

Kim A Falinski – Confirmation
Legacy Land Conservation Commission

1. Why do you wish to serve as a member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission?

As this is my second term on the Commission, I am well aware of the importance and mission of the Commission, and the role of the Commissioner in reviewing proposals. My reasons for serving are that I feel that the program is one of the most valuable ways to ensure conservation for future generations is enabled, and it is a gift to be involved in that process. I have a unique role in Hawaii in being able to know and collaborate with many conservation non-profits and State agencies across the State through my profession, and can provide insight into proposals and their value relative to all of the good work going on. In my personal capacity, I hope to be able to volunteer my time to LLCC.

2. What is your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission?

The role of the Commissioner on LLCC is to provide expert guidance on the validity of the proposals submitted. The Commissioners, in their exploration of each of the proposals through site visits, testimony and review of the written submissions, should be able to listen well, understand conservation real estate and non-profit management, and be able to provide recommendations within the HRS rules provided to the Commission.

3. Based on your understanding of the role and responsibilities of this position, please explain why you believe you are qualified to serve. Include a brief description of the skills, experience, expertise, or knowledge you would bring to the Commission and how they would inform your decision-making.

I am honored to be considered for this second term. I believe that I am qualified to serve because first and foremost, I am interested in protecting land for the benefit of all our current and future residents of Hawaii.

I bring specialized skills to the table to be able to review the proposals. In addition to my first four year term on the Commission, I also served for two years on the County of Honolulu's Clean Water Natural Lands Commission. Being able to see the details of the proposals for conservation value and feasibility is something that has been learned on the job for me.

Professionally, I am a license civil engineer focusing on water resources. I have a doctorate degree from UHM that focused on estimating soil erosion from different conservation techniques and the effects on coastal water quality. My professional experience at understanding water resources, wetlands and coastal resources has served well in previous Commissioner roles in being able to understand the value of the properties reviewed. I continue to learn more about conservation easements, and through the variety of projects I've seen over the last ten years, am more comfortable asking good questions of applicants about varying aspects of their proposals.

4. If confirmed, what goals or priorities would you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

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First, I hope to be able to review the proposals each year using good values, and contribute respectfully to the ratings process that makes applicants feel valued for their time and effort.

For the Commission, I hope to continue to advocate for its value in the Legislature. Many people have already received the benefits from the program, and we need to continue to make sure it is protected for future applicants.

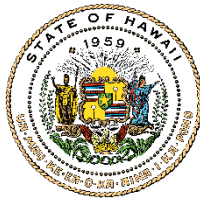
Lastly, as a second term Commissioner, I look forward to helping to onboard the newer members, by leading trip and reports and helping to explain the review process.

5. Do you believe there is anything that could reasonably be perceived by the public as creating a conflict of interest or otherwise raise questions regarding your character, judgment, or ability to serve impartially on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission? If so, please explain.

I do not think there is anything substantial that could be perceived as a conflict. My employer of the last 10 years sometimes collaborates on proposals, and for those proposals I recuse myself to avoid a perception of conflict.

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

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LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

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

Wednesday, April 15, 2026
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 691
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE
LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
KIM FALINSKI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2030

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 691, nominating Kim Falinski to serve on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (Commission) for a second four-year term. Ms. Falinski resides in the County of Honolulu and possesses the scientific qualifications required under sections 173A-2.4(a) and 173A-2.4(a)(1), Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

Ms. Falinski brings substantial expertise in assessing site conditions and evaluating resource conservation options, grounded in her strong statewide connections with community-based science and natural resource management initiatives. She is deeply committed to maintaining the integrity of the Commission's decision-making processes and actively contributes to transparent public discussion of the Commission's work.

Her record of science-based environmental stewardship and meaningful community engagement underscores her strong qualifications for continued service on the Commission. The Department strongly supports Governor's Message 691 and respectfully recommends that the Senate confirm the appointment of Kim Falinski for a second four-year term.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this nominee.

North Shore Hydrological Services

Matt Rosener, MS, PE, Principal

April 14, 2026

To whom it may concern:

Regarding GM691, this is a letter of support for the nomination of Dr. Kim Falinski for a position on the state's Legacy Land Conservation Commission (LLCC), for a new term to expire June 30, 2030. Knowing Kim personally, and having worked with her professionally over the years, I expect her to bring an important perspective to the decisions made by the Commission based on her unique experience working at the intersection of earth science and natural resource management in Hawai'i.

Like Kim, I was trained as an engineer and scientist, but I also work in resource management which has provided significant hands-on experience implementing resource conservation and restoration in Hawai'i. From this, I understand many of the real challenges to implementing conservation projects in the islands, and I know that Kim understands these very well too. With her technical background and a firm grasp of the hard realities facing us in achieving conservation goals, I feel that Kim is well-positioned to substantially contribute to the LLCC mission of prioritizing state funding to acquire land and protect valuable resources for public benefit.

I know Kim highly values the opportunity to give back to her community through this role, and I think her voice is important in the decisions made by the Commission for the benefit of all Hawai'i. So, without hesitation, I strongly recommend that Kim Falinski be confirmed for a 2nd term on the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Rosener". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matt Rosener

Hydrologist/Water Resource Engineer

GM-691

Submitted on: 4/10/2026 5:09:09 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Matt Yamashita | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Matt Yamashita, a lifelong resident of Molokai and an Emmy award winning filmmaker with over 25 years in the business as well as over 20 years of volunteering on local nonprofit boards.

As a filmmaker I have produced literally hundreds of short documentaries about organizations and agencies working in the field of environmental conservation and stewardship, including films for: Conservation International, TNC, The Goldman Environmental Prize, DLNR, Hawaii Land Trust, and countless other clients. These stories have taken me around Hawaii and the world and have allowed me to meet and learn about the work of many passionate and brilliant individuals.

On a film shoot in 2024 for The Nature Conservancy I had the pleasure of interviewing and filming Kim Falinski doing water monitoring on the south shore of Molokai. I have since had many other encounters with Kim. Most recently I presented to the Legacy Land Commission on behalf of Hui Wa'a o Molokai, a Molokai-based nonprofit hoping to steward 24 acres of wetlands in Kaunakakai. In this capacity I was able to witness Kim in her role as a Legacy Land commissioner.

In every interaction I have had with Kim, she has deeply impressed me. Not just with her immense knowledge of the field she works in, but also in her caring and passion for protecting Hawaii's natural landscapes as well as towards the communities who are connected to these spaces.

Again, my career has allowed me to meet many amazing people working in this field. Kim truly stands out among them and I feel the Legacy Land Commission is fortunate to have her. I fully support her serving a second term on the commission and know that she will continue to be an invaluable asset to the work it does.

Mahalo nui,

Matt Yamashita

GM-691

Submitted on: 4/10/2026 6:06:22 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Justin Brackett | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Kim Falinski works tirelessly to make the best possible decisions for our community through this Commission. She strives to consider various points of view while looking out for what's best for us all.

As a beekeeper, environmentalist, and proponent of Hawaiian culture, I can't think of anyone better suited to lead us forward. I testify today in support of Kim Falinski being appointed to a second term serving on the State's Legacy Lands Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

GM-691

Submitted on: 4/11/2026 7:12:00 AM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Tyrone Montayre | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Kim Falinski to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission.

I have had the opportunity to know Kim as a person of integrity, fairness, and deep commitment to the values that guide stewardship in Hawai‘i. She consistently demonstrates a strong ethical foundation and approaches her work with thoughtfulness and balance. Her passion for mālama ‘āina is evident in both her actions and her character, and she brings a genuine respect for the relationship between people and place.

Kim’s ability to listen, consider multiple perspectives, and make thoughtful decisions rooted in ‘ike and kuleana makes her well-suited to serve on the Commission. I am confident that she will uphold the mission of protecting and preserving Hawai‘i’s precious natural and cultural resources for future generations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of her confirmation.

Sincerely,
Tyrone Montayre

GM-691

Submitted on: 4/13/2026 8:31:46 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Chris Frendreis | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Regarding Dr. Kim Falinski's nomination to the Legacy Lands Conservation Commission, I wholeheartedly support this nomination, and feel that Kim Falinski would be the ideal candidate.

Kim has been a friend of mine for 15 years, and her passion for conservation and Hawaii's lands and water in particular, have been unyielding since her days as a student. Her career has garnered her the experience needed to be of benefit on any board or panel she chooses to serve, with regards to environmental protections and policy.

Hawaii would be fortunate to have her in a role where she can effect conservation policy, or create new initiatives. We need more people like her, protecting the aina and working for the people and places of Hawaii. She is honest, hardworking, intelligent, and dedicated to the environment more than anyone else I know. Best of luck to her, should she secure this role as I hope she does.

LATE

GM-691

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 6:57:18 PM
Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sherry Broder | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chairman Lee and Committee Members, I am pleased to give the highest recommendation possible to Kim Falinski to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. We served on the Honolulu County Commission on Clean Water and Natural Lands together. Ms. Falinski is incredibly knowledgeable about the flora and fauna of Hawaii and her contributions were invaluable. She did her homework and shared her findings with the Commission. I liked working with her - she is an exceptionally intelligent and giving person. It is wonderful to see that she is willing to serve again.

LATE

GM-691

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 8:55:48 PM

Testimony for WLA on 4/15/2026 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ted Bohlen | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT for Kim Falinski! Kim is smart, hard-working, and will do excellent work to preserve legacy lands.