura Thielen  
FR: Dr. Robert T. Nishimoto  
RE: Support for Mr. Chris Yuen

This memo is in support for Mr. Chris Yuen to be confirmed as Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR) Land Board member. I first met Chris when I was employed as an Aquatic Biologist for the Division of Aquatic Resources in Hilo. I find Chris to be very deliberative and thoughtful when rendering any decision as a government official or Board member. His training as an attorney includes extensive education in community and environmental issues. His abilities would be an appropriate fit on the DLNR Land Board, which is a very significant, deliberative body which holds Hawaii's sustainable future in their hands.

Chris' tenure as the Planning Director for the County of Hawaii will serve the State and natural resources well, since he can relate to local government issues. As a recent retiree living in this County and as an active participant in the Planning Department hearings, I see a vacuum for improved cooperation between these two levels of government. Although community decisions should be local, environmental threats are still global. Most threatening is climate change. The best insurance to face the inevitable is to maintain healthy native habitats, crowned with a resilient *mauka-makai* connectivity. I believe Chris has this vision and will always be vigilant about healthy native habitats as a necessary pre-cursor for a sustainable Hawaii.

Chris lives in Ninole, a small rural town along the Hamakua Coast, where I grew up and now reside. Chris is an active participant in the community. We serve together on the Laupahoehoe Forest Advisory Council. Chris can be a voice for our rural *kama'aina* residents, where many of us feel disenfranchised. State government is becoming less concerned about the environment. The focus continues to be Oahu-centric and unresponsive to outer island needs and input.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Chris Yuen as a member of the DLNR Land Board.

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To: [WTLTestimony](#)  
Cc: [rterry@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:rterry@hawaii.rr.com)  
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 8:54:24 AM

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Terry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This testimony is to recommend confirmation of Christopher Yuen as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Mr. Yuen, an attorney and farmer, served for eight years from 2000-2008 as Planning Director for the County of Hawai'i, prior to which he served for eight years as a BLNR member. Along with many citizens of the State of Hawai'i, I was delighted in March of last year to learn that he was interested in serving again; from what I have seen, he has done a very creditable job in successfully balancing the many interests at play. He has seen the County and State governments from many perspectives. He was instrumental in helping create the Kekaha Kai State Park, which consists of the land between Kua Bay and Mahaiula and may be the most beautiful State Park in all of Hawai'i, with its beaches frequently ranked as "Top Ten". The vision he and others like him promoted helped set the culturally and environmentally sensitive tone for the park that distinguishes it further. He also helped create and nurture the Pu'u Wa'awa'a Advisory Council and was instrumental in forming the management plan for this ahupua'a, a model for others in the State. On the Board, Mr. Yuen has always been diligent about reading and understanding and carefully considering the staff material provided to the BLNR, a significant task given its volume. He was also open to comments and questions from members of the public, taking his role humbly but seriously. It is very important that BLNR members are sincere, open, intelligent, judicious, experienced and a team player. Mr. Yuen meets all of these tests completely. Please confirm him so that he can continue doing excellent work for all the people of Hawai'i. Sincerely Ron Terry, Hilo

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 25, 2015 1:43:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [BLNR.SUPPORT.TESTIMONY.C.YUEN.pdf](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/25/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stanley H. Roehrig	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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LAW OFFICES OF  
**STANLEY H. ROEHRIG**  
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March 25, 2015

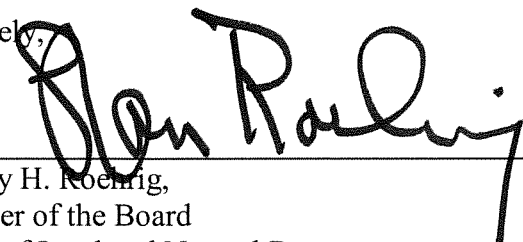
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chairperson  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania  
Honolulu, Hawaii

RE: CHISTOPHER YUEN  
Board Member / Board of Land and Natural Resources

Dear Chairperson Thielen, Vice Chair Galuteria and Committee Members:

My name is Stanley H. Roehrig. I have known Chris Yuen as a fellow Big Island attorney for many years. He made his mark on county government as a no-nonsense Planning Director who stabilized subdivision, development, and SMA related problems here in our county. As a member of the Board during the last seven months, he has repeatedly engineered sensible solutions to complex dockets relating to both land management and conservation related issues that confronted the Board. He provides a steady balance to our Big Island Land Board team. He is a valuable member for our State. Please confirm him.

Sincerely,

  
Stanley H. Roehrig,  
Member of the Board  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

SHR/jmm

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**Cc:** [tishau@armstrongproduce.com](mailto:tishau@armstrongproduce.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM541 on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 23, 2015 12:20:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [Testimony Chris Yuen.pdf](#)

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**GM541**

Submitted on: 3/23/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 27, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
tish uyehara	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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**From:** [U Woodside](#)  
**To:** [WTLTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: GM541 - Chris Yuen support  
**Date:** Thursday, March 26, 2015 6:51:19 AM  
**Attachments:** [C Yuen support.docx](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

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Aloha Senator Thielen,  
Attached is my support for Chris Yuen's appointment to the BLNR.  
Mahalo,  
Ulalia

March 26, 2015

Senator Laura Thielen  
Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 231  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM541 - Chris Yuen; BLNR

Aloha mai kāua,

I am pleased to offer my support to Chris Yuen's appointment to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. I have served with Chris on the Board since July. He brings extensive understanding of both the natural resources of Hawai'i and the legal framework and case law related to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. These contributions have provided helpful background and context to the discussions and deliberations before the Board. I respectfully request the support of the Senate Committee on Water and Land in confirming the appointment of Chris Yuen as a member of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Na'u me ka mahalo,  
Ulalia Woodside