

**Testimony of the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors,
and Landscape Architects (EASLA)**

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
April 10, 2026
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 721, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE BOARD OF EASLA
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DAN HIROTA
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2030**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Eli Lane, and I am the Executive Officer for the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (Board). The Board strongly supports the confirmation of Mr. Dan Hirota's reappointment to the Board.

Mr. Hirota previously served two terms as a Board member starting July 1, 2017, and is being appointed as a professional land surveyor member. He has been licensed as a land surveyor since June 25, 2002, and his license is current, active and in good standing.

During his prior service, Mr. Hirota attended numerous Board meetings and served as Chairperson of the Board. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Board, both locally and nationally, as he represented the Board at regional and national conferences. He consistently demonstrated diligence in preparing for Board discussions and contributed thoughtful insights drawn from more than two decades of professional experience as a land surveyor. Mr. Hirota's expertise and continued commitment to public service will remain a valuable asset to the Board.

The Board respectfully supports the confirmation of Mr. Dan Hirota to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

April 7, 2026

**The Office of Senator Jarret Keohokalole
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
415 South Beretania Street, #205
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Confirmation of Dan Hirota
GM-721: Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects

Dear Honorable Senator Jarret Keohokalole:

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination and confirmation of Mr. Dan Hirota for the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

Mr. Hirota is highly respected and knowledgeable Professional Surveyor in the design community. He works with integrity, high ethical standards and strong professional expertise and I have witnessed his dedication first-hand.

Personally, I have known Mr. Hirota for approximately the last 15 years. Mr. Hirota is a highly qualified design professional and very knowledgeable on the issues that we face as a community. He has brought his valuable professional experience to the Board and his continued service will be a tremendous asset.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. K. Katayama', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kevin K. Katayama

GM-721

Submitted on: 4/8/2026 8:58:48 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Howard Kung Chin Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senators Keohokalole and Fukunaga,

I am honored to write this testimony in support of Dan Hirota's nomination to the Professional Licensing Board for Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects. I have known Mr. Hirota for the last 29 years from his first 22 years at Sam O. Hirota Inc. to his next 7 years at Coffman Engineers. During all those years I have gotten to know Dan as an excellent surveyor and civil engineer and strong supporter of our community and engineering industry all while maintaining the highest level of integrity in everything he has accomplished. I have personally worked on a number of projects with Dan and he has shown me that he is very knowledgeable and competent in his profession as well as being a very "detail-oriented" individual.

In addition to knowing Dan thru his work, I have also previously worked side by side with him on the EASLA Board for 4 years in his first stint on the Board and 1 year in his second stint. In all that time, he has displayed an immense amount of wisdom when voicing his opinions on a number of critical licensing issues which our Board has had to entertain. And during all discussions and decisions we have had to make, he has displayed that he is truly a man of character and integrity keeping only the interest of the people of the State of Hawaii in mind during all those mindful decisions.

As such, I strongly support Dan Hirota for his nomination to the Professional Licensing Board for Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

Very truly yours,

Howard K.C. Lau, PE, SE - Principal Advisor at Coffman Engineers

GM-721

Submitted on: 4/8/2026 9:35:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 4/10/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tony Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair; Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair; and Members of Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

Mr. Hirota is a highly respected professional surveyor in Hawai‘i’s surveying community. He is extremely knowledgeable in his field and represents the surveying profession with a great integrity and high ethical standards. He has demonstrated strong professional expertise throughout his employment career at Sam O. Hirota, Inc. and Coffman Engineers, Inc. as both a licensed professional Surveyor and Civil Engineer.

I have known Mr. Hirota personally and professionally over 10 years. We have collaborated together closely and effectively in various volunteer capacities including during his previous terms with the State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (EASLA). Mr. Hirota is a selfless and hard-working individual who will certainly bring valuable professional experience, EASLA institutional knowledge, and insight as a Surveying Member on the board. He will be an excellent addition to the State Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects and I strongly recommend him for this position.

Very Truly Yours,

Tony Lau, P.E., ENV SP, F.ASCE

April 8, 2026

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Hawaii State Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 215
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: **GM#721**
Appointment of Dan Hirota, P.E., LPLS
Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects
Letter of Support

Honorable Senator Keohokalole and Members of the Committee.

I am honored to provide you with this letter in strong support of Dan Hirota, Professional Engineer and Licensed Professional Land Surveyor, for appointment to the Board of Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and Landscape Architects (EASLA).

I've worked closely with Dan during his previous terms on the EASLA Board in my capacity as the Landscape Architect member and past chair of the Board. I also served as a member of the EASLA Rules Committee of which Dan was also a member. I have also known Dan for many more years professionally as a Land Surveyor and part of the leadership team during his tenure at Sam O. Hirota, Inc., a civil engineering and land surveying firm in Honolulu. Dan has proven to be one of the most hardworking members of the EASLA board, possessing extensive knowledge of the local profession, the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR). Dan also excelled as EASLA Board Chair in 2016.

Dan is not only a leader in the land surveying community in Hawaii and nationally as a member of the National Society of Professional Surveyors, but in the broader community as well, serving on numerous civic committees.

I am certain that Mr. Hirota will continue to be an asset to the EASLA Board and I give him my highest recommendation for reappointment.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Joel Kurokawa, PLA, ASLA
Professional Landscape Architect LA-10659
EASLA Board, Landscape Architect Member
Principal/Founder, Ki Concepts LLC