

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to appear before your committee for confirmation. As requested, below are my answers to the questions posed by your committee.

1. Why do you wish to serve as the Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority?

The Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority has begun its important work to create a mutual stewardship paradigm which provides balance and symmetry. I have learned a lot and have engaged with many people in all sectors from cultural community and astronomy to government agencies who have a role in the well-being of Mauna Kea. I would like to continue to bring Authority members, community members and others together to establish a mutually beneficial balance for Mauna Kea and the people of Hawaii. This work includes working with management to create the organizational structure and expertise to help move this effort forward. Importantly, MKSOA needs to continue with its efforts to invite participation by all voices and act in a transparent manner.

2. What is your understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority?

The Chairperson is tasked with leading the creation of an organization which is organized and staffed to assume responsibility for and to the Mauna. This includes working with management to hire the appropriate employees, consultants and establish an organizational structure which allows for seamless transfer from the University of Hawaii. Most importantly, the Chairperson should create a culture of openness, respect and trust among its members, as well as with community. If established, this basic framework will allow for the establishment of a collective path forward.

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 Authority and how they would inform your decision-making.

I have held this position for the last three years. This experience and relationships with many different stakeholders are important in light of the tight timeframe which the Authority is faced with. I have had the good fortune of having a wide range of life experiences and various leadership experiences at both the management and board levels. These experiences have taught me to listen, work with a wide range of people and help keep matters organized and on track.

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

There are many tasks that need to be completed. As previously stated, we need to continue to build organizational capacity, develop a detailed plan and timetable to assume management of the Mauna, continue to inform and encourage discussion at the Board level. We need to continue to recognize the State policy to support astronomy by reviewing current lease agreements and work towards consideration of future observatory leases – while at the same time ensuring the contribution of Native Hawaiian perspectives. In moving towards these goals, it is important that we create a perspective which starts with putting the Mauna in the middle and forefront.

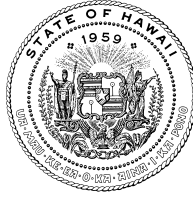
5. Do you believe there is anything that could reasonably be perceived by the public as creating a conflict of interest or otherwise raise questions regarding your character, judgment, or ability to serve impartially as the Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority? If so, please explain.

No

Again, mahalo for your consideration. I stand ready to answer any questions you may have.



John Komeiji



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of  
**Josh Green, M.D.**  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Before the  
**Senate Committee Water, Land, Culture and the Arts**

Monday, June 4, 2026  
2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

In consideration of  
**Governor's Message No. 742**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of **Governor's Message No. 742**, regarding the reappointment of **John Komeiji** to serve as Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2029.

John Komeiji is the former General Counsel and Vice President of Kamehameha Schools, and former President and General Manager of Hawaiian Telcom. He brings extensive experience in legal affairs, corporate governance, and executive leadership of major organizations in Hawai'i.

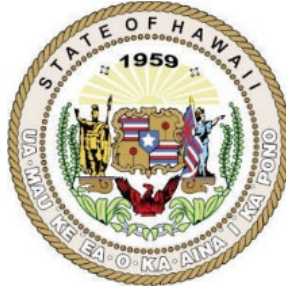
As the current Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Committee, Mr. Komeiji has provided steady leadership and a balanced approach to the Committee's work, reflecting the cultural, environmental, and scientific importance of Mauna Kea.

I am confident that Mr. Komeiji's experience and record of service clearly demonstrate his qualifications for this reappointment, and I am pleased to offer my full support.

Mahalo for your consideration.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JOHN KOMEIJI  
*Chairperson*

KIMO ALAMEDA  
POMAI BERTELMANN  
NEIL HANNAHS  
PAUL HORNER  
\*BONNIE IRWIN  
RYAN KANAKA'OLE  
KALEHUA KRUG  
BEN KUDO  
LANAKILA MANGUIL  
RICH MATSUDA  
NOE NOE WONG-WILSON

\*ex-officio

## MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

688 Kino'ole Street #212, Hilo, HI 96720  
Telephone (808) 272-0259  
Website: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/maunakea-authority/>

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNOR'S NOMINATION OF JOHN KOMEIJI TO THE MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE & THE ARTS  
May 4, 2026 State Capitol, Room 224**

Aloha Chair Lee, and Members of the Committees,

My name is John De Fries, Executive Director of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA), and I offer testimony in strong support of GM 742 - the nomination of John Komeiji to serve another term on the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

Since his appointment, Mr. Komeiji has been a steady and guiding presence for the Authority. He has played a critical role in keeping the organization on track while ensuring that the MKSOA has the staffing and structure necessary to fulfill its responsibilities. This has not been an easy undertaking, particularly during a formative period that requires both leadership and discipline.

His commitment to the mission of the Authority, as established in Act 255 (2022), has been unwavering. He has consistently demonstrated a clear focus on advancing a balanced, transparent, and accountable approach to governance for Mauna Kea.

As Chair, Mr. Komeiji set the tone early by prioritizing community outreach, beginning with Hawai'i Island. He led Authority members in engaging directly with the community, listening, learning, and fostering a process grounded in transparency and respect. This approach has helped build a stronger foundation for the Authority's work moving forward.

In my capacity as Executive Director, I have worked closely with Mr. Komeiji and have benefited from his guidance and direction. His leadership style is thoughtful, steady, and solutions-oriented. He brings not only a strong business background, but also valuable professional relationships that have strengthened the Authority's ability to operate effectively.

Mr. Komeiji is a vital Chair who earned the respect of fellow Authority members and the MKSOA staff. His continued service will provide the stability and leadership needed as the Authority progresses in its work.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support his nomination and move his name forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John De Fries". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John De Fries  
Executive Director, MKSOA



**To:** **Senate Committee on Water and Land**  
Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Arts and Culture

**From:** Jean-Gabriel Cuby, Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope Executive Director

**Date:** May 4, 2026

**Subject:** **SUPPORT for GM742**

**GM Title:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN KOMEIJI, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Arts and Culture,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support** of John's Komeiji's confirmation to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) for a term ending June 30, 2029.

For over three years, John Komeiji and I have met at nearly every community meeting and workshop organized by the MKSOA. From the outset, John Komeiji has approached this role with a clear commitment to trust, transparency, fairness, and accountability—principles he has consistently upheld in practice.

His leadership is evident in the cohesion and purpose of the MKSOA board and staff. He has brought together individuals with diverse perspectives and unified them around shared values and guiding principles aligned with Act 255, fostering a culture of service to the community.

I have also observed meaningful progress in the Authority's engagement with the community. On an issue as sensitive as Maunakea, the community's renewed trust is a testament both to the Authority's collective efforts and to the approach taken by its Chair.

The work carried out in close collaboration with the University of Hawai'i from the outset, the ongoing development of the Maunakea management plan—supported by Kua o Wākea—and the pending HB2592 bill have already clarified several aspects of the future framework for the Maunakea Observatories following the transition period. While there is still work to be done, it is encouraging for the Observatories that progress is being made and that this positive momentum continues.

Finally, John Komeiji is consistently responsive to the Maunakea Observatories, regularly engaging with their Boards of Directors to keep them informed on the progress of the process.

I join the Maunakea Observatories in expressing my absolute support for the confirmation of John Komeiji. It is essential for all involved that the transition period continues in the continuity of what has been started.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Cuby', written in a cursive style.

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Jean-Gabriel Cuby, Director, Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope



# Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

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Carla Kuo

**2025-2026**

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Matthew Pickett

James Staub

Jase Takeya

Nimr Tamimi

Jennifer Tobey

Joni Waltjen

Irene Yamanaka

Tracie Yoshimoto

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts  
Senator Chris Lee, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair**

**Monday, May 4, 2026 at 2:00 PM**

**RE: GM742 Mauna Kea Stewardship and Authority  
Gubernatorial Nominee JOHN KOMEIJI**

Aloha e Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for the confirmation of John Komeiji as the Chairperson of the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) for a term to expire June 30, 2029.

As MKSOA continues to carry out its responsibilities under Act 255, effective leadership remains essential to sustaining the progress made to date in developing a comprehensive and balanced management approach for Maunakea. This work requires steady guidance, sound judgment, and an ability to navigate complex and often sensitive issues.

John Komeiji has been serving as Chairperson of MKSOA, providing thoughtful leadership during a critical period of transition and planning. With a distinguished background as former General Counsel and Vice President of Kamehameha Schools and former President and General Manager of Hawaiian Telcom, Mr. Komeiji brings extensive experience in governance, strategic decision-making, and organizational leadership. His ability to bridge perspectives across community, business, and public interests is a valuable asset to the Authority's work.

We also commend MKSOA's continued commitment to engaging the community through public workshops and outreach efforts, helping to build trust and ensure that diverse voices are part of the process.

At this pivotal stage, continuity in leadership is especially important. Confirming John Komeiji will help maintain momentum and provide the stability needed as MKSOA advances its work.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your continued dedication to the responsible stewardship of Maunakea.

Sincerely,

Carla Kuo  
Executive Officer  
Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce



Testimony to the Committee on Water, Land, Arts and Culture on

**Governor's Message 742**

**Nomination of John Komeiji to the  
Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority**

Monday, May 4, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Arts and Culture,

The undersigned leaders of the Maunakea Observatories appreciate the opportunity to share our **strong support** of the confirmation of John Komeiji to continue his service as the Chair of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA).

We are in full support of the MKSOA and its members, including Chair John Komeiji. We believe that Chair Komeiji and the MKSOA board as a whole are on the right path and have made considerable progress to date in developing a management plan for Maunakea and acting in accordance with the intent of Act 255, which calls for mutual stewardship in the governance of Maunakea. The MKSOA's engagement of Kua O Wākea to support strategic planning, as evidenced by the series of community workshops held in January and February of this year illustrate the commitment and competence of Chair Komeiji and the current MKSOA board.

In order to continue this forward momentum, continuity in the make-up of the MKSOA board is critical. The relationships Chair Komeiji has built with key stakeholders and the community, as well as contextual knowledge he has developed over his first term, are invaluable at this juncture. To search for a new Board Chair and go through the appointment process at this time would create serious delays in the MKSOA process and jeopardize progress made to date.

We are grateful for your consideration of this testimony and strongly urge that you recommend Chair Komeiji for reappointment.

Mahalo,



Geoff Bower, Director  
East Asian Observatory



Mark Chun, University of Hawai'i  
2.2-meter Telescope



Jean-Gabriel Cuby, Director  
Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope



Rich Matsuda, Director  
W. M. Keck Observatory



Satoshi Miyazaki, Director  
Subaru Telescope  
National Astronomical Observatory of Japan



John Rayner, Director  
NASA Infrared Telescope Facility



Warren Skidmore, Deputy Director  
NASA Infrared Telescope Facility



Watson Varricatt, Head of Science  
Operations, United Kingdom Infrared  
Telescope



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**LATE**

May 4, 2026

To: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

From: Benjamin A. Kudo  
Ashford & Wriston  
999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM- 742 – Consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHN KOMEIJI, for a term to expire 06-30-2029 - **SUPPORT**.  
Hearing date: Monday, May 4, 2026  
Hearing time: 2:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration and the support of your Committee members on the appointment of Mr. John Komeiji as Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, State of Hawaii.

I have known Mr. Komeiji for over 25 years. We are good personal friends and have practiced law as partners. Mr. Komeiji has always committed himself to being an exceptional litigator and has also involved himself with community activities with an emphasis in Native Hawaiian organizations. On the weekends, Mr. Komeiji served as a volunteer for several non-profits such as the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific and other charitable organizations.

Mr. Komeiji is a person of high integrity, compassion and intelligence and has the capability to meet the challenges of this position. Mr. Komeiji will faithfully carry out his responsibilities as the Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

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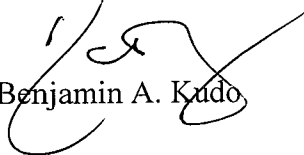
The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts  
May 4, 2026  
Page 2 of 2

Based on the foregoing, I strongly recommend with no reservation your favorable consideration of Mr. John Komeiji for the aforementioned position. He is a person who will prove to be worthy of your support and the public trust.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully urge your Committee's support to confirm his nomination.

Very truly yours,

ASHFORD & WRISTON



Benjamin A. Kudo

To: Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Senate Chair Chris Lee

Senate Vice Chair Lorraine R. Inouye

From: Lloyd I. Unebasami, Former Interim ASO for MKSOA

Subject: GM 742, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, John Komeiji, for a term to expire 06-30-2029

I, Lloyd Unebasami, having the privilege of serving the MKSOA as the Interim Administrative Services Officer from May 2024- March 2026, experienced the Leadership and Management style of Mr. John Komeiji. Mr. Komeiji possesses a keen inherent ability to blend differing opinions and attitudes and knowing what actions are necessary to creating a trusting membership community that is necessary in the creation of this Authority as required by the language of HRS, Act 255, 2022.

I support his confirmation and ask you, this Senate Committee, to pass out your full approval for the entire Senate's timely vote.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Mr. John Komeiji.

Aloha and Mahalo;

Lloyd I. Unebasami

Retired State of Hawaii Executive

**GM-742**

Submitted on: 5/2/2026 5:33:56 PM

Testimony for WLA on 5/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brialyn Onodera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to submit testimony in support of confirming John Komeji as the chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. I believe that his experience uniquely qualifies him for the role and allows him to make the objective decisions necessary as chair of the authority. I have had the opportunity to witness how he handles various questions on the function of the authority in community meetings and believe that he takes a thoughtful approach that is considerative of all Maunakea stakeholders. I think the work he has already invested into the authority shows not only his commitment to the authority but a sense of capability, especially when difficult decisions need to be made or addressed.

**GM-742**

Submitted on: 5/2/2026 8:56:33 PM

Testimony for WLA on 5/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bill Stormont	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye, and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts. I write today in strong support of the Governor's nomination for the reappointment of John Komeiji to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, and as it's Chair. Mr. Komeiji has been providing firm and reasoned leadership of the Authority since it's inception, through establishing the early staffing process, to strategic prioritization of necessary initial steps based on requirements stipulated in Act 255, championing the value of the Authority, navigating the bureaucratic requirements and necessities of a new state government agency, and crafting subsequent legislative proposals to address acknowledged shortcomings in the enabling legislation, all while recognizing and embracing the broad and varied spectrum of constituents that have an important stake in Mauna Kea's care moving forward.

The Authority is in an important phase of early establishment, with it's new management plan in development, and other vital, foundational steps well underway. At this critical juncture, it is crucial that it maintains it's successful and hard-working leadership with Mr. Komeiji's reappointment to help propel through this part of the transition.

I respectfully urge the Committee to provide consent for the reappointment of Mr. John Komeiji to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

Mahalo.

Bill Stormont, Hilo, HI.

**GM-742**

Submitted on: 5/3/2026 10:30:21 AM

Testimony for WLA on 5/4/2026 2:00:00 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 Lee, Vice-Chair Inouye, and Members of the Water, Land, Culture and the Arts Committee,

My name is Rich Matsuda. I respectfully submit testimony supporting the confirmation of John Komeiji for another term on the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA), as well as for his continued service as Chair. I currently serve on the MKSOA —this testimony reflects my individual perspective.

MKSOA stands at a pivotal moment in its transition to assume responsibility for the care, protection, and stewardship of Mauna Kea—work that must be rooted in accountability and balance. Foundational planning and policy development are underway, and key administrative functions are being transitioned, all of which must be completed within a demanding timeline.

Chair Komeiji leads with commitment to the Legislature’s intent as outlined in HRS Chapter 195H. He recognizes that decisions made today will set the standard for how MKSOA fulfills its kuleana for future generations. As Chair, he ensures the Authority thoughtfully weighs cultural, environmental, science, education, and public-access perspectives with fairness and respect. His accessibility to the community, Authority members, affected organizations, and government entities is vital for building trust.

At this period of significant change and transition, Chair Komeiji’s confirmation and continued leadership is crucial to sustaining the Authority’s forward momentum.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,  
Rich Matsuda

**GM-742**

Submitted on: 5/3/2026 3:46:47 PM

Testimony for WLA on 5/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ka'iu Kimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui,

I strongly support the reappointment of John Komeiji as Chair of the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. John is a proven, capable leader whose relationships and deep connections across community sectors were instrumental in building the collaborative foundation for MKSOA during his first term. Reappointing him will ensure continuity and the continued development of the partnerships and structures needed for MKSOA's successful establishment.

na'u me ka 'oia'i'o,

na Ka'iu

**LATE**

**GM-742**

Submitted on: 5/3/2026 6:12:20 PM

Testimony for WLA on 5/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noe Noe Wong-Wilson	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee and members of the Water, Land, Culture and Arts Committee,

Mahalo for providing this opportunity to provide supporting testimony for the renomination of John Komeiji to serve as Chair and member of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

John Komeiji has served as the founding Chair of the authority for the past three years and has selflessly led this organization in establishing a brand new State of Hawai'i agency charged with caring for Mauna Kea for future generations and creating a new management system which honors and respects Hawaiian culture, language and history, and creates opportunity to maintain a world class astronomy, science research and education center for our community. He has led the authority and administrative organization in establishing the foundation required to accomplish our goals within the time frame prescribed by Act 255. This is no small feat and John has spent an enormous amount of time, energy and personal capital toward this goal.

I strongly urge you to approve his nomination to continue as Chair of MKSOA for the next three years. With John Komeiji as our leader, we can certainly achieve all the goals set forth for the authority and more importantly, Mauna Kea will be properly cared for generations to come.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Noe Noe Wong-Wilson

**LATE**

**GM-742**

Submitted on: 5/4/2026 6:51:18 AM

Testimony for WLA on 5/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Faylene Mahina Paishon Duarte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of the consideration and confirmation of Mr. John Komeiji as Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority for the term ending June 30, 2029.

Mr. Komeiji brings a rare combination of legal expertise, public service, and deep commitment to Hawai'i's people and natural resources. His background as an attorney and former executive in both public and private sectors reflects a career grounded in integrity, thoughtful leadership, and respect for complex governance challenges. These qualities are essential for guiding stewardship of Mauna Kea, a place of profound cultural, environmental, and scientific significance.

At a time when trust, balance, and accountability are critical, Mr. Komeiji has demonstrated a strong ability to carefully consider diverse viewpoints and perspectives, even in highly complex and sensitive matters. Just as importantly, he has shown the discipline and judgment to take action grounded firmly in the law. His approach reflects both inclusivity and a clear commitment to principled decision-making.

His understanding of the importance of mālama ʻāina, coupled with his respect for Native Hawaiian cultural values, positions him to foster meaningful collaboration among stakeholders. This includes cultural practitioners, the scientific community, government entities, and the broader public.

Equally important is his capacity to navigate difficult issues with fairness and transparency. The future of Mauna Kea requires leadership that can uphold stewardship responsibilities while ensuring that decisions are made with care, inclusivity, and long-term vision. Mr. Komeiji has consistently shown that he can rise to this responsibility.

Confirming Mr. Komeiji affirms a commitment to responsible governance and to the protection and reverence of one of Hawai'i's most sacred and significant places. I respectfully urge his confirmation as Chairperson.

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM742

Confirmation of John Komeiji as Chairperson of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Arts and Culture

Monday, May 4, 2026

**LATE**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to support John Komeiji.

In my role as Director of Community Relations at the Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope, I have participated in many Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority community meetings and, through those and other interactions, have observed how John Komeiji leads. He has also attended most of the community sessions during the most recent rounds of engagement, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to being present in these spaces.

What stands out to me is the steadiness in how he shows up. He does not rush conversations, nor does he avoid difficult ones. Instead, he creates space for multiple perspectives to be heard, while still maintaining a sense of direction and forward movement.

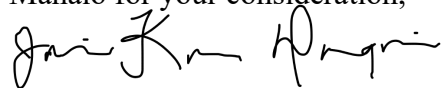
I am aware that some concerns have been raised about whether he is from Hawai'i Island. While place and connection to 'āina matter deeply, I have experienced that meaningful leadership in these spaces is also reflected in how one shows up in relationship, in accountability, and in practice.

In our communities, 'ohana is not only defined by genealogy, but also by relationship, kuleana, and the ways we show up for one another over time. Through the spaces I have been part of, I have seen John Komeiji consistently do that work. He shows up with intention, listens with care, and honors the kuleana and pilina he holds with communities, including Hawai'i Island.

The work of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority requires leadership that can hold continuity while also navigating change. From my perspective, John Komeiji provides that continuity. His steady approach supports the progress that has already been made and allows that work to continue moving forward.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support his confirmation as Chairperson.

Mahalo for your consideration,



Janine "Kara" Dumaguin

Director of Community Relations, Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope

Testifying as an individual