

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1989

Honolulu, Hawaii

**APR 25 2023**

RE: GOV. MSG. NO. 541

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred Governor's Message No. 541, submitting for study and consideration the nomination of:

MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

G.M. No. 541      JOHN KOMEIJI,  
for a term to expire 06-30-2025 (role  
amended to Chairperson by G.M. No.  
609),

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal history, resume, and statement submitted by John Komeiji for service as the Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the appointment of Mr. Komeiji from the Hawaiian Civic Club of Hilo; Matson Navigation Company, Inc.; Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope Corporation; and twelve individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to the nomination for the appointment of Mr. Komeiji from one individual.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Mr. Komeiji's background, experience, and dedication to community service qualify him to be appointed as Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. Mr. Komeiji was selected to represent the Authority as an individual with business and finance experience who has previous administrative experience in managing a large private-sector business and was concurrently

2023-2721 GM SSCR SMA.docx



nominated to serve as the interim Chairperson by former Governor David Ige. Prior to leading the Authority, Mr. Komeiji held the highly esteemed position of General Counsel and Vice President of the Kamehameha Schools. Mr. Komeiji also previously served as the President and General Manager of the local communications services giant, Hawaiian Telcom, following its acquisition by Cincinnati Bell in 2018. Before obtaining the top leadership role, Mr. Komeiji served as the Chief Administrative Officer and General Counsel of Hawaiian Telcom for over a decade. Further, prior to his transition to in-house counsel, Mr. Komeiji served as a named partner at the prominent local law firm, Watanabe Ing LLP (formerly known as Watanabe Ing and Komeiji LLP).

Mr. Komeiji is also active in the community and has served on numerous for-profit and nonprofit boards. Mr. Komeiji currently serves on the board of The 200 Club, an organization comprising two hundred businesses and community leaders who support the Honolulu Police Department and Honolulu Fire Department. He also serves as Assistant Treasurer of the University of Hawaii Alumni Association. Mr. Komeiji additionally is the former president of the Hawaii State Bar Association. Mr. Komeiji earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of California Hastings College of Law and his Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Your Committee finds that Mr. Komeiji, with his demonstrated ability to lead and oversee large scale private-sector businesses and nonprofit organizations, possesses the requisite qualifications to serve as the Chairperson of the Authority. Mr. Komeiji is a proven and trustworthy leader who is capable of executing boardroom-level strategic plans and carrying out an organization's vision, mission, and purpose. Mr. Komeiji received near-unanimous support from testifiers, many of whom praised his integrity, leadership, and commitment to solving problems in the "Hawaii way". Your Committee also believes that Mr. Komeiji's background in mediation will serve him well, as he moves the Authority forward and engages with the community to resolve the many complex issues surrounding Mauna Kea. Your Committee finds that Mr. Komeiji has a thorough understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Chairperson of the Authority and therefore recommends that John Komeiji be appointed as Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority based on his knowledge, experience, and commitment to public service.



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

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

  
LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

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

Governor's Message No.:* GM541	Committee Referral: WTL	Date: 4/12/23
-----------------------------------	----------------------------	------------------

The Committee is reconsidering its decision

The Recommendation is:

Advise and Consent 2340       Not Advise and Consent 2345

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
INOUE, Lorraine R. (C)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley				✓
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Recommendation:  Adopted       Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:



Distribution:      Original      Yellow      Pink      Goldenrod  
 File with Committee Report      Clerk's Office      Drafting Agency      Committee File Copy

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