

March 16, 2025

Attn: Senator Chris Lee

Chair, Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

RE: GM 683 - Nomination to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board

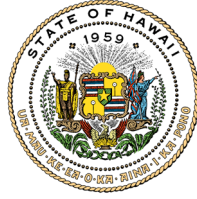
1. The preservation and protection of historic places in Hawai'i continues to be an urgent issue and area of needed attention as our islands continue to change in so many ways. My desire to serve as a member of the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board is rooted in service, by carrying forth and upholding my civic, professional, and cultural responsibilities to our community.
2. My understanding is that the board meets quarterly to review and vote upon applications (via SHPD) to the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places, and can further nominate residences (or sites) to the National register. In reviewing these applications, the members' decisions are based on whether the residence meets the criteria for the register.
3. My appointment is for the vacant "History" seat on the board. I am currently an Assistant Professor in the History Department at UH-Mānoa; my research and teaching is primarily rooted in 19th century and early 20th century Hawai'i. Outside of my university role, I also do public-facing work in the community. With the exception of attending the University of California, Irvine for my PhD program; I have lived in Hawai'i (O'ahu and Hawai'i Island) my entire life. I am a product of the public school system, Kamehameha Schools, and the UH system. I offer both my personal (lived experience) and professional knowledge of Hawai'i; understanding historical context is a key factor in the deciding criteria for the register. Beyond the historical expertise, I bring other necessary professional skills in reading comprehension, critical thinking, effective communication, and the ability to work in a team setting.
4. If confirmed, the primary goal within my term is to effectively and efficiently approve all eligible nominations that meet the criteria for the register. I would also like to encourage more of our community members to submit applications to protect our historically significant places, especially those related to Native Hawaiian history and culture.
5. I have no conflicting interests, nor foresee any arising conflicts, that would prevent me from effectively and ethically serving on the Hawai'i Historical Places Review Board.

Noah P. H. Dolim



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

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE  
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  
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
Acting Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Wednesday, March 18, 2026  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of  
Governor's Message 683, Submitting for Consideration to the  
Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
Dr. Noah Dolim

The Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board (Board) was established under Section 6E-5.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to evaluate and determine if historic properties are to be entered into the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places and which nominations of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places will be approved by the Board. Dr. Noah Dolim is nominated to serve as a member representing History on the Board. If confirmed, Dr. Dolim will serve until June 30, 2030. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this nomination.**

Dr. Dolim holds a Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Irvine, as well as a Master of Arts in History from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. His research and teaching focus on the history of Hawai'i and the Pacific, including Native Hawaiian political, cultural, and archival histories. He has taught courses on the Hawaiian Kingdom, the United States in the Pacific, and Hawaiian historical research. Dr. Dolim has contributed to scholarship through publications and forthcoming book chapters on Native Hawaiian history and cultural stewardship, and he regularly presents his research at academic conferences and public lectures. His work also extends to public history through consulting, media appearances, and collaborations with educational and cultural organizations.

In addition to his academic work, Dr. Dolim is engaged in community service and cultural stewardship. He has served as a board member of Hui Mālama Makanalua since 2014 and is active in professional organizations including the American Historical Association and the Western History Association. His academic training, teaching experience, and commitment to public history and community engagement provide a strong foundation for contributing historical expertise to the work of the Board.

For these reasons, Dr. Dolim is well qualified to serve as the historian member of the Board.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Dr. Dolim.

**GM-683**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:29:09 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Harrison Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Hearing Committee:

I write to wholeheartedly endorse Noah Dolim for the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board. My name is Harrison Kim, a faculty colleague in the Department of History at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I teach and do research on the history of East Asia. In the Department of History, Professor Dolim and I teach a course on historical theory and methods, mostly geared for junior history majors. This course is the first step of serious research for young history majors. Professor Dolim's course is an inspiration for these students. His knowledge and passion for history are second to none. Moreover, he is a fast rising star in the field of Hawaiian History in the United States. His research and teaching have put the History Department on the map as the top institution for Hawaiian and Pacific studies. I cannot think of a better scholar than Professor Dolim to join the Historic Places Review Board. I support this effort without any reservation. Thank you very much.

Harrison Kim, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Hawaii at Manoa

**GM-683**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 7:32:39 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Department of History at UH Mānoa to strongly support the nomination of NOAH DOLIM for the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board, for the term to expire 06-30-2030.

Dr. Dolim is an Assistant Professor in the UHM History Dep't and an expert in the history of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century Hawai'i. Together with his fluency in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and his archivally based scholarship on the complex and contested transitional period from Kingdom to Territory, Dr. Dolim's deeply rooted place-based understanding of the islands as home make him an exceptionally knowledgeable and compelling candidate for the HHPRB.

As noted in a recent Civil Beat article (Kirsten Downey, Sept. 26, 2025), Hawai'i ranks dead last among all fifty states in its number of historical markers (only 251 compared with similarly-sized New Jersey, which has 4,715). Yet the state is home to a diverse array of people who revere and recount the islands' history and are eager to share its complexity, richness, and depth with others, including the thousands of visitors who come to the state every year. Far more work is needed to identify and amplify the innumerable sites that comprise Hawai'i's past -- and who better to help the HHPRB make this happen than Dr. Dolim, an emerging leader in Hawaiian historical research and a thoughtful teacher whose courses reach students of all levels, from freshmen to PhD.

In addition to his contributions as a scholar and teacher, Dr. Dolim is an all-around nice guy: he is warm, patient, generous, and judicious -- a true team player who will bring both insight and collegiality to the HHPRB's important efforts.

By serving in this capacity, he will not only strengthen the essential ties between UHM and the community that we serve, he will also help to ensure that the board effectively and meaningfully fulfills its mission of expert review of nominated sites for the State and National Register of Historic Places. I give him my highest recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Prof. Kieko Matteson, Chair, Department of History, UH Mānoa

**GM-683**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 8:33:29 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I respectfully submit testimony in support of the confirmation of Dr. Noah Hanohano Dolim to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board.

Dr. Dolim's historical research examines the experiences of Kanaka 'Ōiwi and the broader historical forces that shaped communities across the islands. His scholarship reflects a strong engagement with Hawai'i's historical record and an understanding of how culture, leadership, and place are intertwined in the islands' past.

This perspective will be valuable to the Board as it carries out its responsibility to recognize and protect sites of historical and cultural importance. Dr. Dolim's background will help inform thoughtful consideration of the many layers of meaning that historic places hold for Hawai'i's communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Board to confirm Dr. Noah Hanohano Dolim.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Na'u nō,

Jenna K. Waipa

**GM-683**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 1:24:49 PM

Testimony for WLA on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wensheng Wang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai‘i Historic Places Review Board,

My name is Wensheng Wang, and I am an Association Professor of History at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I am writing in strong support of the nomination of my department colleague, Dr. Noah Dolim, for a seat on the Hawai‘i Historic Places Review Board.

I have had the opportunity to observe Dr. Dolim’s teaching in our department, including a lecture he delivered in his upper-division course on Hawaiian history focusing on the history of leprosy in Hawai‘i. This class demonstrated not only his scholarly expertise but also his deep commitment to public history and to preserving and interpreting places that carry profound historical meaning for the people of Hawai‘i.

During the lecture, Dr. Dolim guided students through the history of Kalaupapa and the forced isolation of patients on Moloka‘i. Through maps, photographs, primary sources, and survivor testimonies, he helped students understand how historical sites are not merely locations on a map but places where human experiences—suffering, resilience, and community—unfolded. Particularly powerful was his use of letters between Peter Young Ka‘eō and Queen Emma, as well as memoirs from former patients, which brought to life the voices of individuals directly connected to these historic sites.

One moment that stood out was his presentation of Bernard Punikaia’s song “Where Birds Never Fly,” written during the 1983 Hale Mohalu eviction protest. By connecting this musical testimony to the history of Kalaupapa and Hawai‘i’s broader medical history, Dr. Dolim showed students how historic places continue to shape contemporary memory, activism, and identity. The students were visibly engaged and moved, demonstrating the impact of his approach to teaching history through place-based narratives.

Dr. Dolim also shared his own experience visiting Kalaupapa as a student, describing the emotional experience of honoring those buried there. This personal reflection underscored his deep respect for Hawai‘i’s historic sites and the communities connected to them. It is precisely this combination of scholarly rigor, cultural sensitivity, and public engagement that would make him an excellent member of the Hawai‘i Historic Places Review Board.

Based on my observation of his teaching and my experience working alongside him as a colleague, I strongly believe that Dr. Dolim would bring thoughtful judgment, historical expertise, and a deep commitment to preserving Hawai‘i’s heritage to the Board.

For these reasons, I **strongly support Dr. Dolim’s nomination** and respectfully recommend that the committee approve his appointment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,  
Wensheng Wang  
Associate Professor of History  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

**GM-683**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 6:49:11 AM

Testimony for WLA on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica LaBriola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony for GM 683

TO: Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

FROM: Dr. Monica LaBriola

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 1:00 PM

RE: SUPPORT for GM 683, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, **DR. NOAH DOLIM**.

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of **Dr. Noah Dolim** to the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board.

Dr. Dolim is exceptionally qualified for this role, bringing a unique combination of academic rigor, historical expertise, and deep cultural knowledge. His commitment to teaching and learning and to fostering a positive and collaborative work environment also sets him apart.

As a professor of Hawaiian History at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Dr. Dolim's professional life is dedicated to the study and preservation of Hawai'i's past. His position as a trained historian and professor will provide the board with a high level of expertise in historical research methods and the evaluation of archival sources and data. As a Kanaka Maoli scholar, he possesses the cultural literacy and lived experience required to identify and advocate for historic sites that hold deep spiritual and ancestral significance to the Native Hawaiian community-- among others. His presence also has the potential to foster a more informed approach to Hawai'i's history by bringing together the state's preservation efforts and key members of the academic community.

As a colleague of Dr. Dolim, I can also attest that he is an outstanding collaborator who brings a spirit of partnership to every project. Beyond his historical knowledge and training, he maintains a consistently positive attitude and is a pleasure to work with.

Dr. Dolim's commitment to his students and to his field exemplifies the leadership needed to protect Hawai'i's storied places and landscapes. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend his appointment.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dr. Monica C. LaBriola  
Assistant Professor of History (Pacific Islands)  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**LATE**

**GM-683**

Submitted on: 3/18/2026 9:38:06 AM  
Testimony for WLA on 3/18/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jaynal Ioane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members of the Committee,

I write this to express my strong support of GM 683 for the consideration and confirmation of the gubernatorial nominee, Dr. Noah Dolim, to the Hawai‘i Historic Places Review Board.

Dr. Dolim is a professor of Hawaiian History at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and is recognized as an expert in his field. His scholarship reflects a deep and rigorous understanding of Hawai‘i’s history, especially highlighting the roles of communities underrepresented in academia. His work demonstrates a strong commitment to uplifting the stories, places, and cultural knowledge that shape our islands.

Dr. Dolim’s expertise in Hawaiian history, combined with his genuine commitment to community engagement, makes him exceptionally well-qualified to serve on the Hawai‘i Historic Places Review Board. His perspective will be invaluable in guiding thoughtful, culturally informed decisions about the preservation and protection of our historic spaces.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support and confirm Dr. Noah Dolim to the Hawai‘i Historic Places Review Board.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo nui,

Jaynal Ioane