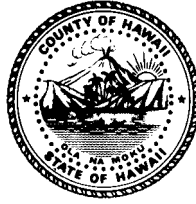


**Susan L.K. Lee Loy**  
Council Member  
District 3



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## **HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL**

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

March 5, 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 627: Nomination of Benjamin Kudo to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to express support for Mr. Benjamin Kudo to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority

I have known Mr. Kudo for nearly 30 years and in that span of time our professional careers have crossed multiple times. Mr. Kudo has taught me many valuable lessons about patience and consensus building along with hearing individual perspectives and concerns. Each and every time, Mr. Kudo has been a leveling and calming influence for group discussions.

I have every reason to believe Mr. Kudo will continue to provide effective contributions to our communities and will be an excellent addition to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

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



**SanHi**

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: March 6, 2024

TO: Senator Lorraine R. Inouye  
Chair, Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Rick Tsujimura

RE: **GM 627 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Benjamin Kudo, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.  
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room: 229**

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

I write in support of Ben Kudo to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

Ben and I have been personal friends for over 50 years. We've worked together for 40 years. I can vouch for Ben's integrity and dedication to the State of Hawaii. He is a team player and his presence on the Authority will assist the discussions on responsible stewardship of Mauna Kea.

I urge your favorable consideration of his nomination.

**GM-627**

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 3:55:29 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jesse K. Souki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I appreciate the opportunity to register my support for the confirmation of Benjamin Kudo, to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**GM-627**

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 6:41:00 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Richard Matsuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of WTL,

I strongly support confirmation of Ben Kudo as a member of the MKSOA. Ben's expertise, experience, and efforts have been essential to the complex work involved in the transition, and he has demonstrated a strong commitment to moving it forward. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**GM-627**

Submitted on: 3/5/2024 2:10:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/6/2024 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
K. Piltz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair and Committee Members:

I write in very strong support of Benjamin Kudo for consideration and confirmation to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, for a term to expire 6-30-2027.

Mr. Kudo has many years of practicing in the area of land use, and shares his vast knowledge and experiences with many aspiring students and those that just want to learn about Hawaii's many land use laws.

He is creative and finds workable solutions between adverse parties when dealing with large community groups.

His past and present experiences will serve him well as a member of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. I strongly urge this committee to support his nomination. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.